

the town crier

Volume 36 Number 4

December 1, 2024

Ellis, Kansas



Reminders

- Christmas Holiday Hours1
- Holiday Trash Schedule2
- Burn Site3
- Calendar of Events3



Clerk's Office

- Meet Our New City Clerk 1
- Mark Your Calendars 2
- Legal Beagle 3
- UTV Renewal 3
- Rabies Clinic 4



Committees

- Campground Project Update2



Governing Body

- Vision Statement 4
- Mission Statement4



Police Department

- Meet Our New Police Officer1
- Emergency Vehicle Response 2
- Trailers on the Street 3



Public Works Department

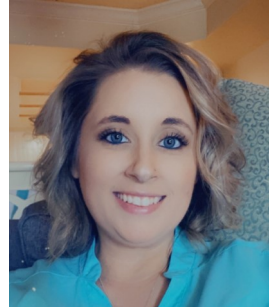
- Meet Our New Public Works Employee1
- Lead & Copper Brochure4
- Preparing for Snow4



Meet Our New City Clerk!

Submitted by Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

We are excited to introduce Ashley Scheibler, our new City Clerk! While Ashley may be new to local government, she brings a wealth of experience in customer service, financial accounting, and organizational management that will help ensure smooth operations in our city offices.



Ashley is eager to learn the ins and outs of local governance and is committed to supporting our community by ensuring transparent communication, efficient record-keeping, and a responsive, approachable office. She looks forward to getting to know residents and working together to enhance our city's services.

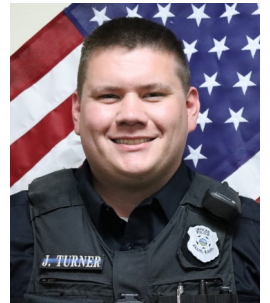
Please join us in welcoming Ashley to the team and feel free to reach out to her with any questions or suggestions. Ashley is excited to be a part of our community and to serve you!



Meet Our New Police Officer!

Submitted by Jonathan Turner, Police Officer

Hello, my name is Jonathan Turner. I recently joined from the Woodson County Sheriff's Office and graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center on March 14, 2024. My law enforcement journey began in 2020 at the Butler County Detention Facility. I'm originally from Eureka, a small town in southeastern Kansas.



I share my home with two dogs - a Vizsla named Bell and a German Shepherd named Ash. In my free time, I enjoy riding motorcycles, hunting, and playing video games. I'm excited to be here and look forward to serving the City of Ellis!



Meet Our New Public Works Employee!

Submitted by Daniel Newell, Public Works Employee

We are excited to welcome Daniel Newell to our Public Works Department! Daniel will be contributing to our sanitation services, bringing both dedication and enthusiasm to the role.



A resident of Ellis for nearly three years, Daniel is the proud father of a nine-year-old daughter. In his free time, he enjoys sports officiating, a passion that truly energizes him. He's eager to serve the community and make a positive impact. Welcome aboard, Daniel!



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 \$26.95) 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. To view a more detailed chart, visit our website at <https://ellis.ks.us> > Local tab > Public Works Department > Wastewater Treatment Plant > Sewer Rate Table (PDF).

thousands of gallons of water used	monthly sewer charge
1	\$27.38
2	\$27.81
3	\$28.24
4	\$41.39
5	\$56.90
10	\$90.75
15	\$122.65
20	\$154.55
25	\$176.70



Campground Project Update

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Exciting news to share! PWC Inc., the construction company managing our project, has moved equipment on-site to begin preparations for our new playground area and prefabricated bathhouse. Once the site work is complete, Playscapes will arrive to install the playground equipment. Mountain West Precast has provided an estimated delivery date for the prefabricated bathhouse in late January or early February. After it's set in place, the final concrete work will be completed, and our Public Works Department will take care of finishing touches like planting grass and a tree, painting the ADA parking spot, and installing the sign.

Please remember that this is an active construction zone, and safety remains our top priority. We're fortunate that the majority of this work is happening during the campground's slower season. Our goal is to have the entire project completed and ready to enjoy by Memorial Day 2025!



Emergency Vehicle Response

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

Hello everyone. I'd like to discuss something that has been concerning to the members of the Ellis Police Department as of late. We have recently noticed an increase of drivers who refuse to yield right-of-way to emergency vehicles as they respond to emergencies. The Kansas Statutes Annotated states in section 8-1530 that:

- (a) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of an audible signal meeting the requirements of K.S.A. 8-1738(d), and amendments thereto, and visual signals meeting the requirements of K.S.A. 8-1720, and amendments thereto, or of a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible signal only, the driver of every other vehicle shall do the following unless otherwise directed by a police officer:
 - (1) Yield the right-of-way;
 - (2) immediately drive to a position parallel to and as close as possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection; and
 - (3) stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed.



Following this statute ensures that the driver of an emergency vehicle has a safe and open roadway to travel upon as they respond to a request for emergency service. In 2020, 180 people died in the United States in accidents involving emergency vehicles. All members of the Ellis Police Department are trained rigorously in the area of emergency vehicle operations as a requirement of graduating the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. With your help, we can safely respond to emergencies.

HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE



- Monday, December 23** Monday and Tuesday trash routes will be run
- Tuesday, December 24** NO trash pickup - **City Closed for Holiday**
- Wednesday, December 25** NO trash pickup - **City Closed for Holiday**
- Thursday, December 26** Wednesday and Thursday trash routes will be run
- Wednesday, January 1** NO trash pickup - **City Closed for Holiday**
- Thursday, January 2** Wednesday and Thursday trash routes will be run





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.



Trailers on the Street

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

With winter knocking on our doorsteps, 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 Department 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.



Legal Beagle

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Reminder: Dog Tags Are Due January 1st!

To register your dog, bring proof of current rabies vaccination and the applicable fee to the City Clerk's Office. You'll receive a dog tag upon registration. Tags can be purchased without penalty through February 28, 2025.

Fees:

Spayed or neutered dogs: \$5.00 each • Intact dogs: \$10.00 each
Duplicate tags (if lost): \$2.00 each

Late Registration Penalty:

After February 28, 2025, a \$2.00 per month late fee will apply to each tag.

Why Register Your Dog?

Having a current City dog tag ensures that, if your pet is lost, the Police Department can quickly identify and reunite you with your furry friend. Additionally, if your dog is impounded, the following fees will apply:

Impound fee: \$20.00 per calendar day
One-time administrative fee: \$10.00

You'll also need to provide proof of rabies vaccination and register your dog (if not already registered) before your pet is released. Registering your dog gives you peace of mind and helps keep pet families together.

Don't wait - get your dog tag today!



UTV Renewal

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

It is time to renew your UTV tag with the City of Ellis. 2024 tags will expire December 31, 2024. 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.



calendar

DECEMBER

- 2 City Council 6:30 pm
(Elected Officials Sworn In)
- 6 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 16 City Council 6:30 pm
- 20 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 24 **Christmas Eve**
City offices closed
- 25 **Christmas Day**
City offices closed



JANUARY

H A P P Y
New Year

- 1 **New Year's Observed**
City offices closed
- 3 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 6 City Council 6:30 pm
- 17 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 20 City Council 6:30 pm
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- 27 Planning Comm 7:00 pm

FEBRUARY

- 3 City Council 6:30 pm
- 7 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 14 **Valentine's Day**
- 15 Rabies Clinic 11 am-12:30 pm
- 17 **President's Day**
City Council 6:30 pm
- 21 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 24 Planning Comm 7:00 pm





Rabies Clinic

Submitted by Danielle Schaus, Clerk I



The City of Ellis will host its 14th Annual Rabies Clinic on **Saturday, February 15, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Bring your dogs and cats to the back of the City building for rabies vaccinations.

Dr. Brandon Weidenhaft, DVM, of Big Creek Veterinary Services, will conduct the clinic with assistance from Mark Augustine.

City staff will also be on-site to collect vaccination fees and sell 2025 City dog tags. Don't miss this opportunity to protect your pets and stay compliant with local regulations!

Fees:

Rabies - dog/cat \$25

Dog DA2PP/Cat FVRCP - \$30

Bordetella (kennel cough) - dog/cat \$17.50

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.



Lead and Copper Brochure

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Recently, some residents/businesses received a mandatory brochure from the State of Kansas, distributed by the City of Ellis. This is part of a statewide effort to address lead and copper water service lines.

By October 16, 2024, all Kansas cities were required to submit lead and copper survey results to the State. As the next step, the State mandated cities to send a Lead and Copper brochure within 30 days to properties identified as having lead or copper water service lines either from the main to the meter or from the meter to the home or business.

Over the next ten years, all Kansas communities will be required to replace these identified water lines. This raises significant concerns about funding - both for the City and property owners. We are hopeful that the State will provide grant opportunities to help offset the costs of this large and necessary undertaking. This project will be a challenging, but important effort for all involved.



Preparing for Snow

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

When winter weather hits, it's important to keep both sidewalks and streets safe and accessible. The following items help keep our community safe for everyone:

1) Sidewalk Maintenance:

Property owners are responsible for ensuring that sidewalks around their property are free of snow and ice. If ice or compacted snow is too difficult to remove, it must be treated with salt, sand, ashes, or similar materials to make the surface safe for pedestrians. According to City Code, sidewalks must be cleared within 12 hours after a storm ends. If the storm occurs overnight, the sidewalks should be cleared within 12 hours after sunrise.

2) Street Parking During Snowfall:

To assist City crews in clearing essential roadways quickly, please remove vehicles from primary snow removal routes. If off-street parking isn't an option, park vehicles on the **north or east side** of the street. This allows crews to clear main streets more efficiently. Once snow routes are cleared, the **south and west sides** of streets will become available for parking.

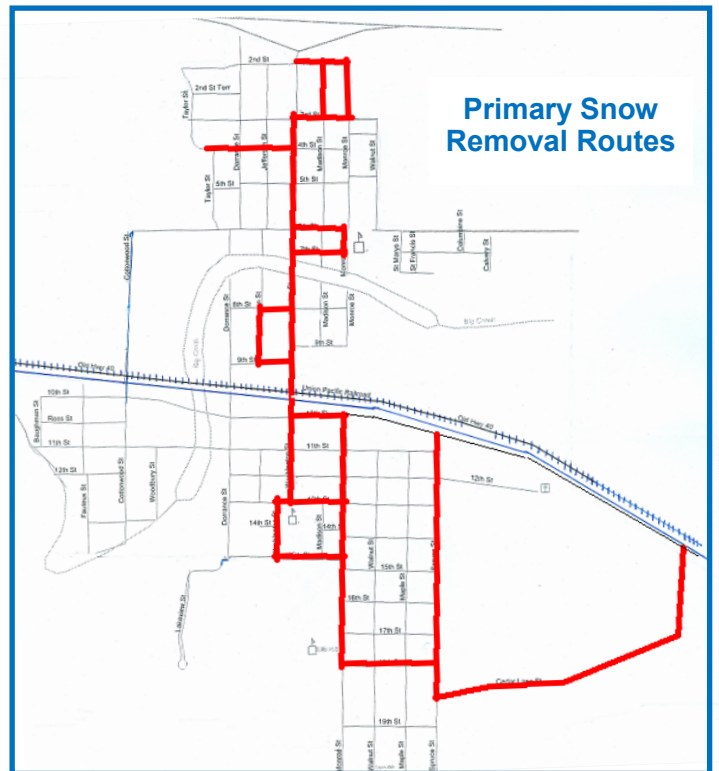
3) Snow Removal Guidelines:

City crews will clear side streets after main routes are addressed, blading each side street only once. After the snowplow has passed, place any snow you shovel onto your lawn rather than back into the street. Snow pushed into the street can create icy ridges that are difficult to remove, even with heavy equipment.

4) Mail Delivery Access:

Keep pathways to mailboxes clear of snow and ice. Letter carriers may delay or withhold delivery if sidewalks or mailboxes are blocked or deemed unsafe.

By working together, we can keep our sidewalks and streets safe during winter weather!



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.