

the town crier

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Ellis, Kansas



Reminders

- Memorial Day Holiday Hours.....1
- Holiday Trash Schedule.....2
- Burn Site.....3
- Calendar of Events.....3
- Public Works Summer Hours.....6
- Vegetation Watering.....7
- Daylight Savings Time.....8



Clerk's Office

- Annual Sewer Rate Evaluation... 1
- Rabies Clinic a Success..... 2
- Community Blood Screening..... 3
- Golf Carts on City Streets..... 7
- Support for New Businesses..... 7
- Community Blood Screening..... 8



Committees

- Downtown Historic District.....1
- Community Cruise.....7
- Get Involved.....8



Governing Body

- Run for City Council..... 2
- A Day at the State Capital..... 2
- Vision Statement..... 4
- Mission Statement..... 4



Fire Department

- Spring Preparations.....3
- Hearty Thank You.....8



Police Department

- Drug Take Back Day.....3
- Dogs at Large..... 4
- Reporting Procedures..... 6



Public Works Department

- Compost Pile.....4
- Cemetery Decorating.....5
- Grass Pickup Resumes.....6
- Violation Notice - Lead Survey.....8
- Pressure Pump Station Grant.....8
- Violation Notice - Monthly Reporting.....8



Swimming Pool

- Swimming Pool Passes.....4
- Fun in the Sun.....5



Annual Sewer Rate Evaluation

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

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, and that average is then 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. Water meters are read around the 10th of each month.

New residents who have moved into Ellis before December 2024 started their service with the base rate of \$26.95 for the sewer charge. Once the evaluation period is completed, the average water usage during that time period will determine your sewer rate change accordingly to the sewer rate table.

To the right is a brief sampling of the current sewer charges. To view the sewer rate table, visit our website at <https://ellis.ks.us/> and select Local > Public Works Department > Wastewater Treatment Plant > click on 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



Downtown Historic District

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

The City of Ellis has secured a grant from the Kansas Historical District to support a survey for establishing a downtown historic district boundary for nomination. As part of this process, a bid opening was held on February 7, 2025, with three sealed bids received. In attendance were Mayor David McDaniel, City Clerk Ashley Scheibler, Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn, and Grow Ellis Downtown Committee Member Nickole Byers.

On February 13, 2025, the Grow Ellis Downtown Committee met to review the proposals. After careful evaluation, the Committee selected Hernly Associates, Inc., highlighting the firm's experience, in-depth research, and competitive pricing. At the February 17, 2025 City Council meeting, the Council unanimously approved awarding the contract to Hernly Associates, Inc.

In March 2025, the City will host a joint meeting with the Kansas Historical District and Hernly Associates, Inc. to launch the survey process. Local businesses can expect outreach from Hernly Associates, Inc. as they gather information. The first phase of the project is set for completion by the end of 2025.

This initiative represents a major step toward preserving Ellis' history and formally establishing a historic downtown district for future generations.





Get Involved in Local Government - Run for City Council!

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Ever thought about serving your community? Want to have a say in local decisions? Now's your chance! This November, voters will elect three City Council members, a Mayor, and the City Treasurer. The seats are currently held by Council Members Devin Henderson, John Walz, and Terry Zervas, Mayor David McDaniel, and City Treasurer Faith Scheck.

Running for City Council is a great way to influence local policies, address important issues, and be a voice for your neighbors. City Council members help shape decisions on budgets, infrastructure, public services, and community development.

If you're passionate about improving your town and ready to take on a leadership role, consider running in the next election. Public service is a rewarding way to give back and create lasting change.



Don't wait for others to make decisions for you - step up and be the change your community needs!

Here is what you need to do to get your name on the November ballot:

- ⇒ **File by NOON on Monday, June 2, 2025.**
- ⇒ **Submit your Declaration of Intent** at the County Clerk's office in Hays.
- ⇒ **Pay the \$20.00 filing fee.**

Make it official - don't leave it to a write-in! File today and take the first step in shaping our community's future.



Rabies Clinic a Success

Submitted by Danielle Schaus, Clerk 1

The City of Ellis held its annual rabies clinic in the City shop on February 15, 2025, where patrons could bring their dogs and cats to be vaccinated. Dr. Brandon Weidenhaft, DVM at Big Creek Veterinary Service, was present to conduct the clinic. Seven customers took advantage of the event bringing one cat and seven dogs. Rabies, Distemper and Bordetella vaccinations were offered for dogs and cats and Leukemia for cats only.

In addition to the vaccinations, 2025 City dog tags were also available for purchase. Ten dog tags were purchased during the event and eight vaccinations were administered.

City Ordinance requires any dog over six months of age to be registered each year with the City. The registration year runs from January 1st thru December 31st. To purchase a dog tag, simply bring a certificate of rabies immunization to the Clerk's office. The tag fees are \$5 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$10 for intact dogs. Please note that tags purchased after March 1st will be assessed a \$2 per month penalty fee. Residents are encouraged to stop by City Hall any time between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to purchase tags.

We appreciate your support of the clinic!



A Day at the State Capital

Submitted by David R. McDaniel, Mayor

Every year in January the League of Kansas Municipalities holds Local Government Day at the State Capital in Topeka. This special day is a chance for local government officials to meet one on one in person with their State Senators and Representatives to share common ideas.

On Wednesday January 22, 2025, Governing Body Members Devin Henderson, Jolene Niernberger, John Walz and Mayor David McDaniel met with the elected officials representing our area. In the morning, we visited with Representative Ken Rahjes, and in the afternoon, we visited with Senator Rick Billinger in their offices at the Capital.

That afternoon the League teamed up with the Kansas Association of Counties Members for a panel discussion with a question-and-answer session with several legislators on legislative issues currently before the 2025 session. The following day Mayor McDaniel, League Past President, appeared with the 25 members of the League Governing Body to testify before the Senate Committee on Local Government Transparency and Ethics.

The League of Kansas Municipalities represents the 625 cities in the state. Many cities were represented that Wednesday in Topeka. The smallest city in Kansas has a population of 9. The largest city in Kansas has a population of over 395,000. Ellis' population is right at 2,000. It is important to keep the City of Ellis directly in front of all Kansans by participating in any type of event whenever possible. As your mayor, I always project a strong voice for the smaller cities, so that we are not overlooked in Western Kansas.



HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

Monday, May 26
Tuesday, May 27

NO trash or grass pickup on **MEMORIAL DAY**

Monday and Tuesday trash and grass routes will be ran together





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.



Spring Preparations

Submitted by Tim Kohlrus, Volunteer Fireman

Punxsutawney Phil predicted 6 more weeks of winter on February 2, 2025, so that means spring is just a few weeks away. It also means you have plenty of time to get a jump on your spring fire safety checklist.



First up on the checklist is cleaning your dryer vent. Cleaning the vent should be done at least once a year, but twice is better. Lint buildup can cause the exhaust to become restricted, increasing the chance of fire. A YouTube video said the easiest way to clean the vent was to unhook and move your dryer away from the wall, then from the inside of the house, use your leaf blower to force air through the vent. This cleans the vent very quickly and easily.

Next up, the grill or outdoor cooking appliances. Check for grease buildup, spiderwebs, and any other debris. Check connections, plugs-ins, and propane tank hoses to make sure they aren't cracked, worn or leaking.

Dispose of yard waste properly and remove brush and debris from around your buildings. Make sure to keep grass and weeds cut short to not add fuel to a grass fire. You can't tell where a grass fire is going to go, so make sure to keep things trimmed up. Remove leaves, pine needles and other debris from your gutters to keep them clear and free flowing.



It's Spring Forward time, and that means a fresh new set of batteries for the smoke detectors. While changing the batteries, use the vacuum to clean dust particles from the housing and surrounding ceiling areas.

If you are sprucing up projects with paint and stain, carefully dispose of rags used in the process. Oil based paints and stains release heat as they dry. If the rags are left in a pile, the heat that's trapped can cause a fire. Hang the rags outside to dry. After they are dry, you can launder or dispose of them.



Drug Take Back Day

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

The Ellis Police Department is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration to provide an easy and convenient way to dispose of unwanted, expired, un-used prescription or over-the-counter drugs on Saturday, April 26th from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Ellis Police Department, conveniently located at 815 Jefferson St. in Ellis, KS.

There is **no cost** for disposing of unwanted drugs.



We are unable to collect any creams, balms, liquids, inhalers, needles or sharps, or anything containing a battery. Illicit drugs will also not be accepted. Prescription medications can be disposed of in the original container or placed in a Ziploc bag.

Take Back Day is a free event for communities nationwide to properly dispose of old and unneeded medications safely and anonymously. There is also no need to be an Ellis community member to participate. This event is open to the public.

To find a collection site near you visit: www.DEATakeBack.com



Community Blood Screening Scheduled

Submitted by Danielle Schaus, Clerk 1

The Ellis County Health Department will be holding a community blood screening on March 25, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the City of Ellis Council room. Payment in the form of a check or cash is due at the time of service. Fasting for 12 hours prior is required.



The following is a list of blood screenings that will be done:

- Profile..... TBD
- PSA.... TBD
- HbA1c...TBD
- Vit DTBD



calendar

MARCH

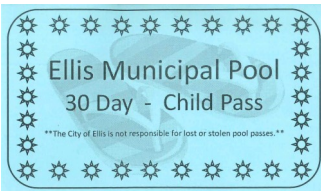
- 3 City Council 6:30 pm
- 7 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 3-7 WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK
- 5 State-wide Siren Test 10 am
- 9 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 17 City Council 6:30 pm
- ST PATRICK'S DAY
- 21 No Court
- 24 Planning Comm 7:00 pm

APRIL

- 4 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 7 Grass Pickup begins
- City Council 6:30 pm
- 15 Income Tax Filing Deadline
- 18 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- GOOD FRIDAY - City offices open
- 20 EASTER
- 21 City Council 6:30 pm
- 28 Planning Comm 7:00 pm

MAY

- 2 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 4-10 MUNICIPAL CLERK'S WEEK
- 5 City Council 6:30 pm
- 11 MOTHER'S DAY
- 11-17 NAT'L POLICE WEEK
- 16 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 19 City Council 6:30 pm
- 18-24 NAT'L PUBLIC WORKS WEEK
- 26 MEMORIAL DAY
- City offices closed
- 27 Planning Comm 7:00 pm
- Public Works - Summer Hours Begin
- Swim Pool Opens 12:30 pm



Swimming Pool Passes

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

The City is excited to continue offering 15-day and 30-day pool passes for both children and adults - now with a more convenient system!

- Passes will no longer be managed by pool staff. Visitors can purchase a punch card at the pool and must be presented for entry each time.
- Passes are now flexible with being just adult or child passes.
- Passes remain valid until all punches are used.

Passes will be available for purchase at the pool.

Children 6-12	15-day pass.....	\$21.00
Children 6-12	30-day pass.....	\$40.00
Adults 13 and Up	15-day pass.....	\$28.00
Adults 13 and Up	30-day pass.....	\$54.00

Enjoy a simpler, more flexible way to swim this season!

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.



Compost Pile

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

It's the season to clean up our yards! Don't forget the City of Ellis has a compost site available for residents to dispose of their yard and garden waste. The compost site will be open 24 hours/seven days a week, as long as everyone respects the type of materials that are allowed to be disposed of at the compost site. The compost site is located at 386 Old Hwy 40, near the shooting range on the east end of town along Highway 40.

Yard waste accepted at the compost site includes:

Garden Waste ❖ Grass Clippings ❖ Mulch Leaves (no branches, shrubs or twigs)



Dogs at Large: Keep Your Furry Friends Safe and Secure

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

With the arrival of warm spring weather and the chilly days of winter fading away, many of us are eager to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. One of the best ways to do that is by taking your beloved dog for a walk. It's a great way to get some fresh air, exercise, and spend quality time with your furry friend.

As tempting as it may be to let your dog run free and explore the City of Ellis' beautiful parks and open spaces, it's important to remember that there are rules in place to keep both pets and people safe. Did you know that Ellis has an ordinance that prohibits dogs from running off-leash?

City Ordinance Reminder

According to Ellis City Code section 2-206:

"RUNNING AT LARGE; FINE. (a) It shall be unlawful for the owner or harbinger of any dog to permit such dog to run at large within the city at any time; (b) Any dog running at large within the city shall be impounded as set out in section 2-207; (c) For the offense of an animal running at large, the owner or harbinger claiming any dog shall pay the board bill for the dog in addition to a fine to be set by Resolution of the City of Ellis, Kansas, which increases incrementally for subsequent offenses."

This ordinance applies to property owned or maintained by the City, as well as any property that does not belong to the dog owner. Common areas where dogs are often found running at large include cemeteries, parks, and city streets. If your dog is caught off-leash, the first offense carries a fine of \$90, plus court costs, with increased fines for subsequent offenses.



We all want our pets and community to be happy and safe. That's why it's essential to keep your dog leashed and under control whenever you're out in public. Additionally, please ensure that your dog is securely contained on your own property, whether through proper fencing or tethering.

By following these guidelines, you're not only complying with City regulations, but also helping to protect your dog from potential harm. The last thing anyone wants is for a cherished pet to be injured while running at large or for someone to experience a dog bite.

Let's all do our part to keep our community safe and enjoyable for everyone - pets included!

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.



FUN IN THE Sun

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

We are thrilled to welcome you back to the Ellis Swimming Pool for another fun-filled season! The pool will officially open on **Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 12:30 p.m.**, offering a variety of activities catering to all ages and interests. We will again offer pool parties, adult open swim, water aerobics and swimming lessons! Rates for the 2025 season remain the same as prior years.

Thank you for your continued support!

Open Swim

12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. everyday
5 and Under Free
Age 6 - 12 \$1.50
Age 13 and over \$2.00
15-day & 30-day passes are available also!

Swimming Lessons (Price per Session)

1st Session: June 16 - June 27
2nd Session: July 7 - July 18
\$25.00 .. First Child in Immediate Family
\$20.00 .. Second Child in Immediate Family
\$15.00 .. Third Child & Subsequent Children in Immediate Family
\$20.00/hour...Private Lessons (Scheduled through Pool Manager)

We can't wait to welcome everyone back this summer!

Pool Parties

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Evenings (except for Mondays & Wednesdays)
Must be booked at least two weeks in advance!
Without Slide..... \$75.00
With Pool Slide..... \$100.00

Adult Open Swim/ Water Aerobics

6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
Mondays & Wednesdays... \$3.00/session

Cemetery Decorating Regulations

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Per Ordinance 1402:

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

No permanent urns, decorations, ornaments, organizational emblems, or embellishments such as decorative statues, or decorative stones shall be permitted on or around a grave space, unless they are permanently anchored in a concrete foundation that is aligned with the monument foundation;

provided that the total foundation, including monument and decorative item does not exceed the maximum foundation length allowed.

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

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

To all persons decorating graves at Mount Hope Cemetery

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

MAY 12, 2025

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

If you have any questions, please contact the

Public Works Department
785.726.4741 785.726.1741
ellispw@eaglecom.net

Thank you for your cooperation.



Reporting Procedures

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

In the last few months, Ellis Police Department Officers have reported to me that they have had several instances of community members coming to their houses to report suspected criminal activity, or have received messages on their personal Facebook pages reporting suspected criminal activity.

Did you know that the Ellis Police Department has an officer on-duty at all times? The Ellis Police Department is currently fully staffed and has an officer available to respond to calls 24/7. The **FASTEST** and most **EFFECTIVE** way to have an officer respond to a call for service is to contact Ellis County Communications either by using 911 or by the non-emergency line at (785) 625-1011.

This brings the question of; "Why do we call, instead of going to an officer's house? They live right next to me, surely that's faster, right? We need an officer now!"

The answer is this - it is always faster to call and speak to a dispatcher, who sends the information you are reporting to the officer that's on duty, in real time. Dispatchers will gather all of the relevant information such as call type, location, who is involved, what is happening, as well as if there are weapons or injuries involved. Giving the information you have to a dispatcher can also summon additional resources to assist with what you are reporting. Reporting to an officer's house or to their Facebook messenger can delay the response from first responders. In the time it takes for the officer whose door you've knocked on to get ready to respond appropriately equipped, the officer that is on-duty could have been on scene, handling the call for service.

Officers will never respond to a call for service that they've received on their personal Facebook pages. They will instruct you to either call 911 or the non-emergency line, depending on the situation.



When do I call 911? I'm not sure if this is an emergency.

If you are unsure if you are reporting an emergency, it is best to call 911. Examples of emergency situations are as follows:

- ★ You have been the victim of a crime
- ★ You have witnessed a crime
- ★ You have either witnessed or been involved in a traffic accident
- ★ You or your neighbor's house is on fire
- ★ You or someone else is currently experiencing a medical issue, and you need emergency medical services
- ★ Your child has gone missing

Examples of situations that require police response and aren't considered emergencies are as follows:

- ★ There is a dog running at large that is not being aggressive
- ★ You have questions about city ordinances
- ★ You need to request a welfare check on someone that didn't show up to work today
- ★ You need to be fingerprinted for employment
- ★ You would like to request a civil standby

No matter which reporting method you choose, a dispatcher will answer the phone. They will begin gathering relevant information from you and get the call for service dispatched appropriately. The biggest help that you can give them is to answer their questions completely and calmly. Our dispatchers

are trained in Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD). They may give you instructions on performing CPR and will coach you through it, should the situation require it. The moment all required information is gathered, the call for service is sent to Law Enforcement, EMS, or Firefighters who will then respond to the scene.

Help us maintain quick response times and quality of service by reporting through the proper procedures!



Grass Pickup Resumes

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Starting April 7th, the grass route will be run on Monday of each week, unless the Monday is a designated City holiday. Consult the *Holiday Trash Schedule* in this newsletter for the alternate pick up day.

Grass carts are available for \$2.38 per month, per cart, and only billed from May to November. Call the City Clerk's office to request a grass cart.

The grass cart has a number that is assigned to your address when it is delivered. **Please do not move carts from one address to another.** Also, respect the resident who chooses to rent a grass cart for their grass. Do not put your grass clippings in someone else's cart without their permission. Perpetrators may be charged with theft of service for doing so.

We ask that you put only GRASS in the carts as it is fed to livestock. We will not pick up leaves or branches in the grass carts, however, the City opened a compost pile area near the City's shooting range on the east end of town for you to take your leaves to. See page four for more details about the compost pile.

If you would like the City to pick up your bagged leaves, put them in the TRASH carts to be hauled to the landfill. We will not pick up bags or other items left on the ground without a special pickup order.

If you have branches that need picked up, call the Clerk's office at (785) 726-4812 to schedule a special pickup.

Remember branches need to be bundled and cut into 4-foot lengths.



Beginning
Tuesday, May 27th
Public Works Department
will work
SUMMER HOURS

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

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



Golf Carts on City Streets

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Recently, Council passed Ordinance No. 1499 allowing golf carts to operate on streets. Below are a few rules that apply when operating a golf cart in the City of Ellis:

- Golf carts are permitted on roads with speed limits of 30 mph or less but cannot be driven on highways (except to cross them).
- Operation is only allowed between sunrise and sunset unless the golf cart has proper lights and a slow-moving vehicle emblem.
- Operators must be at least 18 years old and have a valid driver's license.
- Golf carts must display a slow-moving vehicle emblem and a safety flag at least 72 inches high.
- Liability insurance is required
- Owners must register their golf carts with the City each year, pay a \$50 fee and pass an inspection by the Ellis Police Department. A replacement license costs \$25. Call the Ellis Police Department's non-emergency phone number (785) 625-1011 to schedule your appointment for an inspection.
- Violations may result in fines up to \$1,000, imprisonment up to six months or other penalties based on City traffic laws.

This ordinance repeals Section 114.4 of the 2024 Standard Traffic Ordinance. Upon publication in *The Ellis Review* on February 27, 2025, the Ordinance took effect. The ordinance can also be reviewed on the City's website at: www.ellis.ks.us > City Office > City Government > scroll to bottom of page and click on Download Golf Cart Ordinance No. 1499.



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



Support for New Businesses

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Starting a business can be challenging - about 20% of small businesses fail in the first year, and nearly half don't make it past five years. The City of Ellis is here to help with several business incentives:

New Business Incentive Utility Program

- ☆ **Who Qualifies?** New businesses in Ellis, including new branches or franchises (not existing businesses that change names or owners).
- ☆ **Benefit:** Free sewer (up to \$500) and sanitation services for one year.

Sales Tax Rebate Program

- ☆ **Who Qualifies?** New retail businesses within Ellis city limits, legally registered with the Kansas Department of Revenue.
- ☆ **Benefit:** Year 1: 50% rebate on the one-cent general City sales tax timely paid to the Kansas Department of Revenue.
Year 2 & 3: 25% rebate on the one-cent general sales tax timely paid to the Kansas Department of Revenue.

Industrial Revenue Bonds

- ☆ **Who Qualifies?** New business owners who request City Council approval.
- ☆ **Benefit:** Up to 100% tax abatement for up to 10 years (applicants cover legal and bond costs).

Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP)

- ☆ **Who Qualifies?** Businesses investing at least \$25,000 in new construction or property improvements of commercial and industrial properties.
- ☆ **Benefit:** 95% of increased taxes (based on assessed value after improvements) paid in the first year after completion of construction and each year thereafter for 10 years.

Please contact the City Clerk's office for a copy of official policies for additional requirements. Incentives must be approved by Council through application.

Thank you for investing in Ellis!



Kansas Department of Commerce "Community Cruise"

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

The City of Ellis received exciting news from the Kansas Department of Commerce in February 2025. Our City-owned campground has been selected as a featured project during this year's National Community Development Week. This recognition highlights the importance of community-driven projects and the positive impact they have on local economies, tourism, and quality of life.

As part of the celebration, representatives from the Kansas Department of Commerce will visit the campground project site on **April 21, 2025, from 2:05 PM to 2:45 PM**. This visit presents a valuable opportunity for the City to showcase the improvements made to the campground, discuss its benefits to residents and visitors, and highlight how strategic investments in public spaces contribute to community growth.

During the visit, City officials, project partners, and community members will have the chance to engage with state representatives, share insights about the project's development, and advocate for continued funding and support for local initiatives. This event not only brings recognition to Ellis, but also strengthens relationships with policymakers who play a key role in future community development efforts.

We encourage residents and stakeholders to attend and take part in this important event. Your participation helps demonstrate the community's commitment to enhancing public spaces and ensuring that Ellis remains a welcoming destination for travelers and a great place to call home.



Hearty Thank You

Submitted by Tim Kohlrus, Volunteer Fireman

The Ellis Volunteer Fire Department extends a hearty thank you to the community for supporting the 2nd Annual Pancake and Sausage Feed. It was good to see so many people continue to support the department. We appreciate this community and consider it an honor to serve you.



Also, the Ellis Volunteer Fire Department is looking for more men or women to join them in protecting our community. Contact Chief Dustin Vine to discuss the opportunity.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
begins at 2:00 a.m.
on Sunday, March 9th.



Turn clocks forward one hour and check the batteries in Fire, Smoke and CO2 detectors.



Lead Service Line Replacement Plan Violation Notice

Submitted by John Leiker, Public Works Director

Included with this newsletter is a violation notice from the State of Kansas regarding our lead service line inventory. The violation is due to our report being submitted past the deadline, which resulted from a miscommunication on my part. As soon as I realized the issue, I promptly resubmitted the report, and it has since been received and accepted. The notice simply acknowledges the late submission - no action is required from any water service customer.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the City will begin replacing City-owned lead service lines this spring. We are still evaluating a plan for replacing lead lines on the homeowner's side of the water service. Homeowners affected by the project will be contacted individually as we move forward.



Pressure Pump Station Grant

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

The City of Ellis is currently designing a water pressure pump station to improve water pressure for homes on the south hill. To lead the design and engineering, the City has contracted with Wilson & Co., Inc.

Last fall, Wilson & Co., Inc.'s grant team applied for a Kansas State Water Technical Assistance grant to help fund the design and pre-engineering phase of the project. We recently received notification that the City has been awarded \$83,400 for this effort.

In December 2024, representatives from the City and Wilson & Co., Inc. attended a USD 388 School Board meeting to discuss a potential location for the new pump station on school property. The proposed site, situated near two large water lines that supply the south hill, would provide the optimal pressure point to enhance water flow uphill.

After reviewing the information, the School Board requested the City consider an alternate location on the north side of the south drive. Wilson & Co., Inc. will incorporate this feedback and develop a plan that includes the suggested location as an option. The revised design will be presented to the School Board in the near future.

This collaboration will ensure our town can support new housing developments on the south hill, creating opportunities for more families to move into the community and increasing student enrollment in our school district.



Get Involved!

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Local government plays a crucial role in shaping the community, and one of the best ways to make a difference is by volunteering on a municipal committee. These committees cover a range of topics, including parks and recreation, public safety, economic development, and infrastructure planning.

By joining a committee, you have the opportunity to collaborate with city officials, provide input on important decisions, and help improve local services. It's a great way to stay informed, meet like-minded residents, and contribute your skills and ideas to projects that directly impact your community.

Most committees meet periodically and welcome volunteers with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Whether you have expertise in a particular field or simply a passion for community service, your involvement can help shape the future of your town.

If you're interested in volunteering, stop by the City Clerk's office to pick up an application or visit our website at www.ellis.ks.us > City Office > City Government > scroll to Council, City Officials & Committees and select Volunteer Committee Application (PDF). Bring your completed application back to the Clerk's office for consideration. Your time and effort can make a meaningful difference in building a stronger, more vibrant community!



Ground Water Monthly Reporting Violation Notice

Submitted by John Leiker, Public Works Director

This newsletter includes a violation notice from the State of Kansas regarding a missed monthly report for January 2025. The report, which tracks the minimum measured and required daily disinfection residuals entering the water distribution system, was not submitted on time. Upon receiving the violation notice, the report was promptly submitted. The notice simply acknowledges the late submission - no action is required from any water service customer.