

the town crier

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Ellis, Kansas



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Beginning Tuesday, May 27th, the Public Works Department will begin working summer hours from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Dogs at Large

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

Recently, the Ellis Police Department has noticed an uptick in dogs running at large within city limits.

Per 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 section covers property owned or maintained by the City, and property that does not belong to the owner of the dog that is running at large. Cemeteries, Parks, and City Streets are the most common areas where dogs are caught by the Ellis Police Department. The first offense for Dog at Large is \$90, and the fines increase incrementally with each offense, plus court costs.



Please do your part and keep your dog leashed and under control when you are out and about, as well as make sure your dog is adequately contained on your own property, whether that be by means of fencing or tethering. The last thing we want is for your dog to be injured when it is running at large.

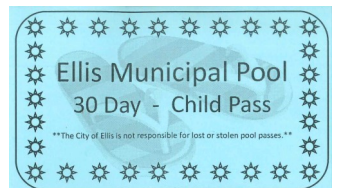


Swimming Pool Passes

Submitted by Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

The City will once again offer 15-day and 30-day passes for both children and adults; however, passes will no longer be maintained by the pool staff. We have designed a business-sized laminated punch card that will need to be presented for entry. Passes are now simplified by no longer being designated by person, but simply adult or child. The passes do not expire and 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





Color Our World

Submitted by Tracey Andrews, Ellis Public Librarian

School is out, and Ellis Public Library (EPL) is wasting no time getting started with the Summer Library Program! The theme this year is 'Color Our World.' There will be activities for all ages - toddlers to adults! Kids will paint with foil, make sculptures out of crayons, and create their own masterpieces, which will be on display during the month of June! Swing by EPL to pick up the schedule of events! While you are there, check out the prizes that will be given away at the end of June for completing the reading log. For every 15 minutes read (or being read to), the children can place their name in for a prize of their choice! Adults have prizes too!



Let the good times roll! Friends of the Library is hosting a Bunco Bash on June 20th from 7pm-9pm at the Ellis Public Library. No experience playing Bunco? No problem - we will teach you! Snacks will be provided. All proceeds will go toward a new water cooler for the library.

For more information, check the Ellis Public Library or Friends of the Ellis Library pages on Facebook!



Fireworks

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

As we approach the Fourth of July, we'd like to remind everyone of the permitted dates and times for fireworks. According to Resolution No. 622, fireworks may only be discharged on **July 3rd and 4th, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and midnight.** Please respect these times as set by the City Council.



Have a fun and responsible Fourth of July!



Share the Road with Local Farmers!

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

As summer rolls into Kansas, so does the busy season for our local farmers and ranchers. Tractors, combines, sprayers, and other large equipment are a common sight on rural roads this time of year and they play a vital role in keeping our agricultural community thriving. Sharing the road with farm equipment is an essential part of summer driving, especially when new drivers are behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Farmers often have to travel between fields, to the co-op, or to a shop for maintenance. These machines are often very wide, slow-moving, and may have limited visibility. Remember, just because you can see them, it doesn't mean they can see you! Most farm implements are only capable of traveling 25mph or slower. Any vehicle that is only capable of a 25mph top speed are required to display a slow-moving vehicle sign. Being patient with slow moving vehicles can be hard, but most farmers will pull over to allow other vehicles to pass when it is safe to do so! Never pass on hills, curves or where you cannot see clearly ahead. Most farm implements make wide turns, so always be on the lookout for wide turns that cross several lanes of traffic. Farmers might have to swerve to avoid striking road signs, mailboxes, or ditches. Be prepared for un-expected maneuvers.

Kansas law states that farm equipment is allowed on most public roads, with the exception of Interstate highways. It is very common to see farm equipment in our little town during harvest or other busy parts of the season. Let's work together to protect our farmers and families this season by using caution and patience with each other. We hope our local farmers have a rich and bountiful harvest this season!

Full-time Employment Opportunities

The City of Ellis is accepting applications for a career-minded individual who wants to serve the community.

Positions Currently Available:

General Public Works Employee
Police Officer

Benefits Include:

- **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.

Job description, application and list of benefits are available at Ellis City Clerk's Office, 815 Jefferson, Ellis, KS or www.ellis.ks.us

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

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.



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

BURN SITE

is open Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 7am-3:30pm
Wed. 7am-7pm and 1st & 3rd Sat. 8:30am-11:30am
and 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

which is open 24 hours/7 days per week.



Camping Season is Here!

Submitted by Verda Flinn,
Campground Committee Member

Every year, we hear so many kind words about how welcoming our community is and what a great place the campground is to stay. As we gear up for another busy season, we'd like to remind everyone to please slow down when driving through the area - whether you're checking out how full the campground is or stopping to admire the water flowing over the dam. With campsites located on both sides of the road and families crossing to access the new playground, it's important we all do our part to keep visitors and community members safe.

On that note, we're excited to share that Phase 2 of the campground expansion is nearly complete! The bathhouse has been delivered, the new playground equipment is installed, and just a few finishing touches remain. Once completed, the Kansas Department of Commerce will conduct a final inspection, and the project grants will be officially closed out.

And here's some exciting news - our new playground has been selected as a National Demonstration Site! Families can scan the QR code posted at the playground to complete a short survey about their experience. The feedback will help various organizations promote health and improve playground design across the country.

If you haven't driven by the campground recently, now's a great time to check it out!



TNR Program

Submitted by Olivia Zody, Clerk II

Did you know that the City of Ellis has a program that addresses the population growth of community cats within our City? The Trap-Neuter-Return program, or TNR, not only includes the benefit of population control, but can also reduce nuisance behaviors, such as spraying, fighting, and yowling.

The TNR process is simple – community cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, given the rabies vaccine, and then have their ear tipped before being released back into the community. If you have a colony of community cats, which are unowned, free-roaming cats that live outdoors, then you may qualify for the TNR Program!



The first step in becoming a participant in the program includes filling out a simple application in the City Clerk's Office. After we have an application on file, your next step is to take pictures of the community cats and send them to ellisclerk3@eaglecom.net. Please keep in mind that the veterinarian we work with will not accept pregnant, sick, or injured cats for the program. Once we receive the pictures and your application in the Clerk's Office, we will contact you with a date for your trapping.

Per our program policy, we are only allowed to take the cats for which we have pictures on file for, so if our traps catch undocumented cats, they will be released and not taken to be sterilized. The City of Ellis encourages you to participate in this program if you have a colony of community cats in your neighborhood.



From the Mayor's Desk

Submitted by David R. McDaniel, Mayor

The City Leaders Academy, sponsored by the League of Kansas Municipalities, was held in Lawrence on April 11-12, 2025. The programs provided at this conference included Building Effective City & County Partnerships, ADA Accommodations & Concerns and Generational Synergy: Enhancing Workplace Collaboration Across Ages and Challenges in a Multi-Generational Workforce. Also included in the 2-day event was a session on How to Communicate with Your Legislator and From Bill to Law: Understanding Legislation and Local Implementation.

Networking among members of different cities is one of the most beneficial reasons to attend League events. The comradery, conversations and idea sharing between elected officials in attendance is always very enlightening.

Ellis Governing Body members attending this training included Dava Gaschler, Devin Henderson, Jolene Niernberger and Mayor David McDaniel.



calendar

JUNE

JULY



AUGUST

- 2 City Council 6:30 pm
- 6 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 13 Signup Deadline Session I
Swim Lessons
- 14 **FLAG DAY**
- 15 **FATHER'S DAY**
- 16 City Council 6:30 pm
- Swim Lessons: June 16 to June 27
- 23 Planning Comm 7:00 pm

- 4 **FREE Swim at Pool**
INDEPENDENCE DAY Observed
City offices closed
Signup Deadline Session II
Swim Lessons
- 7 City Council 6:30 pm
- 8 Swim Lessons: July 7 to July 18
- 18 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 21 City Council 6:30 pm
- 28 Planning Comm 7:00 pm

- 1 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 4 City Council 6:30 pm
- 15 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 18 City Council 6:30 pm
- 25 Planning Comm 7:00 pm



Budget Preparations

Submitted by Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

Here we go! As we move through 2025, the Ellis City Council is beginning work on one of its most important responsibilities - developing the annual budget for 2026. This is my first time assisting Council with the budget preparation process, and I'm already seeing just how much time, thought, and collaboration it takes to make the pieces come together.

The annual budget is critical because it gives the City the legal authority to spend public funds. Without an adopted budget, we wouldn't be able to pay for essentials like personnel, utilities, equipment, building maintenance, or infrastructure repairs.

Over the next few months, Council will be tasked with identifying priorities and funding needs for the coming year. Several pieces of equipment in the Public Works Department are well past their expected lifespans, and ongoing maintenance is needed across many City facilities.

Just like residents are feeling the strain of rising costs, the City is experiencing the same pressures. The Council works hard to ensure your tax dollars are used wisely and effectively. That sometimes means making tough decisions - delaying certain projects, adjusting service levels, or considering fee increases. All of these possibilities are carefully considered during the budget process.

Cities in Kansas are also required to follow the Tax Transparency Act, which mandates a Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) hearing if the City plans to collect even a single dollar more in property tax revenue than the previous year. This hearing may be held on the same night as our annual budget hearing.

As I navigate my first budget season, my goal is to help present a budget to Council that uses taxpayer dollars responsibly while supporting the services and infrastructure our residents rely on. Staff and Council dedicate countless hours to ensuring the budget reflects both fiscal responsibility and community needs.

Keep an eye out for the September 2025 edition of the Town Crier, where we'll share details of the approved 2026 budget.



Fireworks Safety Tips

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

Fireworks can bring excitement to your Independence Day celebration, but safety should always come first. By planning ahead and handling fireworks responsibly, you can ensure a safe and memorable event for everyone involved.

Set up a safe launch area!

Fireworks should only be used outdoors, in an open area away from structures, dry grass, and flammable materials. Ellis City Code prohibits use near fueling stations or in ANY of our public parks. Discharge from a moving vehicle is also prohibited. Fireworks should only be launched from private property. Keeping a large bucket of water or a water hose near the launch area can help douse any small fires or duds that you have.

Safe use is the best practice!

ALWAYS read the instructions on the packaging. Most fireworks packages let you know what to expect so you can plan accordingly. Never attempt to relight a dud. If you experience a dud, wait 20 minutes before handling the firework. It is also recommended that you soak it in water to prevent an uncontrolled detonation. Mortar tubes or cakes should also be discharged from a flat, hard, and fire-resistant surface to prevent the tube or cake from falling over.

Safe disposal matters!

Allow used fireworks to cool completely before handling. Some fireworks can smolder for several hours after discharge! Soaking fireworks overnight in water before disposal into your city polycart is the best practice that is available in our area. Used fireworks should be kept away from grass areas, fences, and structures in the event that they catch fire.



Sunflower Summer Program

Submitted by Verda Flinn,
Tourism Committee Member

The State of Kansas is once again bringing back the Sunflower Summer Program - a wonderful opportunity for Kansas families to explore, learn, and make lasting memories together. From July 12 to August 3, 2025, enjoy free admission to a wide range of participating attractions across the state. Simply download the Kansas Sunflower Summer app to access your digital "passport" and redeem tickets at each venue.

Ready for an adventure? Start close to home! Try out the program right here in your hometown and see how it works. The Ellis Railroad Museum & Doll Display is one of the participating locations, offering free admission to Kansas families through the program. It's the perfect place to kick off your summer exploration!



HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 3

Friday, July 4

Friday trash routes will be run on Thursday

NO trash pickup.

City closed for **INDEPENDENCE DAY** observation.



Monday, September 1

Tuesday, September 2

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

Monday grass *and* Monday & Tuesday trash routes will be run



Volunteers Needed for TNR Program

Submitted by Olivia Zody, Clerk II

Are you wanting to make a difference in the City of Ellis and passionate about animals? We are accepting volunteers for the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program! Volunteers will assist with the trapping, transport, and some documentation of the program. The program thrives on the volunteers who donate time to the TNR program. If you are interested



in volunteering, you will need to fill out a volunteer form in the City Office, or we will gladly email you one.

We ask volunteers to help set out and tie traps four days before the trapping occurs. The applicant is responsible for placing food in the tied traps, which will allow the community cats to familiarize themselves with the traps and be more apt to enter the traps. On the night before the scheduled veterinary appointment, volunteers will cut the ties on the traps, so that the traps will be allowed to capture community cats. The morning of the schedule appointment, volunteers will meet with the Police Department to confirm the appropriate cats were trapped, and then the volunteers will transport the cats to the veterinarian in Hays. Cats need to be dropped off between the hours of 8am and 9am. The cats have their procedure done and the veterinarian will then contact the volunteer(s) to come retrieve the traps and cats. The final step is releasing the cats back into the community where they were located.

Does this sound like something you would love to volunteer for? Contact the City Clerk's Office at 785-726-4812 to fill out an application!

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.



Turf/Xeriscaping Program

Submitted by Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

The City of Ellis has rolled out a new Turf and Xeriscaping Rebate Program designed to encourage residents to replace traditional, water-intensive lawns with more sustainable landscaping options. Through the program, residents can receive a rebate of \$1.00 per square foot - up to \$500 - for converting cool-season turfgrass into drought-tolerant warm-season grass or xeriscaped areas.

The initiative is aimed at reducing water use, promoting environmentally friendly landscaping, and easing stress on the City's water system. Eligible turfgrass replacements include Buffalo, Bermuda, and Zoysia varieties, or the installation of mulched planting beds with drought-resistant plants.

This program gives property owners a great incentive to upgrade their landscaping in a way that's both beautiful and sustainable. It's part of our broader efforts to conserve water while supporting residents in managing their outdoor spaces more efficiently.

To participate, residents must schedule a pre-inspection with City staff before starting any conversion work. The program is open on a first-come, first-served basis and is available to properties using City or Private Well water. Post-inspections are required to finalize eligibility, and all receipts must be submitted for rebate consideration.

The rebate program is valid through December 31, 2025, or until program funds are depleted. For more information or to schedule an inspection, contact the Public Works Department at (785) 726-1741.

***Application, Permit, and Inspection Fees may apply.**



Swimming Pool Opening/Closing Policy

Submitted by Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

City staff strive to keep the pool open every day; however, Mother Nature sometimes has other plans! It never fails that we get springtime temperatures or storms in the middle of summer. The City's pool opening/closing policy is as such:

- If the water and air temperatures are 70 degrees or above at 12:30 p.m., the pool will open at 12:30 p.m.
- If the water and air temperatures are less than 70 degrees at 12:30 p.m., the temperatures will be reevaluated at 1:30 p.m. If, at that time, the water and air temperatures are 70 degrees or above, the pool will open at 1:30 p.m. If they are not, the pool will remain closed for the day.
- In the event of stormy weather, all patrons will be asked to leave the pool area for 30 minutes. If the weather does not clear, the pool will close at that time. In the case of lightning, the pool may reopen 30 minutes after the last visible lightning strike.
- The pool reserves the right to close early due to the lack of patrons (less than 5 patrons for at least 30 minutes, with evaluation starting at 2:30 p.m. – so the earliest the pool would close would be 3:00 p.m.)
- Illness/Accident (fecal, vomiting or blood incidents): the pool will be cleared for at least 30 minutes while the pool is shocked. If the incident is such that longer chemical treatment is necessary, the pool will close.

All pool closings are at the discretion of City staff. We want to ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience at the pool. We will exercise caution in making sure the pool is safe to use!





Ellis Lakeside Campground Visitor Information

All shaded areas represent tourist home states & countries that visited the Ellis Lakeside Campground and returned comment cards.

Germany

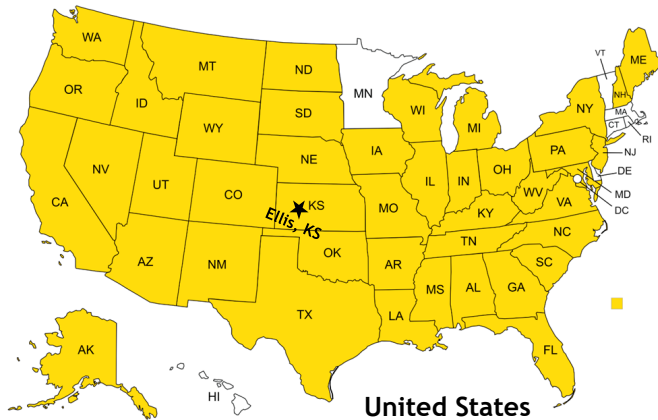
United Kingdom

France

Canada

2024 Visitors

1,893 Paid Receipts Returned
455 Comment Cards Returned



United States



Sidewalk Replacement Program

Submitted by Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

The City of Ellis has introduced a new Sidewalk Replacement Program designed to help residential and commercial property owners improve sidewalk safety and accessibility. The initiative offers reimbursement for a portion of the cost of replacing deteriorating sidewalks, reducing the financial burden on property owners.

Through the program, participants may receive up to \$500 in rebates, with a reimbursement rate of \$1.50 per square foot for standard 4-inch sidewalks and \$1.80 per square foot for 6-inch sections crossing driveways. While homeowners are responsible for all labor and installation costs, the City will reimburse eligible concrete expenses upon submission of approved receipts.

This is a proactive step toward improving walkability throughout Ellis. We're working with the community to create safer pedestrian pathways while helping offset some of the costs involved.

To qualify, property owners must submit an application and obtain a sidewalk permit. All work must comply with City of Ellis codes and ADA regulations. Public Works staff will inspect the site before and after concrete is poured to ensure standards are met. Repairs must be completed within 90 days of approval, and reimbursements are subject to available funds.

For more details or to apply, contact the Clerk's Office at (785) 726-4812 or the Public Works Department at (785) 726-1741.

***Application, Permit, and Inspection Fees may apply.**



Neighborhood Revitalization Plan

Submitted by Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

Last year, the City Council approved Resolution No. 606, formally adopting 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.**

The Plan requires a minimum investment of **\$15,000** for residential improvements or **\$25,000** for commercial properties for eligibility. **95%** of the increase in taxes (based on assessed value after improvements) paid in the first year after completion of the project and each year thereafter for 10 years will be eligible for rebate.

Please visit our website at www.ellis.ks.us or the City Clerk's office for an application!

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





Welcome Back!

Submitted by Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

We're excited to welcome everyone back as we kick off the 2025 pool season on May 27th at 12:30 p.m.! Regular pool hours will be 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. Adult open swim and water aerobics will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Swimming lessons will be offered in two sessions:

Session 1: June 16th-27th (Signup deadline: June 13th)

Session 2: July 7th-18th (Signup deadline: July 3rd)

Lesson fees per session:

\$25 for the first child (immediate family)

\$20 for the second child

\$15 for the third and any additional children

To receive the family discount, all sessions must be paid for at the same time. Class sizes may be limited.

Daily admission rates remain the same:

Ages 5 & under – Free

Ages 6 to 12 – \$1.50

Ages 13 & over – \$2.00

Adult Swim/Water Aerobics – \$3.00

15-Day and 30-Day pool passes are also available.

Please see posted pricing or ask pool staff for details.

Private pool parties

Book a party on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

\$75 per party / \$100 per party with slide access

A \$25 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your date, with the balance due on the day of the party.

To register for swim lessons, purchase passes, or schedule a party, please contact the Ellis Pool Staff at 785-726-3130. We're looking forward to another great summer at the Ellis Municipal Swimming Pool!

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



Hot Weather Safety Tips for Outdoor Workers

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police



Working outdoors during hot weather can pose serious health risks, especially when temperatures soar. Whether you're a farmer, construction worker, landscaper, or involved in any other outdoor job, it's important to take precautions to stay safe and avoid heat-related illnesses. Here are a few tips that can help you stay safe during summer work!

Stay hydrated!

Hydration is your first line of defense against heat-related illnesses. Drink water regularly, even if you're not thirsty. Most experts recommend 8 ounces every 20 minutes during strenuous work. Sugar free sports drinks that contain electrolytes are also beneficial to effective hydration. Water dense foods like cucumbers and watermelon are great for snacks!

Dress for success!

The right clothing can help protect you from the sun and reduce your risk of overheating. Wear light-colored, loose-fitting, and breathable clothing to allow airflow and reflect sunlight. Protect your head and neck with a wide-brimmed hat or neck gaiter. Use UV-protective sunglasses to shield your eyes from harmful rays. Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher every two hours, and more often if sweating heavily.

Timing is key!

Adjust your schedule and workload to reduce your heat exposure. Try to start early and get the most strenuous tasks done before mid-afternoon. Take frequent rest breaks in shaded or cooler areas. Work in pairs or groups when you are able and watch for signs of heat stress in yourself and your coworkers.

Recognize Signs of Heat Illness!

Heat-related illnesses can develop quickly and may become life-threatening if not addressed. Heat exhaustion symptoms include heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea, and headache. Heat stroke, a medical emergency, includes symptoms such as confusion, lack of sweating, high body temperature, and unconsciousness. Call 911 immediately and move the person to a cooler place.

Create Safe Break Zones!

Even without access to air conditioning, you can create safer rest areas. Use pop-up canopies or tarps to provide shade. Keep cool water and wet towels or cooling cloths on hand for breaks. Encourage regular breaks, especially for new or returning workers who aren't yet acclimated to the heat.



Downtown Historic District Update

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

On May 7, 2025, the City of Ellis hosted a public meeting in partnership with Hernly Associates, Inc. at City Hall. A quorum of the City Council was there, and the event was well-attended by local business owners and community members.

Stan Hernly presented an informative PowerPoint outlining the survey process and the potential benefits of establishing a historic district in downtown Ellis. Megan Bruey from Hernly Associates, Inc. joined the meeting via Zoom. The presentation sparked a number of thoughtful questions from attendees, many of whom expressed interest in restoring and revitalizing downtown structures.

Mr. Hernly encouraged community participation by asking residents to share historic photographs and knowledge of downtown Ellis to support the survey efforts. If you have relevant photos or information, please email them to Megan Bruey at megan@hernly.com, or send them to the Clerk's Office, and we will ensure they are forwarded to Hernly Associates, Inc. When submitting photos, please include the address and name of the building or business, if known.

Thank you for supporting this important project that celebrates and preserves the heritage of our community!



Summer Fire Safety: Protecting Your Home and Family During Warm Weather Activities

Submitted by Tim Kohlrus, Volunteer Fireman

Summer is the season of sunshine, outdoor fun, and quality time with family and friends. From backyard barbecues to cozy fire pit gatherings, the warmer months bring many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. However, they also come with increased fire risks. Dry vegetation, high temperatures, and frequent use of outdoor flames make it essential to prioritize fire safety during this time of year.

Here's how you can stay safe while enjoying your favorite summer activities:

- 1. Barbecue Safety** - Barbecuing is a summer staple, but even a small flame can lead to a dangerous situation if not handled properly.

Safety Tips:

- Keep grills at least 10 feet away from your home, garage, deck railings, and overhanging branches.
- Clean your grill regularly to prevent grease buildup, which can ignite and cause flare-ups.
- Never leave the grill unattended when it's in use.
- Check for gas leaks on propane grills by applying a soap and water solution to the hose and connections - bubbles indicate a leak.
- Keep a spray bottle of water and a fire extinguisher nearby for quick action in case of small flare-ups or emergencies.



- 2. Fire Pit Precautions** - Fire pits can turn your backyard into a warm and welcoming spot for socializing, but they must be used responsibly.

Safety Tips:

- Use only dry, seasoned wood - never burn trash, leaves, or construction materials.
- Place fire pits on non-flammable surfaces like concrete or gravel, and keep them away from your home, trees, or anything flammable.
- Never use gasoline or lighter fluid to start a fire.
- Keep the fire small and manageable, and always have a bucket of water or garden hose nearby.
- Fully extinguish the fire before leaving it unattended. Stir the ashes and pour water until everything is cool to the touch.



- 3. Yard Work Fire Hazards** - Summer yard work can also increase fire risks, especially during drought conditions when grass and brush are dry.

Safety Tips:

- Clear dry leaves, pine needles, and dead vegetation from your yard, gutters, and roof.
- Mow lawns regularly and maintain defensible space around your home to reduce wildfire risk.
- Never operate lawnmowers or other gas-powered equipment on dry grass during peak heat or wind.
- Store gasoline and flammable materials in approved containers and keep them away from heat sources.
- Dispose of yard waste properly - don't burn it unless it's legal and safe to do so in your area.

- 4. General Fire Safety Tips for Summer**

- Install and check smoke detectors in your home regularly.
- Have a fire extinguisher easily accessible and make sure everyone knows how to use it.
- Teach children fire safety rules and supervise them around grills, fire pits, and matches.
- Know your local fire danger levels and adhere to burn bans or restrictions during high-risk periods.



Summer fun doesn't have to come with fire danger. By taking a few simple precautions, you can enjoy barbecues, fire pits, and yard work safely while protecting your home, loved ones, and community. Stay fire-aware, stay prepared, and make this summer one to remember - for all the right reasons.



Seeking Volunteers

Submitted by Tim Kohlrus, Firefighter

The Ellis Volunteer Fire Department is currently accepting applications. If you or someone you know are interested in serving the community and becoming part of a dedicated team, we encourage you to apply!

For more information or to express interest, please contact the City Clerk's Office or reach out directly to Chief Dustin Vine at D & B Body Shop.

Come be a part of something meaningful - protect, serve, and make a difference in Ellis!