

the town crier

Volume 38 Number 2

June 1, 2026

Ellis, Kansas



Reminders

- Holiday Closure1
- Holiday Trash Schedule2
- Vegetation Watering3
- Burn & Compost Site3
- Calendar of Events3



Clerk's Office

- Annual Sewer Rate Evaluation...1
- Going Green...Saving Blue.....5
- Meow There7
- 2026 Consumer Confidence Report 8, 9, 10



Committees

- Camping Season is Here1
- Sunflower Summer Program1
- Downtown Historical District Update.....4
- Ellis Lakeside Campground Visitor Information.....7



Governing Body

- Fireworks 1
- Vision Statement5
- Mission Statement 6



Fire Department

- Now Recruiting6
- Have a Safe 4th of July7



Police Department

- Harvest Traffic Ahead2
- Hot Weather Safety Tips5
- Lock It or Lose It6



Public Works Department

- Pressure Pump Station Funding 2
- Mowing in Ellis 3
- West 2nd St Project Update4
- Accessory Structures in the Floodplain 3
- West 2nd St. Project6



Ellis Public Library

- Summer at the Library4



Swimming Pool

- Swimming Pool Opening/Closing ·3



Camping Season is Here!

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Campground Committee Member



Every year, we hear wonderful compliments about how friendly and welcoming our community is - and how much visitors enjoy staying at our campground! As we head into another fun and busy camping season, we'd like to ask everyone to help us keep the area safe by slowing down while driving through the campground area. Whether you're cruising by to see how packed the campground is or stopping to enjoy the view of water flowing over the dam, please keep an eye out for campers, kids, and families crossing the road to enjoy the new playground area.

This will be the first full season with the expansion area bathhouse and playground equipment available for use, so if you haven't driven by the campground lately, now is the perfect time to take a look. We're proud of the progress and excited to welcome another great season of campers and visitors from all over the world to our community!



Sunflower Summer Program

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Tourism Committee Member

Kansas families are invited to make unforgettable memories this summer through the 2026 Sunflower Summer program, a statewide initiative that provides free admission to educational and family-friendly attractions across Kansas. The program is designed to help families discover new destinations while supporting local communities and tourism economies across the state.



Ready for an adventure? Start close to home! Our local museum - Ellis Railroad Museum & Doll Display is participating in the program this year. Try out the program right here in your hometown and see how it works. It's the perfect place to kick off your summer exploration!

For more information about the 2026 Sunflower Summer program, visit [Sunflower Summer Official Website](https://www.sunflowerks.com).



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. 639, 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!



Harvest Traffic Ahead!

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!



Pressure Pump Station Funding

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Through collaboration between the City of Ellis, USD 388, and Wilson & Company, Inc., the City completed a shovel-ready plan for the design and pre-engineering phase of the project. The goal was to position the project for future grant opportunities and ensure the City was prepared to move forward with construction when funding became available to help offset the cost of the project. With assistance from Wilson & Company, the City submitted an application with a match to the Kansas Water Office (KWO) by the September 2025 deadline to help fund the construction phase of the project. The City Council has also been proactively setting aside matching funds annually in anticipation of this opportunity.

Unfortunately, the City was not successful in receiving the 2025 KWO grant award. Despite this setback, the Council remains committed to advancing the project and has continued exploring multiple funding options while budgeting local funds each year.

One of the City's primary next steps is pursuing qualification as a low-to-moderate income (LMI) community. The Council approved Wilson & Company to complete an LMI survey in hopes of qualifying Ellis for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding opportunities. This effort is an important opportunity for the community to directly support the project. By completing and returning the LMI survey sent out to random addresses selected by the Kansas Department of Commerce, those residents can help the City qualify for grant funding programs which compete within a much smaller pool of communities, rather than against every city in Kansas through the KWO grant program.

The City has successfully qualified for LMI status several times in the past, resulting in major community improvements funded through CDBG programs. Projects completed with prior CDBG assistance include reconstructed streets on Spruce, Dorrance, and Cottonwood (2016); the construction of the new swimming pool (2019); economic relief funding for eligible local businesses and replacement of water mains on Baughman, Dorrance, Monroe, and 15th Streets (2020); and campground expansion project (2023). The City is hopeful the community will once again qualify for this important funding opportunity.

In addition to the LMI effort, the City plans to strengthen and resubmit its application to KWO when the next grant cycle opens later this summer. Another funding option currently under consideration is participation in the Kansas State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program. The City has already submitted a pre-application to determine eligibility for this potential financing source.

Since we already have the shovel ready plan in place, if grant funding is secured, the project is expected to move quickly into the bidding phase, with construction anticipated to begin in 2027. Planned improvements include construction of a new building to house and protect the pressure pumps, along with upgrades to the driveway at the south high school entrance and improved access to the new facility.

This partnership between the City, USD 388, and project stakeholders will help position Ellis for future housing development, creating opportunities for additional families to relocate to the community while supporting long-term growth and increased school enrollment.



HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 2
Friday, July 3

Friday trash routes will be run on Thursday
NO trash pickup.
City closed for **INDEPENDENCE DAY** observation.



Monday, September 7
Tuesday, September 8

NO grass or trash pickup on **LABOR DAY**
Monday grass *and* Monday & Tuesday trash routes will be run

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



Mowing in Ellis

Submitted by Steve Homburg, Public Works Director

It's that time of year when regular mowing is needed to help keep the City of Ellis looking its best. Issuing mowing violations is not something I enjoy doing, but it is necessary to maintain our community standards.

Please note that the City Council has updated the fees for mowing violations. The charge has increased from \$50 per hour with a two-hour minimum to \$150 per hour with a two-hour minimum. This means that if the City is required to mow your property, the minimum charge will be \$300.

These fees were implemented because the City is not a mowing service and our crews already maintain many public areas throughout Ellis. We appreciate your attention to keeping your property mowed and maintained.



Swimming Pool Opening/Closing Policy

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

City staff works hard to keep the pool open and ready for fun every day - but sometimes Mother Nature likes to cannonball into our plans! From surprise cold snaps to summer storms, here's how pool decisions are made to keep everyone safe while still making the most of swim season:

Temperature Check Time!

- If both the air and water temperatures are 70° or warmer at 12:30 p.m., the pool opens right on time!
- If either temperature is below 70° at 12:30 p.m., we'll check again at 1:30 p.m. If it warms up to 70° or above, we're diving in! If not, the pool will stay closed for the day.

Storms & Lightning

- If stormy weather rolls in, everyone will need to take a 30-minute "dry break" outside the pool area.
- If the weather doesn't improve, the pool may close for the day.
- Lightning means safety first! The pool can reopen 30 minutes after the last visible lightning strike.

Slow Pool Days

- If fewer than 5 swimmers are at the pool for at least 30 minutes (starting after 2:30 p.m.), the pool may close early - with the earliest possible closing time being 3:00 p.m.

Pool Clean-Up Situations

- In the event of accidents or illnesses (fecal, vomiting or blood) in the pool, everyone will need to exit for at least 30 minutes while staff "shock" the pool and make sure it's safe to swim again. Depending on the situation, the pool may need to close for additional treatment.

At the end of the day, all pool closings are up to City staff, whose top priority is making sure everyone has a safe, clean, and enjoyable time at the pool. We appreciate your patience and understanding - and we can't wait to make a splash with you this summer!

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.



Happy Father's Day

calendar

JUNE

JULY

Welcome Back to SCHOOL

1	City Council 6:30 pm
5	Municipal Court 8:00 am
12	Signup Deadline Session I Swim Lessons
14	FLAG DAY FATHER'S DAY
15	City Council 6:30 pm Swim Lessons: June 15 to June 26
22	Planning Comm 7:00 pm

3	INDEPENDENCE DAY Observed <i>City offices closed</i> Signup Deadline Session II Swim Lessons
4	FREE Swim at Pool
6	City Council 6:30 pm
7	Swim Lessons: July 6 to July 17
20	City Council 6:30 pm
27	Planning Comm 7:00 pm

AUGUST

7	Municipal Court 8:00 am
3	City Council 6:30 pm
17	City Council 6:30 pm
20	First Day of School
24	Planning Comm 7:00 pm



SUMMER -AT THE LIBRARY-

Submitted by Tracey Andrews,
Ellis Public Library Director

The Summer Library Program is in full swing at the Ellis Public Library throughout the month of June! This program is not just for children...teens and adults are encouraged to join in the fun as well. Adults and teens can participate by playing Book Bingo or completing a color-by-number sheet for those who enjoy a more creative activity.

In addition, the Friends of the Ellis Public Library will be hosting several adult programs this summer that you won't want to miss. Join us for an evening of Bunco in June and start assembling your team for a fun and engaging trivia night in July. Activities typically begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude around 9:00 p.m., making it easy to enjoy an evening out and still have time to unwind at home.

For updates and a full list of activities, be sure to follow the Ellis Public Library on Facebook, watch for announcements in the Ellis Review, or check out our new outdoor sign, where upcoming events will also be posted.



West 2nd St. Project Update

Submitted by Verda Flinn,
Assistant City Clerk

The City of Ellis has received its contract from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) for the awarded KDOT Cost Share funding. We are currently awaiting final approval from KDOT before moving forward. Once approval is received, our shovel-ready plans will be submitted for final review and the project will then be advertised for bids, which we hope will take place this fall. If all goes as planned, construction is expected to be completed in 2027.

We would like to thank everyone who provided letters of support, along with our engineering firm, Wilson & Company Inc., for helping prepare the successful shovel-ready plan. We also appreciate the patience and support of our businesses and community members as we move forward with the project and construction phase to improve West 2nd Street to better accommodate heavy truck traffic and the growing number of vehicles traveling through the area.



Downtown Historical District Update

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

The City of Ellis continues to move forward with plans to establish two small historic districts - one located north of the railroad tracks and one south of the tracks. By the time you receive this newsletter, the City of Ellis will have submitted a grant application through the Kansas Historical Society to help offset the cost of preparing and submitting nomination applications for review and approval of the two proposed districts.

In addition to preserving and celebrating the rich history of our downtown area, establishing a Kansas Historic District provides several important benefits to the community, as seen below. One significant advantage for downtown business property owners is the opportunity to obtain floodplain variances, which can allow for substantial improvements to storefronts and interior spaces while still preserving the historic character and charm of downtown Ellis.

Preserve Our Past.

INVEST IN OUR FUTURE.

The Benefits of Establishing a

KANSAS HISTORICAL DISTRICT

for Our Small Town

A HISTORICAL DISTRICT HONORS OUR HERITAGE—AND STRENGTHENS OUR COMMUNITY.

- PRESERVES OUR UNIQUE HERITAGE**
Protects the historic places, buildings, and stories that make our town special and worth passing down.
- STRENGTHENS OUR LOCAL ECONOMY**
Historic districts attract visitors, encourage new business, and increase property values through community pride and investment.
- ENCOURAGES REINVESTMENT AND REVITALIZATION**
Incentives & programs are available to help restore historic properties and improve our town.
- BUILDS COMMUNITY PRIDE AND CONNECTION**
Celebrates our shared history and creates a stronger sense of place for residents of all ages.
- PROVIDES ACCESS TO GRANTS AND INCENTIVES**
Qualifies the community and property owners for state and federal preservation grants and tax incentives.
- PROTECTS PROPERTY RIGHTS**
A local Historical District does not take away property rights—it encourages responsible, thoughtful changes that maintain our town's character.
- SUPPORTS SMALL BUSINESS AND TOURISM**
Historic charm draws customers. A vibrant downtown helps local businesses thrive.
- INVESTS IN A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**
Adaptive reuse of existing buildings is environmentally friendly and helps our town grow wisely.

Honor Yesterday.
BUILD TOMORROW.

A Kansas Historical District is an investment in our town's legacy—and our future.

LET'S KEEP OUR TOWN
Strong, Vibrant & Historic.

LEARN MORE. GET INVOLVED.

OUR HISTORY ★ OUR COMMUNITY ★ OUR FUTURE



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.



Going Green...Saving Blue

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

The City of Ellis is going green... and saving blue! The City Council has launched a new Turf & Xeriscaping Rebate Program to help residents replace water-hungry lawns with low-water landscaping options. Residents can receive \$1.00 per square foot - up to \$500 - for converting cool-season grass to warm-season varieties like Buffalo, Bermuda, or Zoysia, or for installing xeriscaped areas with mulch and drought-resistant plants. These upgrades create beautiful, low-maintenance yards while helping conserve water during hot Kansas summers.



To participate, residents must schedule a pre-inspection before starting work, complete the project, submit receipts, and schedule a post-inspection. The program is available on a first-come, first-served basis through December 31, 2026, or until 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.

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.



Welcome Back!

Submitted by Verda Flinn,
Assistant City Clerk

We were excited to welcome everyone back as we kicked off the 2026 pool season on May 26th 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 15th-26th (Signup deadline: June 12th)

Session 2: July 6th-17th (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 are looking forward to another great summer at the Ellis Municipal Swimming Pool!



NOW RECRUITING

WANT TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY?
LOOKING FOR PURPOSE, TEAMWORK,
AND REALWORLD SKILLS?

WE'RE SEEKING NEW VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS!

- No experience needed
- All Training and gear provided
 - 2 Training nights per month (1st and 3rd Wednesday)
- Must be 18+
- Generous Training and per call stipend provided
- Average commitment of 6-10 hours per month
 - 2 trainings at 3 hours per training and 2-4 calls per month
- The pride of serving your community

JOIN A PROUD TRADITION OF SERVICE IN ELLIS.
STOP BY THE CITY OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

BE THE DIFFERENCE WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.

Lock It or Lose It

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

As summer arrives and more people are out enjoying community events, vacations, ballgames, parks, and evenings outdoors. Law enforcement agencies across the country typically see an increase in vehicle burglaries and thefts. The good news is that many of these crimes are preventable with a few simple habits! One of the most common opportunities for theft occurs when vehicles are left unlocked. Criminals often look for easy targets, checking parked vehicles for unlocked doors, spare keys, wallets, firearms, electronics, or loose cash. Taking a few extra seconds to secure your vehicle can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

Simple steps to reduce criminal activity

- Always Lock Your Vehicle** - Even if you are parked in your driveway, at the gas station, or only stepping away for a moment, lock your doors and close your windows.
- Remove Valuables from Sight** - Purses, backpacks, firearms, lap tops, tablets, wallets, and even loose change can attract attention. If possible, take valuables with you. If you must leave items in your vehicle, place them in the trunk or out of sight before arriving at your destination.
- Never Leave Keys or Key Fobs Inside** - Vehicles left running unattended or with keys easily accessible are prime targets for theft. Modern key fobs can also make vehicles vulnerable if left inside or too close to the vehicle overnight.
- Park in Well-Lit Areas** - Whenever possible, park in visible, well-lit areas with pedestrian traffic or security cameras nearby.
- Secure Your Garage and Home** - If you park inside a garage, remember to close and lock the garage door. Many vehicle thefts also involve access to attached garages and homes.

Firearm Safety Reminder

Many stolen firearms are taken from unsecured vehicles each year. Responsible firearm storage is critical for both public safety and theft prevention. If you must leave a firearm in your vehicle:

- Use a secure lockbox or vehicle safe.
- Keep it out of sight.
- Never leave it unattended overnight when possible.

Report Suspicious Activity

If you notice suspicious behavior such as individuals checking car door handles, looking into parked vehicles, or lingering around neighborhoods late at night, report it immediately to local law enforcement. Prompt reporting helps officers respond quickly and may prevent crimes before they occur.



Ellis County Communications
can be reached at
(785) 625-1011, or by dialing 911.

Swimming Pool Passes

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Pool season just got even easier and more fun! The City will once again offer 15-day and 30-day pool passes for both children and adults. Purchase a laminated punch card which can be used by anyone with an adult or child pass! Just bring your business-sized punch card with you to the pool for entry. Best of all, the passes never expire, so you can use them whenever you're ready to make a splash. Passes will be available for purchase at the pool all summer long!

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



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.



Meow there, humans...we need your help!

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk



We're the community cats of Ellis, and while we may act tough and independent, we could really use a helping paw. The City of Ellis has a TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) Program to help us stay healthy by providing spay/neuter services and rabies shots. We even have a kind volunteer ready to chauffeur us to the veterinarian. But there's one big thing missing... **YOU!**

Right now is the purr-fect time to help manage our cat colonies before kitten season gets too out of paw. If you feed a colony of community cats, please call the City and fill out a simple form to schedule a trapping, so we are taken care of.

Here's how easy it is to help us:
Take photos of the cats with your phone. We don't want our volunteer to accidentally scoop up someone's beloved house kitty who just likes to wonder and pretend it's wild.

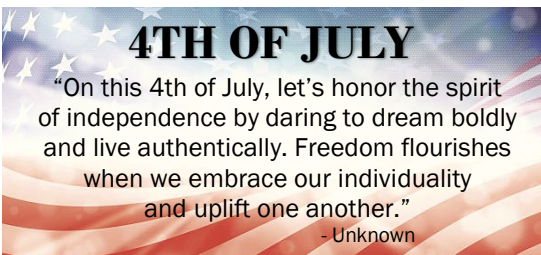
Stop by the Clerk's Office if you need help sending the pictures or filling out the Form. The staff will gladly help us!

Keep feeding us after the traps are set up

Our volunteer will handle the trapping, transport us to the vet, and even return us safely back to our colony once we've recovered

All this means less fighting, fewer homeless kittens, healthier cats, and a happier community for everyone, including us. We may not always say thank you out loud... but we will definitely say it with extra purrs.

So if you'd like to help us local feline neighbors live healthier lives, please give the City a call at (785) 726-4812.



4TH OF JULY

"On this 4th of July, let's honor the spirit of independence by daring to dream boldly and live authentically. Freedom flourishes when we embrace our individuality and uplift one another."
- Unknown



Ellis Lakeside Campground Visitor Information

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



Germany



Canada



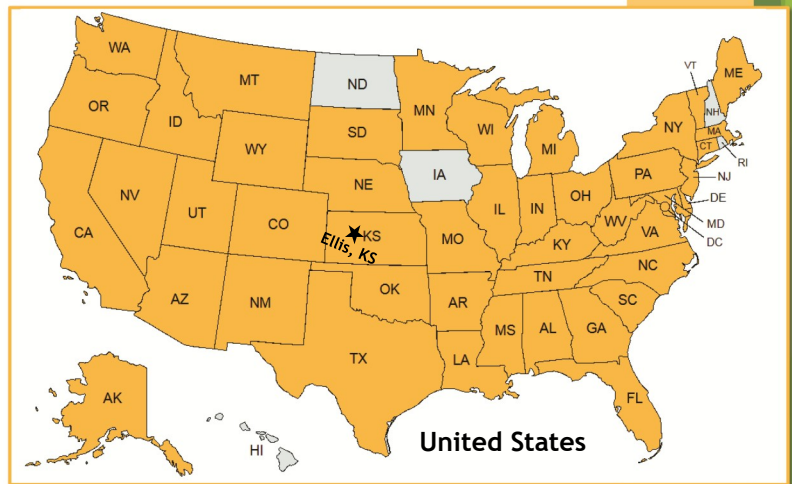
Switzerland



United Kingdom

2025 Visitors

1,936 Paid Receipts Returned
389 Comment Cards Returned



United States



Have a Safe 4th of July!

Submitted by Chris Cline, Volunteer Firefighter Member

The Ellis Fire Department would like to offer you some tips on how to have a safe July 4th this year!

Use Legal Fireworks

Fireworks packaged in brown paper are often for professional displays and unsafe for home use.

Never use homemade or altered fireworks.

Create a Safe Distance Zone

Keep 35 ft away from ground fireworks.

Keep 150 ft away from aerial fireworks.

Never lean over a firework when lighting it.

Keep Water Ready

Have a bucket or hose nearby.

Soak used fireworks for several hours before throwing them away.

Protect Children

Sparklers burn at 2,000°F - hot enough to melt metal.

In 2022, sparklers + firecrackers caused 1,900 ER-treated injuries.

Wear Protective Gear

Use eye protection and avoid loose clothing. Cotton or wool clothing is safer than synthetics.

Stay Sober When Handling Fireworks

Alcohol and fireworks are a major cause of hand and face injuries.

Never Relight a Dud

Wait 15-20 minutes, soak it in water, then discard.



ELLIS, CITY OF
Consumer Confidence Report – 2026
Covering Calendar Year – 2025



This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. If you would like to observe the decision-making process that affect drinking water quality, please call STEVE HOMBURG at 785-726-1741.

Your water comes from Ground water.

Source Name	Source Water Type
WELL 01	Ground water
WELL 02	Ground water
WELL 04	Ground water
WELL 05	Ground water
WELL 07	Ground water
WELL 11	Ground water
WELL 12	Ground water
WELL 13	Ground water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in sources water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system is required to test a minimum of 2 sample(s) per month in accordance with the Revised Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

Water Quality Data

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1- December 31, 2025. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. **The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.**

Terms & Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the “Maximum Allowed” is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

Treatment Technique (TT): a required process intended to reduce levels of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Non-Detects (ND): lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Parts per Million (ppm): or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

Parts per Billion (ppb): or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Monitoring Period Average (MPA): An average of sample results obtained during a defined time frame, common examples of monitoring periods are monthly, quarterly and yearly.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is not regulated for groundwater systems.

Running Annual Average (RAA): an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): Average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

Testing Results for: ELLIS, CITY OF

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (Low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ARSENIC	2/21/2024	2.7	2.7	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM	2/21/2024	0.093	0.093	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
CHROMIUM	2/21/2024	1.1	1.1	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE	2/21/2024	0.28	0.28	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NITRATE	3/12/2025	2.9	2.9	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SELENIUM	2/21/2024	9.6	9.6	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines

There are no additional required health effects notices.

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. RADON & U	5/22/2024	6	6	PCI/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	900 E 8TH	2025	18	25 - 25	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	503 W 3RD	2025	56	60 - 60	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90TH Percentile	Range (low/high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2022 - 2024	0.16	0.017 - 2.9	ppm	1.3	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2022 - 2024	1.7	0 - 1.8	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. **ELLIS, CITY OF** is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact **ELLIS, CITY OF** at **785-726-1741**. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The Lead and Copper rules require water systems to develop and maintain a Service Line Inventory. The service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. To view the Service Line Inventory, which lists the material type(s) for your location, you may view the inventory at: City of Ellis Municipal Building, 815 Jefferson, Ellis KS 67637.

Chlorine/Chloramines Maximum Disinfection Level	MPA	MPA Units	RAA	RAA Units
11/1/2025 - 11/30/2025	1.57000	MG/L	1.10000	MG/L

Secondary Contaminants – Non-Health Based Contaminants - No Federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Established.	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	SMCL
ALKALINITY, TOTAL	2/21/2024	300	300	MG/L	300
CALCIUM	2/21/2024	210	210	MG/L	200
CHLORIDE	2/21/2024	270	270	MG/L	250
CONDUCTIVITY @ 25 C UMHOS/CM	2/21/2024	1700	1700	UMHO/CM	1500
CORROSIVITY	2/23/2021	1.1	1.1	LANG	0
HARDNESS, TOTAL (AS CaCO3)	2/21/2024	630	630	MG/L	400
MAGNESIUM	2/21/2024	27	27	MG/L	150
MANGANESE	2/21/2024	0.073	0.073	MG/L	0.05
NICKEL	2/21/2024	0.0015	0.0015	MG/L	0.1
PH	2/21/2024	7.3	7.3	PH	8.5
PHOSPHORUS, TOTAL	2/21/2024	0.062	0.062	MG/L	5
POTASSIUM	2/21/2024	8.9	8.9	MG/L	100
SILICA	2/21/2024	36	36	MG/L	50
SODIUM	2/21/2024	160	160	MG/L	100
SULFATE	2/21/2024	270	270	MG/L	250
TDS	2/21/2024	1200	1200	MG/L	500

Please Note: Because of sampling schedules, results may be older than 1 year.

During the 2025 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Compliance Period	Analyte	Comments
1/1/2025 - 1/31/2025	CHLORINE	Failed to conduct or report compliance monitoring of a disinfected groundwater source

There are no additional required health effects notices.

There are no additional required health effects violation notices.