

VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH

Newsletter

SUMMER 2023

HOURS

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CONTACT INFO

130 N Chestnut Street
Ellsworth, WI 54011

Village Hall
(715) 273-4742

Police Department
(715) 273-3275

Ellsworth Public Library
(715) 273-3209

DROP BOX

Payments and/or paperwork can be submitted using the 24-hour drop box on the front of the Village Hall.

Don't Believe Everything You Hear

Message from Becky Beissel, President, Village of Ellsworth

Dear fellow community members,

One of the best pieces of advice I've ever received I heard at preschool orientation for my daughter. It came from her soon-to-be teacher to the incoming new parents, "I promise not to believe all the things your child tells me about you, if you promise not to believe all the things your child tells you about me." It was a bit tongue and cheek. But as a seasoned preschool teacher, she knew the imagination that these kids have.

Fast forward fifteen years and I think I should look this teacher up to share the same bit of wisdom with some members of the Ellsworth Community.

There seems to be an overabundance of local misinformation on social media these days. It would quite literally be a full-time job to address every bit of it, which is why most of it goes unaddressed. I mean, who has the time? Certainly not me. But I do see the damage it's causing; animosity towards



fellow community members and local businesses, disdain toward community leaders, negativity, and frustration. All based on things that aren't true. Is it really worth making these accusations and/or believing these lies?

So maybe we make each other a bit of a deal. Let's promise not to believe everything we read on social media. If you see something scathing on Facebook,

take the time to go to the right source for the correct information. Do your part to not contribute to the problem.

And better yet, think twice before jumping behind your keyboard of courage and blasting on Facebook. This same teacher had another bit of wisdom, "Are you helping or tattling?" There are consequences to what you say; to yourself, others, and the community.

Remember, this is our community and we're all on the same team. #TeamEllsworth!

New Police Sponsorship Program

A Proactive Approach to our Officer Shortage

The Village of Ellsworth is taking a more proactive approach to our officer shortage by enacting a new "police officer sponsorship program". A sponsorship program is an initiative where a municipality or law enforcement agency covers the costs of an individual's training at a Police Officer Academy. It benefits both the aspiring officers, who gain the necessary training, and the municipality, which gains qualified individuals to enhance public safety. It's a win-win! And thanks to a program through the Department of Justice, when the officer successfully graduates from the Academy, the Village will be reimbursed the cost of tuition.

Our first candidate for this program was hired as a part-time officer for the Ellsworth Police Department last month. Cedric Kosnopfal, an Ellsworth High School graduate, has just returned to the community after attaining a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and is eager to pursue his career goals as a police officer. He will be starting at the Academy in July with a graduation date of December 2023.

The Ellsworth Police Dept has been trying to hire a full-time officer since February 2023 without success. With the officer shortage, potential candidates typically apply for positions with multiple departments and get hired there (or poached after we hire them here). Through this sponsorship program, the officer commits to working for the Ellsworth Police Department for a minimum of two years, post-Academy graduation.

The police sponsorship program will be reviewed by the Village Board at the July 10 Board Meeting for final approval.



Pictured, L to R: Administrator Clerk/Treasurer Brad Roy, Officer Cedric Kosnopfal, Chief Eric Ladwig, President Becky Beissel

Update: The Old Junior High

Turning Our Largest Blighted Property Into a Productive Asset

Progress on the Old Junior High is still going strong. The Village has been working with CBS Squared, Inc (CBS²) and is now finalizing an advertisement for bid to demolish the structure.

We're taking all the necessary precautions during the demolition process. Hazardous materials will be safely removed and disposed of, ensuring proper handling. Furthermore, nonhazardous materials like concrete, brick, and asphalt will be transported to the Village yard waste site, where they'll be crushed and repurposed for other projects.

To minimize any inconvenience to the community, the contractor will take responsibility for erosion control, dust mitigation, airborne debris, and waste management. They will also notify neighboring property owners about potential disruptions prior.

We're expecting the demolition to kick off this year and be completed within the same timeframe. CBS² will be overseeing the entire process to ensure everything goes smoothly.

Looking ahead, the Comprehensive Plan envisions the site being transformed into



much-needed multi-family housing. This will not only address the issue of blight but also bring numerous benefits to our community.

The draft advertisement for bid will be reviewed by the Village Board for final approval at the July 10 Board Meeting.

Now Offering Paperless Billing & Direct/Auto Bill Payment

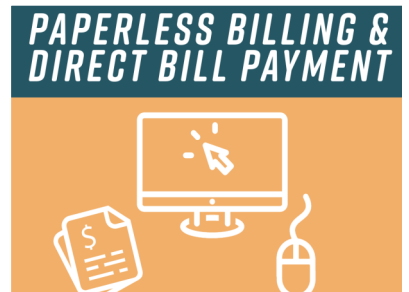
A Convenient and Safe Way to Receive and Pay Utility Bills

We're happy to now offer paperless billing and direct/auto payment for quarterly utility bills!

Benefits of paperless billing and direct payments include on-the-go convenience, pay anytime/anywhere, save money on stamps/envelopes, and security.

If you are interested in receiving your quarterly utility bill via email or are interested in paying your quarterly utility bill automatically via ACH, please complete the enclosed form(s) and return them to the Village Hall in-person, in our drop box, or by mail.

If you have any questions, please contact the Village Hall at 715-273-4742.



Rock the Block: Elevate Ellsworth!



St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity's neighborhood revitalization program, Rock the Block, is coming to Ellsworth this September!

Rock the Block is a volunteer-driven, community-based initiative designed to help a neighborhood with exterior home maintenance, lawn care and exterior home repairs.

In partnership with the Village of Ellsworth and Ellsworth High School, Rock the Block is coming to Ellsworth September 29-October 1. Your time, talents, treasures, and help identifying projects are needed! For more information, visit: <https://scvhabitat.org/rock-the-block-1>

Celebrating National Night Out!

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

National Night Out aims to build neighborhood camaraderie and enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement with block parties hosted by residents.



We're seeking volunteers to host a party in their yard or on the street in their neighborhood. Officers will stop by each block party and meet the community. If you would like to host a block party, contact Kim at 715-273-3275 or brummel@ellsworthpolice.org.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

A big congratulations to the Cheese Curd Festival Committee on another succession Festival. This group of volunteers works tirelessly to pull off the mission of the Festival each year; raise important funds for the community (which funds things such as the Ellsworth flower baskets), revitalize our East End Business District, and create an economic impact to support the local business community.

In addition, they are putting Ellsworth on the map—literally! The 2023 Festival saw visitors from all fifty states and every continent.

The Cheese Curd Festival was named one of USA Today's 10 Best Specialty Food Festivals in the country earlier this spring, which led to a special acknowledgement from Governor Tony Evers.

