

# The Elkhart Echo



November 2025

[www.elkhartillinois.us](http://www.elkhartillinois.us)

Vol. 40 Issue 11

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## **VILLAGE BOARD NEWS**

Mayor Lyle Fout called the meeting to order on November 3, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. at the Elkhart Village Hall. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. Answering present: Kyle Farmer, John Galassi, Matt Fights, Matt Langan, and Travis Moore. Matt Olson was absent. Clerk Mona Maas, Treasurer Amy Roberts, and Attorney Don Behle were present.

Motion by Travis Moore, second by Kyle Farmer, to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B, C, and D.

- A. Approve meeting minutes from October 6, 2025
- B. Approve submitted bills and bill sheets
- C. Approve employee reimbursements
- D. Approve Treasurer's report

Roll call vote. All yeas. No nays. Motion carried.

### **RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC**

Tree advisory Committee applicants: Rachel Leone, Nina Gleason, Rob Gleason were present. Bret Aukamp, Logan County Engineer, joined us.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Meetings held with engineering firm GBA; completed work on Lead Service Line requirements for compliance with IEPA; reports filed and acknowledged. Payments made to Fehr Graham will be recouped.

### **CLERK and/or TREASURER**

Treasurer-presented reports, general ledger available in weeks. Working on numerous issues with different systems, and numerous requests on Audit.

### **ATTORNEY**

No report.

### **LIQUOR**

Licenses will be generated in December.

### **TIF REPORT**

No report.

### **SOLID WASTE**

No report.

## **LOCAL EVENTS LIAISON/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

We don't have final information on planned Christmas celebrations (tree lighting. Firetruck Santa, etc.) More to follow.

## **WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT**

IEPA report, Kenneth McCart (contractor) will respond to resolve; we understand the Village is in compliance.

## **STREETS/ALLEYS**

Street repairs were completed. Bret Aukamp discussed the drain issues on Kennedy Road. Logan County's portion of the Energy Transition Community Grant can be earmarked to help fund a plan to more effectively drain the water off the ditches. They will be cleaning ditches to try to flow better right now and will be proceeding with more extensive work to get water moving. There will be engineering and planning work done to divert and tie into the existing storm sewer system in Prairie Point. This "ETCG" topic will be on the Meeting Agenda for December, and the public can attend to contribute.

## **BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT**

Spreader on the truck. Mulching session with High School (Community Service) help Saturday 11/8 for the 100+ new trees planted last November; our guys are getting the mulch positioned. The Village (and Lois Olson) will host their lunch at the Hall.

## **VILLAGE PARK**

Port a Pot will be removed for the winter. The Village "Burn Pile" is Full. Matt is going to bring a firetruck in to burn the "burn pile" so we can bring landscape waste in. Will communicate via the digital sign, website, and Facebook when that is complete. *Until then, the "Village Burn Pile" is still closed.*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

No report.

## **FINANCE**

Planning budget for next year is ongoing.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

It was agreed that presentation by Western Illinois University "Mapping the Future" program will be rescheduled/requested for January or February in 2026.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Tree Advisory Committee applicants Rachel Leone, Nina Gleason, Rob Gleason were approved by the Board with Motion by Travis Moore, second by John Galassi. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried. There will be a meeting of the Committee on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. The public is welcome, and a note will be placed in the newsletter.

Possible lease of Skid Loader will be researched more fully after budget considerations and discussed again before proceeding.

Route 66 Organization membership fee for 2026 is due, \$250. Motion by Travis Moore, second by Kyle Farmer, to pay membership. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

Mt. Pulaski After Prom fundraising request. Board will send \$100. Motion by John Galassi, second by Travis Moore to send donation. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

None presented.

## **ORDINANCE**

None presented.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

7:10p.m. Motion by Matt Fights, second by Travis Moore, to adjourn. Voice vote. All yeas. No nays. Motion carried.

## **Next meeting – 12/1/25**

Submitted By: Naomi (Mona) Maas Village Clerk

**\*\*\*Items for the newsletter MUST be turned into Sarah by 5:00 pm on the Wednesday following the Village Board Meeting. If they are not received by 5:00 pm, they will not be in the newsletter. \*\*\***

**Thank you!**

**Elkhart Village Board**

## **Tree Advisory Committee Update!**

Rachel Leone, Rob and Nina Gleason have joined the Committee with the approval of the Village Board. We will hold a meeting of our Tree Committee on Monday, November 10, 2025, at the Elkhart Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. Join us if you can!

### **NEWSLETTER INFO**

All material for the December 2025 newsletter should be turned in before  
**5:00 p.m. on December 3, 2025**

Please email your article in Word to [sarahvball@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahvball@hotmail.com)

If there is any event that needs added to the calendar,

Please call (217-494-0059) or e-mail the information.

### **Senior Citizen Luncheon**

**The Elkhart Senior's Lunch will be on November 20, 2025, at 11:30am at The Wild Hare.**

**For questions, please call Anita at (217) 341-0167.**



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### **We Need Volunteer Firefighters!!!**



bad pay



crappy hours



tough working conditions

### **Come Join Us!!**

GREAT SATISFACTION!!

WHO WILL ANSWER THE CALL?

ELKHART VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief: Jay Akers 217-737-6500

Assistant Chief: Paul Hayden 217-871-0121



# Elkhart Community

## Senior's Bingo

(the over 55 crowd)

*Sponsored by NAG*

**First Tuesday of each Month**

**2:00 pm**

**Village Hall**





Jingle on over to our  
**Annual NAG**  
**Christmas**  
**Bake Sale!**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**  
**8:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

**Breakfast with ~~the~~ Grinch 9-10am**

**Elkhart Fellowship & Community Center**  
**(former Grade School)**  
**206 S. Gillette St. Elkhart Illinois**



Join us for

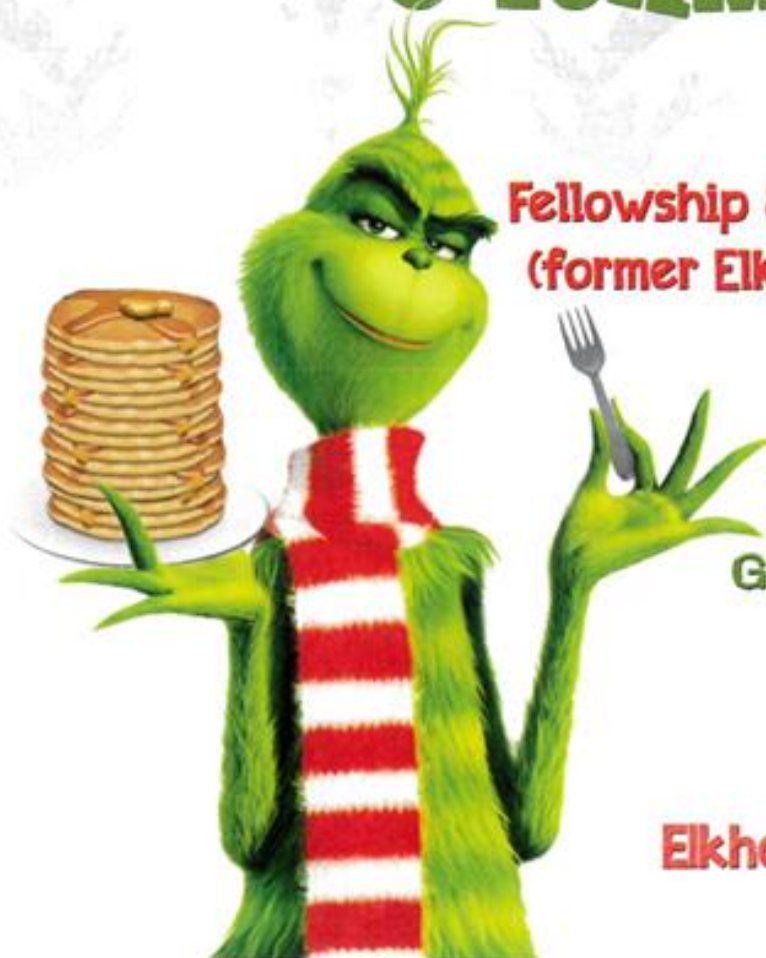
**BREAKFAST**

with the

**GRINCH**



**Saturday, December 6th**  
**9-10AM**



**Fellowship & Community Center**  
**(former Elkhart Grade School)**

Shop our delicious  
bake sale, meet the  
Grinch, and enjoy other  
Grinch activities

**Hosted by**  
**Elkhart Needs & Goals**

Elkhart Historical Society  
Press Release  
Christmas Candlelight Service  
December 6 – 7, 2025

The Elkhart Historical Society's 35th annual Christmas Candlelight Services will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025, with services at 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 8 p.m., and a matinee on Sunday, December 7 at 2 p.m. This cherished tradition welcomes another season of celebrating the Birth of Christ with a new program of script and music set to the theme, "A Classic Christmas." Songs and memorable stories of Christmas will be shared, drawn from an era when simple giving brought true riches, and the timeless values of kindness and goodwill illuminated even the most challenging times.

Guests will enjoy the musical talents and dramatic readings of a gifted cast, all within the warm, candlelit embrace of the historic St. John the Baptist stone chapel atop Elkhart Hill. As dusk falls, a beautiful pathway of luminaria will welcome you, inviting friends and neighbors to gather and usher in the 2025 Christmas season with a program designed to bring "peace on Earth, goodwill to men."

Meals prior to or following services will once again be available. The Talk of the Town will serve the meals on Saturday at an additional cost of \$35. The Elkhart Historical Society will take care of making your reservations. Meals must be prepaid and can be on the same check as your service tickets and membership. The full details are included on the reservation form, allowing you to pick the service time and optional dining times. Reservations are required for everything and can be made by calling 217-947-2238.

Horsefeathers Wild Hare Café will serve lunch, off the menu, prior to the Matinee on Sunday. Reservations for Sunday Lunch are required and must be made by calling 219-947-2100.

Current (2025) members' reservations lines open on October 27th between 8 a.m. -7 p.m. general reservations start November 3, from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Be prepared with a second choice of service in case your first choice is sold out. Tickets for candlelight services are \$15 each. Your 2026 memberships are \$20 for seniors and \$25 for everyone else.



State of the Society 2025  
Elkhart Historical Society  
P.O. Box 255, Elkhart, IL 62634  
[www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org](http://www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org)

### **Celebrating 37 Years of History and Community**

As we reflect on 2025, we're proud to mark the 37th anniversary of the Elkhart Historical Society, founded in November 1988 with a heartfelt mission: *"To preserve and restore what is historically valuable and integral to the Village of Elkhart—for the betterment of all."* This year has been a beautiful testament to that mission, with a calendar full of events that welcomed hundreds of visitors and deepened our shared appreciation for Elkhart's past, present, and future.

Throughout the year, we hosted nine engaging lecture dinners that brought together members and guests alike. Favorites included the enchanting Wildflower Walks and the fascinating "Behind the Scenes: Horses of Movie Magic." We explored the music of Ireland with "Wild Columbine," and learned about the Dana-Thomas House, the Underground Railroad, bird walks, prairie agriculture, and even how raccoons helped shape Illinois. A special highlight was our first-ever Firefly Walk and Picnic—an evening to remember.

As the year winds down, we invite you to join us for our cherished **Christmas Candlelight Service** at the historic St. John's the Baptist Chapel on Elkhart Hill. This year's theme, *"A Classic Christmas,"* will be celebrated across five services—four on Saturday and one on Sunday. Over 350 guests will enjoy the talents of vocalists Erin Davis and Jill Usherwood, organist Sue Rogers, and narrators Angela Rogers and Korey Davis. The chapel will glow with candlelight, luminaria, and festive greenery, creating a magical setting to welcome the season. Optional meals will be available, please contact us for details. Reservations open on October 27 for members only and on November 3 for non-members, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visit our website or call 217-947-2238 for details.

Looking ahead to 2026, we warmly invite you to renew your membership—or join us for the first time. Your support helps us continue our mission and preserve Elkhart's rich heritage for generations to come. Annual dues are \$20 for seniors (65+, single or household) and \$25 for regular members. Each 2025 member receives a complimentary calendar celebrating Elkhart's legacy. To participate in the 2026 Dues Drive, visit [www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org](http://www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org), call 217-947-2238, or respond to our annual mailing.

From all of us at the Elkhart Historical Society, thank you for your support, enthusiasm, and love for our village. We wish you a joyful Christmas season and a bright New Year!

Warmly,

**The Elkhart Historical Society Board of Directors**

Ken Reese, Interim President | Jamie Hobson, Secretary | Gillette Ransom, Treasurer  
Carolyn Sue Brooks | Cynthia Clark | Tom Larson

ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 255  
ELKHART ILLINOIS 62634  
**Chapel Christmas Matinee "A Classic Christmas"**  
**Sunday December 7, 2025 at 2pm**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_ city St. zip \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Total number x \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats at 2:00 p.m.

**Please call for reservations 217-947-2238 starting October 27<sup>th</sup> for members & November 3<sup>rd</sup> for non-members between 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.**, be sure to state your name, number in your party, and your phone number, we will call back to confirm. **One check for everything**, including tickets and membership, made payable to the Elkhart Historical Society.-Mail promptly as seats cannot be held **more than 5 days** without payment. To receive your chapel tickets **by mail** please include a **self-addressed stamped envelope**

Please hold my service only reservation at door \_\_\_\_\_

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Matinee lunch is available at Wildhare Café between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. You must make a reservation by calling them directly at 217-947-2100

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2026 AND CALENDAR ORDER FORM**

name \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_ city State zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing \$20 Senior Citiz/Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Reg/Family \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address print clearly \_\_\_\_\_

**Please add** \_\_\_\_\_ extra calendars @ \$25 ea. (if mailing postage is \$5 ea.) **Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check box to **remove** your name from the mailing list. ☐ Where ever possible we would appreciate using emails as it is much less expensive for us, and we can let you know of other upcoming events.

ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 255  
ELKHART ILLINOIS 62634  
**Christmas Candlelight Service "A Classic Christmas"**  
**Saturday December 6, 2025**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_ city St. zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats at the Saturday 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. (circle time)  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Total number x \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please call for reservations 217-947-2238 starting October 27<sup>th</sup> for members & November 3<sup>rd</sup> for non-members between 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., be sure to state your name, number in your party, time of service you prefer, and your phone number, we will call back to confirm. One check for everything, including tickets, membership and meal options, made payable to the Elkhart Historical Society.-Mail promptly as seats cannot be held more than 5 days without payment. To receive your chapel and/or dining tickets by mail please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Those dining must have a ticket in hand.**

Service only reservations can be held at door \_\_\_\_\_ (For Chapel only)

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*Talk of the Town*

Slow-Roasted Pork Loin dinner number in your party \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00  
Slow-Roasted Turkey Breast dinner number in your party \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00

**DESSERT CHOICES** Cheesecake w/ drizzle \_\_\_\_\_ Vanilla Ice Cream w/ chocolate sauce \_\_\_\_\_

Dinners include stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans, fresh baked rolls, and water, soda or ice tea. **Tax is included TIP IS NOT INCLUDED. If you want alcohol, that will be a separate charge at the restaurant.**

**Additional Parking available one block east, across from Village Hall**

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2026 AND CALENDAR ORDER FORM**

name \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_ city State zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing \$20 Senior Citiz/Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Reg/Family \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address print clearly \_\_\_\_\_

**Please add** \_\_\_\_\_ extra calendars @ \$25 ea. (postage if mailing \$5 ea.) Total \_\_\_\_\_

Please check box to **remove** your name from the mailing list. ☐ Where ever possible we would appreciate using emails as it is much less expensive for us, and we can let you know of other upcoming events.



## Pick up some FUN for Thanksgiving!

### Does this sound familiar?

It's Turkey Day.

Mom's flying around the kitchen with two recipe cards and three egg timers.

Aunt Bertha has commandeered the side table to set up appetizers, and finally told Uncle Fred to go find her brother Steve and keep him occupied.

No one's sure which station will have better commentary for the game, but Uncle Fred and Uncle Steve are having some intense negotiations about it.

The last anybody heard, Dad went out to find the extra folding chairs... which at this point appear to have been stored in a barn right outside of Decatur.

## PUZZLES

### So...what's a kiddo supposed to do?

## GAMES

Don't worry, we're here for ya.

All sorts of Thanksgiving-themed puzzles, games, and other fun things will be ready for you to take home from the library. Stop by any time,

**Mon - Wed, Nov. 24 - 26**

to pick up fun things to do while the grown-ups handle things like the food and technology.

And maybe arrange a search party for Dad and those chairs.

## Holiday Closings

The library will be closed on:

Tuesday, Nov. 11th  
in observance of



Thanksgiving Holiday

Wed. 11/26:	Closed EARLY (4pm)
Thurs. 11/27:	Closed
Fri. 11/28:	Closed



We will be OPEN on  
Saturday, 11/29 from 9am - 1pm

Elkhart Public Library District  
[elkhartlibrary.lib.il.us](http://elkhartlibrary.lib.il.us)