

The Elkhart Echo



March 2024

www.elkhartillinois.us

Vol. 39 Issue 3

VILLAGE BOARD NEWS

Mayor Lyle Fout called the meeting to order on March 11, 2024, 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, Matt Fights, John Galassi, Travis Moore, Dave Barker, and Ernie Shaw. Clerk Ann Curry, and Treasurer Theresa Moore were also present.

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

- A. Approve meeting minutes from February 5, 2024
- B. Approve submitted bills and bill sheets
- C. Approve employee reimbursements
- D. Approve Treasurer's report

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

RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC

None.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Lyle met with the Historical Society. They are still waiting to fix up the old Hunter house.

ATTORNEY

No report.

LIQUOR

No report.

TIF REPORT

No report.

SOLID WASTE

No report.

LOCAL EVENTS LIAISON/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

A motor had burned up, so we purchased a new one.

STREETS/ALLEYS

Some holes have been filled.

BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT

Lyle has only bid for fixing the roof at the Village Hall. This is tabled until the next meeting.

VILLAGE PARK

Lyle has talked to a guy with Aquatic Control about the pond. For \$1500, he will do an inventory, shock it, analyze the water, and the depth.

Motion by Matt Fights, second by Kyle Farmer, to approve Aquatic Control to perform an inventory, shock the pond, analyze the water and depth for \$1500. Roll call vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

No report.

FINANCE

Dave is getting the proposed budget ready for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

One of the lots at Prairie Point has no access. We will take that lot and add it to a couple of the other lots.

NEW BUSINESS

No report.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

ORDINANCE

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Travis Moore, second by John Galassi, to adjourn at 6:55pm. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted By
Ann Curry
Village Clerk

NEWSLETTER INFO

All material for the April 2024 newsletter should be turned in before
5:00 p.m. on April 3, 2024

Please email your article in Word to 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 March 20, 2024, at 11:30am at Elkhart Station.

Menu will be a sandwich, soup, and dessert for \$15.00.

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



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



Mt. Pulaski High School Board Minutes – February 21, 2024

<https://www.mtpulaski.k12.il.us/o/mpgs/article/1472559>

The next regular board meeting is Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:00pm.

ANDERSON LAWN CARE

CONTACT CHRIS ANDERSON @ 217-737-9607.



Elkhart Community

Senior's Bingo

(the over 55 crowd)

Sponsored by NAG

First Tuesday of each Month

2:00 pm

Village Hall



LET'S GET MOVING IN 2024!!!

**Looking for a group to exercise with?
Need a gym to get together?
Someone to give advice and direction?**

When: Wednesdays and Fridays

Where: at the Christian Church Fellowship Hall (old school gym)

Time: 9:30 am

Bring: stability ball, light weights, bands, and mats if you have them

Sponsor: NAG (Needs and Goal of Elkhart)

Questions: Contact Elise Gleason 217-415-6893



As we celebrate Arbor Day in April, Native Plants and Tree Seedlings available for YOU in Elkhart!

When: Friday & Saturday April 26-27, 2024 exact times to be determined, but you will find us!

Where: Elkhart Village Hall, 209 Governor Oglesby St, Elkhart, IL 62634

What: 3.5” Pots of locally grown Native Plant plugs

· *2 species of Milkweed and plants to BLOOM in each season * Incorporate these into your landscaping*

How: We will have details and handouts on how YOU can be successful with native plants

Why: Your donation for plants will support our Elkhart Pollinator Habitat and the young people that help to maintain it throughout the season.

Please help support the Pollinators and our Community!

What ELSE: AND we will have 45 beautiful, healthy **OAK** tree seedlings available!

You know it's a Keystone species and we want more of these in our community!

Questions? See me on Facebook on our page: <https://www.facebook.com/ElkhartIllinoisPollinatorHabitat> or email to justmona2@gmail.com

Let me know if you need anything.

-Mona Maas

cell 309-370-3097

What Makes Elkhart Unique and Great

Elkhart was/is located on the famous "Route 66" highway (maybe not as famous as Chicago or Los Angeles), but this is not the first time Elkhart has been the "center" of a famous roadway. By the time "Columbus discovered the Americas", Native Americans had developed an intersecting and connecting network of roads/trails/traces over most of North America. Of the natives of the Illinois Confederation, Cahokia (home of mound building Indians) in the south and Peoria in the north were the sites of two large semi-urban agricultural settlements.

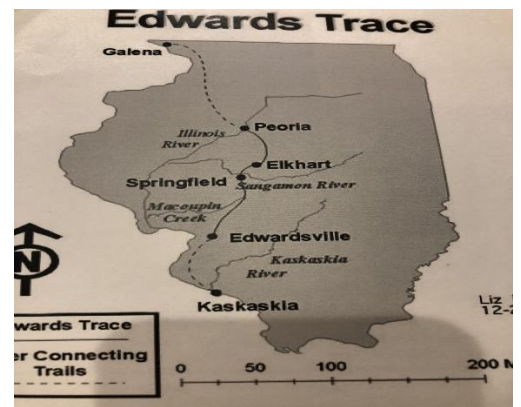
After the War of 1812 (remember we were not a state yet), many Native American tribes of the Illinois Territory, hoping to maintain their culture and way of life, allied themselves with the fur traders of British upper Canada. The frontiersmen (of the so-called American Bottom) grouped around Cahokia saw this as a threat. Native Americans + British = threat. Territorial Governor Ninian Edwards recruited 350 frontiersmen into a troop of Illinois Rangers and headed northward from the "American Bottom" on the road/trail/trace. They came up into the territory occupied by the Kickapoo around present-day Lincoln and won control over the Sangamon River and then on up to the region around Peoria, destroying Native American property and villages. Edwards became a hero to his fellow frontiersmen; thus they named the trail/trace they took on their March as the Edwards Trace.

As a result of this March, central Illinois was then open for agriculture settlement and the Edwards Trace became very busy. If you look back at historical maps you will see that the earliest settlements in Illinois were in the south with the convergence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and gradually moved northward. The Edwards Trace became the primary route for Euro-American settlers into the Sangamon River valley area. Furs, Buffalo hides, and deer hides came southward as salt, gunpowder, guns, agricultural tools, textiles, and other supplies needed for frontier life went northward toward the growing settlements. All this commercial trading up and down created ruts in the Trace.

Two inventions of transportation in the first half of the 1800s changed the importance and use of the Edwards Trace. Shallow-draft steamboats began to steam up and down the Illinois River, which runs parallel to the Trace. The Alton & Sangamon railroad (the "iron horse") was chartered in 1847 to improve transportation in and out of the area served by the Edwards Trace, and as the new rails were laid, the old trail fell into inactivity. Would you rather walk on foot, or ride on a steamboat or in a railroad car which are much faster and less exhausting for you? And now with automobiles, sections of Interstate 55 and Interstate 155 also parallel the Edwards Trace line today.

The Edwards Trace connected what are now the communities of Cahokia, Edwardsville, Springfield, ELKHART, and Peoria. Only small segments of the Edwards Trace are still visible today because most of it has been plowed up for agriculture purposes or buried under asphalt or cities. A small segment is located around Lake Springfield and around Elkhart. So we have been the "center" of famous routes for quite some time.

Elkhart Historical Society





ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY

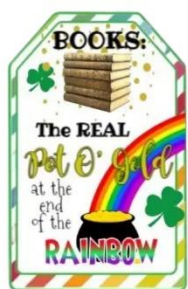
Newsletter

March

Feeling Lucky?

SCAVENGER HUNT

WIN PRIZES!!!!!!



Why limit celebrating the Luck o' the Irish to just a day when you can have fun for the rest of the **MONTH**? Our Library Scavenger Hunt is for **ALL AGES** with prizes for each division.

Complete a challenge to get a ticket for the pot. At the end of the month we will draw winners from each age group, so the more you do, the better chance you have to win! Check our Facebook page or stop by the library for details!



K - 2nd Gr. 3rd - 6th Gr. 7th - 12th Gr. 18+

Toddler Time

Is your child between the ages of 18 months - 4 years old?
We'd love for them to join us on

Tuesday, March 19th
from 9:30 - 10:15

for snacks, crafts, songs,
and story time!

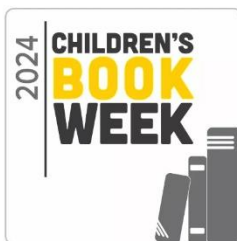


Coming Soon...

April 8 - 13: Spring cleaning is upon us and we have **MANY** books for you to consider, some in excellent condition. Come see what to add to your personal collection!

SALE

May 6 - 12: Celebrate with us as we participate in



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

with activities, giveaways, and fun this May!

More details will come on our Facebook page and next month's newsletter, so don't miss out!

FIND US:

Email: elkhartlibrary@mchsi.com

Website: elkhartlibrary.lib.il.us

Facebook: Elkhart Public Library District



Elkhart Historical Society's 2024 FLOWER WALKS & BIRD WALKS

➔ **Call 217-947-2238 for reservations, once confirmed** Print this form, fill it out, and mail it with your check. The Elkhart Historical Society PO 255 Elkhart, IL 62634

➔ Your name _____
 _____ Address _____
 _____ Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Town/State/Zip _____ EMAIL _____

1. Select your walk date(s) and time(s) *Add lunch as an option (Served at the Wild Hare Café)

FLOWER WALKS

- ☐ Saturday, April 6 (circle) 10AM or 2pm
☐ Saturday, April 13 (circle) 10AM or 2pm
☐ Saturday, April 20 (circle) 10AM or 2pm
☐ Saturday, April 27 (circle) 2pm

BIRD WALKS

- ☐ Saturday, April 27 7:30AM
☐ Saturday, April 27 9:00AM
☐ Saturday, April 27 10:30AM

2. Cost walk only: \$15 per adult and \$10 per child (8 - -2)

*** Add \$10 for adult lunch Add \$5.00 for Child's lunch

☐ Soup and sandwich platter, beverage

X _____

(TIPS NOT INCLUDED)

FLOWER WALKS

Of adults _____ X \$15 = _____

Of children _____ X \$10 = _____

Adult walk & lunch \$25 _____

BIRD WALKS

of adults _____ X \$15 = _____

of children _____ X \$10 = _____

Child walk & lunch \$ 15.00 _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

3. Make checks payable and mail to: Elkhart Historical Society, P.O. Box 255 Elkhart IL 62634.

Fill out this form and mail with payment to hold your reservation. Groups limited to 20. **Parties of 10 or more may request a private walk on any day other than Saturday by advanced paid reservation and by calling (217) 947-2238.**

MAKE THIS A FAMILY WALK & ENJOY LOOKING FOR BIRDS and/or FLOWERS TOGETHER!

Please meet at The Country Bumpkin 103 Gov. Oglesby St. about 20 minutes before walk begins. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please dress for weather, layers are recommended (sprinkle or shine! —the wagon ride to the walk site may be chilly), wear good **walking shoes** and bring insect repellent. Cameras for the flower lovers and binoculars for the bird watchers are recommended.

Elkhart Historical Society
Press Release

For Immediate Release
March 6, 2024

Spring is right around the corner, and among the spring events is a community Sunrise Easter Service on the hill the Gillett Chapel Sunday March 31st at 7a. All denominations are welcome.



at

The Elkhart Historical Society is once again offering guided wildflower walks on Elkhart Hill, every Saturday in April starting April 6th with two walks a day at 10a and 2p, at a cost of \$15 per adult \$10 per child. Reservations are required and should be made by calling 217 947 2238. An optional lunch can be reserved on the same form, at a total cost for adult of \$25 and child \$15. All tours leave from the Country Bumpkin at 103 Gov. Oglesby St. Elkhart, IL.

On the morning of Saturday April 27, the Historical Society was fortunate in getting Biology Professor Tony Rothering, from LLCC, to demonstrate the banding of both migratory and local songbirds during special tours at 730 a, 9a and 1030a. The 2p tour will feature both flowers and birds with the help of our amazing birders, Dr. Lara Borgerson, Joe Funk and Rhett Jack.

Rothering is a federally permitted bander, who last year successfully recorded and released over 120 birds during his annual Elkhart Hill banding session. The event is done during the spring migration on Elkhart Hill because of its significance as an incredibly biodiverse “island” (oasis) to the birds. The hill’s forest measures approximately 600 acres of mature hardwoods, which is surrounded primarily by monocultures of corn and soybeans fields where very few hedge rows or groves of trees remain. For the many species of migrating warblers Elkhart Hill offers a much-needed rest and refueling stop, on their journey north to breeding grounds in the upper Midwest and Canada. We are hopeful that some of these travelers will be among those banded on Saturday April 27, you won’t want to miss it. Rothering’s work helps to catalog the changes in migration patterns caused, in part by climate change and loss of habitat.

If you have a group of 10-20 you can arrange to have a private tour of the April wildflowers by calling 217 947 2238, and if scheduled on Wednesday-Friday lunch can be included. The cost is \$15 per person and lunch can be included for \$10 or be ordered off the menu.

Elkhart Historical Society
Press Release

For Immediate Release
March 6, 2024

Not one, but three headliners will present the next Elkhart Historical Society Dinner Lecture on Friday, April 26, 2024, **“How to be Successful with Native Plants” (to support pollinators).**

The trio comprised of Susan Helm of the Springfield Parks Foundation, Mona Maas, creator of Elkhart’s Pollinator Habitat, and Joan Moody from Lincoln Welcome Garden, will encourage and delight you with their sagas of native plants and how to ensure their success- - which almost simultaneously assures pollinators survival as well. All three are University of Illinois Master Naturalists who are active retirees spreading the word for Pollinators in our local communities. Joanie developed and maintains the Logan County Welcome Garden with the City of Lincoln; Susan has developed more than 10+ Native Plant Gardens with the Springfield Park District; Mona did the same at our Pollinator Habitat with the Village of Elkhart.



Join them for an entertaining presentation on their successes (and failures) in developing native plant gardens, large and small. Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are on the decline worldwide, but you can make a difference for them right in your own garden. Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on the leaves of milkweed, the only host plant for this iconic butterfly species. Eradication of milkweed both in agricultural areas as well as in landscapes is one of the primary reasons that monarchs are in trouble today!

They will share “How to’s” on introducing native plants into your landscaping to support pollinators, as well as a list of sources of native plants for this area. They will inspire you to begin (or continue) to develop your own native plant plot! The trio plans to bring plugs of rose milkweed for everyone, for which a \$2 donation to cover the cost would be appreciated.

The Lecture will be held at Horsefeather’s Wild Hare Café in Elkhart. Doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner service will begin at 5:30 p.m. The two entrees will be breaded chicken with a lemon cream sauce or beef stroganoff. The cost is \$45 per person. **Reservations are required and should be made by calling 217 947 2238.** The deadline for reservations and payment is April 15.

**St. John the Baptist Chapel on the Hill
Elkhart, Illinois**

Community Easter Sunrise Service



Sunday, March 31, 2024

Time: 7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.

(doors open at 6:45 a.m.)

Speakers: Scott Payne of Inner City Mission

Saint Patrick's Catholic Church will be doing a reading.

Vocals by Rachel & Isabelle Hall, Organ by Sue Rogers Elkhart Christian Church

Celebrate the Savior with music, God's Word, and devotional.

Tickets not required. Casual dress. Seating limited to 80.

Questions? Call 217-947-2200 or 217-947-2238