

# The Elkhart Echo



February 2024

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

Vol. 39 Issue 2

## **VILLAGE BOARD NEWS**

Mayor Lyle Fout called the meeting to order on February 5, 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, and Ernie Shaw. Attorney Don Behle, Clerk Ann Curry, and Treasurer Theresa Moore were also present. Visitors present were Mona Maas, Amy Roberts, Jay Roberts, and Stephanie Lafarge.

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

- A. Approve meeting minutes from January 8, 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 has a meeting this week with the engineers about the control service at the pump house for the hill.

### **ATTORNEY**

No report.

### **LIQUOR**

No report.

### **TIF REPORT**

Don has been working on a TIF redevelopment agreement for Niehaus. Andrea Niehaus has to approve the TIF redevelopment agreement first, then it will come back to the board to approve.

### **SOLID WASTE**

No report.

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

No report.

**WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT**

There was a problem at the well so the motor had to be changed. That motor has a problem so it will be changed out.

**STREETS/ALLEYS**

They will begin patching the holes this week.

**BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT**

Lyle had one estimate for fixing the roof at the Village Hall. This was tabled till next month.

The Village will now have Carey’s Disposal for our trash service.

**VILLAGE PARK**

No report.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Ernie reported that there are a few street lights out. Ernie will report it to Ameren.

**FINANCE**

The audit books were passed out.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Motion by Kyle Farmer, second by Ernie Shaw, to approve the new Elkhart Tree Advisory Committee 2024-2025. Roll call vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No report.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Motion by Kyle Farmer, second by Ernie Shaw, to pass Resolution 2024-01, an Emergency Resolution to purchase a new snow plow. Roll call vote. Those voting yea: Kyle Farmer, Matt Fights, John Galassi, and Ernie Shaw. Those voting nay: none. Those absent: Dave Barker and Travis Moore. Resolution adopted.

**ORDINANCE**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Matt Fights, second by Kyle Farmer, to adjourn at 6:47pm. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted By  
Ann Curry  
Village Clerk

**NEWSLETTER INFO**

All material for the March 2024 newsletter should be turned in before  
**5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2024**

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 February 21, 2024, at 11:30am at The Talk of The Town.**

**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 – January 17, 2024

<https://www.mtpulaski.k12.il.us/o/mpgs/article/1417789>

The next regular board meeting is Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 7:00pm.

# Elkhart Community

## Senior's Bingo

(the over 55 crowd)

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



## What Makes Elkhart Unique and Special

### “The “point” of a Good Education”

Logan County’s first school teacher definitely qualifies as unique. Erastus Wright was born January 21, 1779 in Bernardstown, Massachusetts. We know almost nothing of his early family life or education. We do know that Erastus and his brother Charles made their way to Buffalo, NY where they boarded a schooner for Fort Dearborn (now called Chicago), followed the Illinois River down to Fort Clark (now Peoria) and trekked to Elkhart and then to Springfield by November 21, 1821.

James Latham (remember Elkhart Grove and the Kentucky House from previous articles) had just been selected as the first Probate Justice of Sangamon County. At this time what we currently know as Logan County was still part of the big Sangamon County and did not become a separate county until 1839.

Latham hired Erastus Wright to teach his children at Elkhart Grove during the winter of 1821-22. Robert Latham is quoted in Stringer’s “History of Logan County” as saying that Wright would take him on his knee and point out the letters with the blade of a jackknife. If young Latham did not pay close attention, Wright would gently prick him on the forehead with the knife “and thus not only secure attention but impress upon the young pupil’s mind a remembrance of the names of the letters of alphabet”. Wright returned to Springfield in the spring, where he taught for many years, as well as serving 10 years as Sangamon County School Commissioner. According to historians, Wright is remembered for putting the fear of God into many of his young pupils!

Erastus Wright claimed to have “built the first frame house in what is now the city of Springfield”. He had also at one time owned land in Petersburg (at the same time Abraham Lincoln lived in New Salem). He traded 80 acres of land in Schuyler County for an elk which he built a park for in Springfield. He could be seen riding the elk (instead of a horse) or using the elk to pull his buggy or wagon. He was a very staunch abolitionist and good friends with the journalist and newspaper publisher Elijah P. Lovejoy. He married Jane Gardner and they had three children. She died. He married Lucy Barrows and when she died he married Lucy Carpenter. He died in November 1870 when he was struck by a railroad train after stumbling near the Chicago & Alton railroad station in downtown Springfield. He is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield with a tall intricate white marble monument featuring Wright’s head on top.

Erastus Wright’s time in Elkhart Grove was short, but he is remembered for being the first school teacher in Logan County...and being one of eight pallbearers for Abraham Lincoln’s casket at Lincoln’s funeral.

Elkhart Historical Society



## **ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

We are excited to announce the arrival of our 2024 calendar and insert. This year's calendar features all the businesses and organizations as well as the people behind them, that makes Elkhart such a unique place to live and raise a family. This calendar is filled with wonderful, full color photos, taken by the extremely talented Joann Carney Drake, and includes information on each company and organization like hours, how you can support them or volunteer with them and more.

Stop by the Country Bumpkin to get your copy today or mail a membership form and \$5 for postage and we will mail you this wonderful tool that can be used to learn more about Elkhart's unique energy that helps keep them on the map. Please consider becoming a part of it by joining The Elkhart Historical Society. A new roster of events will be coming shortly. Information on upcoming lectures and events can be found at [elkharthistoricalsociety.org](http://elkharthistoricalsociety.org). If you have already paid for your membership, but haven't received your calendar, they are available for pick up at The Country Bumpkin.

Starting this year, all memberships entitle you to a 1-week advance reservation over non-members, meaning for events like our annual Christmas Candlelight Service, you would get the first shot at the seats you want before they sell out. Memberships cost \$20 for seniors, \$25 for everyone else.

### ***Excerpt from Lynne Neal regarding the 2024 EHS Calendars:***

- This calendar is full of information and photographs of business owners of the Elkhart Village. It is very well done. Gillette and Jamie did an excellent job with this calendar. She recommends purchasing a calendar!

The **Elkhart Tree Advisory Committee** has been approved by the Elkhart Village Board! Lyle Fout will be our liaison with the Board. Primary members are: Jeffrey Harris, Stephanie LaFarge, Mona Maas, Amy Roberts, and Jay Roberts.

- Tree Advisory Committee members are representatives of the town's residents; we will advocate for good, sound urban forestry and for it to be conducted on a systematic and continuing basis.
- We will complete research to offer suggestions to prepare Elkhart for applicable grant opportunities to help fund maintenance **and** care of our urban forest.
- *Arbor Day Tree City? a landscape of trees around the fishing pond? maintenance and new plantings?? WHO KNOWS?*
- Several of you have offered your help in "hands on" efforts, but don't have the time for committee work-->**You will hear from us!**

### **The Elkhart Pollinator Habitat is gearing up for SPRING!**

Hello from Mona Maas, "planning and plotting for spring". Mark your calendars for our **FIRST Arbor Day Celebration!**

We will celebrate Arbor Day with a **NATIVE PLANT SALE!** [yes, it's N.A.G. approved!!]

Beginning on Arbor Day, which is Friday, April 26, 2024 and continuing the sale on Saturday April 27th at the Elkhart Village Hall, 209 Governor Oglesby St, Elkhart, IL 62634

- We will pot up healthy plant "plugs" from <https://3bnatives.com/> you can keep them in their 3.5" pots until you are ready to put them in the warm ground!
- Milkweeds and nectar plants for each season. *Butterflies, bees, pollinators will LOVE them!*
- All proceeds will go to the Elkhart Community Works nonprofit, to pay wages to the young maintenance helpers for the Habitat in 2024.

**More information will follow**, but please pass this along, come and enjoy the Bluebells and Elkhart shops along your way! I am justmona2gmail.com and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ElkhartIllinoisPollinatorHabitat/>



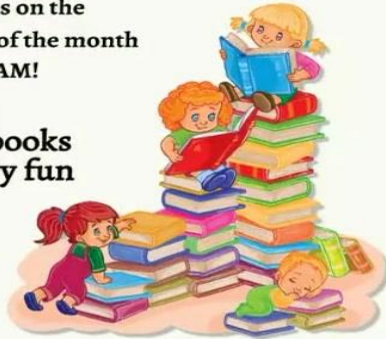
# Elkhart Public Library

## TODDLER TIME

### We're Moving!

Come join us on the  
third TUESDAY of the month  
@ 9:30 AM!

- Songs
- Story books
- Sensory fun



## BOOK SALE



COMING THIS APRIL  
TO A  
LIBRARY NEAR YOU!

## Month-Long Presidential Display

An opportunity to see some TRULY unique historical items!

In 1860, friend and sculptor Leonard Volk created a 'Life Mask' - a mold taken directly of Abraham Lincoln's face - when Lincoln had just won the Presidential election.

This bust from that mold also shows something not often seen after that:

President Lincoln without a beard.

A second item is something that may never be captured again:

a photograph of FIVE US Presidents together at one time (and no one is lying in state).

Included in the frame is the signature of each President pictured...not a duplicate of the signature, but a piece of paper personally signed by that President when he was in office.

Additional pieces include:

a letter on White House stationary sent to 'Mrs. Johnson' from President Ford (complete with stamped envelope), a picture of President Lincoln made in the 1930s, and the book, *Letters from the Oval Office*.

These AND MORE historical treasures can be viewed when you come to visit!



## February

[elkhartlibray.lib.il.us](http://elkhartlibray.lib.il.us)

