

The Elkhart Echo



February 2026

www.elkhartillinois.us

Vol. 41 Issue 2

VILLAGE BOARD NEWS

Mayor Lyle Fout called the meeting to order on February 2, 2026, 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, Matt Langan, and Travis Moore. John Galassi and Matt Olson were absent. Attorney Don Behle, Clerk Mona Maas and Treasurer Amy Roberts were present.

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

- A. Approve meeting minutes from January 5, 2025
- 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

Jacinda Noltensmeier, Carrie Fights, Judy Brown, Dorsey Hill, and Gisele Hamm.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

No report.

CLERK and/or TREASURER

Clerk- Elkhart Tree Advisory Committee will meet on February 16, 2026, at 6:30 at the Village Hall. Elkhart received an email from the U. of I. Climate Jobs Institute. They are doing a survey to gather data for the Displaced Energy Workers Bill of Rights, Illinois law. Ernie to post the notice on the Facebook website, and here is a link if any local folks who worked at the Viper Mine would like to participate: <https://go.illinois.edu/ViperMine>

Treasurer: Amy updated on bills, ledger and bank statement and Audit activity in January.

ATTORNEY

TIF audit pending.

LIQUOR

Paperwork in process for the Talk.

TIF REPORT

Questions on status of audit.

SOLID WASTE

No report.

LOCAL EVENTS LIAISON/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Lyle and Kyle met with Scott McCoy about Route 66 materials that can be put for sale in local businesses as Route 66 gears up for its 100 Year anniversary. There will be a new Route 66 SIGN donated to Elkhart, a "Welcome to Logan County" kind of sign.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

There was a water main break on Kennedy Road.

STREETS/ALLEYS

No report.

BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT

No report.

VILLAGE PARK

Interest in obtaining estimate for pond to be stocked with fish and treated for algae, etc., in 2026. Travis will handle that and submit. Concerns about ice fishing at the pond; amended Ordinance prohibiting that will be presented in March.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Potholes in the streets were fixed by Elkhart.

FINANCE

Audit being finalized and budget in production now.

OLD BUSINESS

Prairie Point subdivision price of lots. Discussion on reviewing covenants and decision to lower prices to attempt to spur sales. Don has supplied covenants, further discussion in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Dorsey Hill spoke to us about her work on public event in Logan County called Rural Big Table. It's a community input event taking place on February 19 from 3:00–6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Park District (1400 Primm Road, Lincoln, IL 62656).

Gisele Hamm Program Director, MAPPING the Future of Your Community, presented her program. Elkhart's involvement with the program in 2001 was briefly discussed. Terms of the cost to Elkhart, and the amount of community engagement, were presented. Discussion on how to proceed was tabled until March. Elkhart's **Clerk Mona Maas** announced that she is sad to say, after the death of husband, she is moving out of State this summer. Local resident Jacinda Noltensmeier has been interviewed and was nominated by Mayor Fout to start as Elkhart's new Clerk on May 4, 2026, or sooner if desired. She is "job shadowing" Mona now. She is highly qualified. Motion to approve by Travis Moore, second Kyle Farmer. Roll call vote. Those voting yea: Kyle Farmer, Matt Fights, Matt Langan, Travis Moore. John Galassi and Matt Olson were absent. Those voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Window treatment for Village Hall- new blinds. Bid from Susan Dey Exciting Windows! Was presented with cordless aluminum blinds for all windows at the Hall. The bid is for \$1,535 and includes professional installation. Other bids from Lowes were discussed. Motion to approve by Travis Moore, second Matt Fights. Roll call vote. Those voting yea: Kyle Farmer, Matt Fights, Matt Langan, Travis Moore. John Galassi and Matt Olson were absent. Those voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Income Survey- Lyle presented that discussions are ongoing to develop a plan for Elkhart to complete an Income Survey. This is necessary because most recent Census data isn't specific enough to prove that Elkhart

should be categorized as eligible for Community Development Block Grants (and others). If we can accomplish this, Elkhart will be eligible for Federal grants to help the Village proceed on work to protect our water, our sanitation and infrastructure. Consultant Jeff Torricelli and a representative from CDAP (Community Development Assistance Program), will attend our VB meeting in March. We continue to research and plan how we can accomplish this. We hope for an aggressive timeline.

RESOLUTIONS

None presented.

ORDINANCE

None presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

7:32p.m. Motion by Travis Moore, second by Matt Fights, to adjourn. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

Next meeting – 3/2/26

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**

NEWSLETTER INFO

All material for the March 2026 newsletter should be turned in before
5:00 p.m. on March 4, 2026

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 February 18, 2026, 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



Elkhart Community

Senior's Bingo

(the over 55 crowd)

Sponsored by NAG

First Tuesday of each Month

2:00 pm

Village Hall



For Immediate release

February 1, 2026

The 2026 calendar will give many an opportunity to “Get their Kicks on Route 66”, as part of the Mother Road’s 100th anniversary. To help begin the celebration, the Elkhart Historical Society’s first dinner lecture of the year, will be held on Friday, March 20th, at Horsefeather’s Wild Hare Café – doors open at 5 p.m., and dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Scott McCoy, former mayor of Pontiac. Scott has been instrumental in developing many of the programs and literature for this year’s festivities. Route 66’s History & Future will explore the highway’s 100-year history, route realignments, and the new industries it helped create. A question-and-answer session will follow the lecture.



Reservations are required, as space is limited, and can be made by calling the reservation line 217-947-2238, please leave your name, phone number, and the number in your party- you will be called when confirmed. Deadline for reservations is March 10th. The two entrees offered are beef curry or chicken Masala with sides and two dessert choices. The full menu is available on the reservation form which can be downloaded by clicking [here](#), clicking the image below or from the website elkharthistoricalsociety.org. The cost is \$50 per person, which includes \$15 for the Elkhart Historical Society. Once you are confirmed mail your check within 5 business days to:

Elkhart Historical Society

PO Box 255

Elkhart IL 62634

You can also drop your check and reservation form off at The Country Bumpkin located at 103 Governor Oglesby St, Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S DINNER LECTURE
FRIDAY MARCH 20, 2026, 5:30P
"ROUTE 66'S HISTORY & FUTURE" - SCOTT MCCOY

Name _____ Address _____

Phone # _____ cell # _____ Email _____

This program will be presented at the The Wild Hare Café in Elkhart. Doors open at 5p, and meal service starts at 5:30pm. We bundle it into an all-inclusive package price of \$50, which includes the meal, tax, and \$15 for the Elkhart Historical Society program.

Please make your selection:

Chicken Masala with garden salad and raspberry vinaigrette dressing _____ OR
Beef Curry with apricot chutney, cucumber salad & chopped tomato & onion salad _____

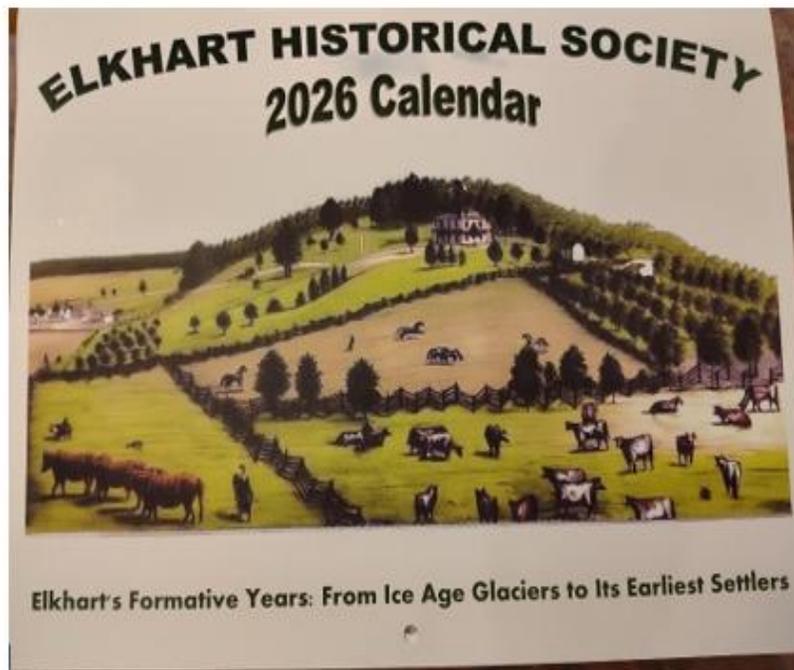
Dessert choices: strawberry rhubarb cobbler with whipped cream _____ OR
Vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce _____

Both entrees will be served on a bed of rice and grilled artisan bread. Tea, water or coffee will be provided. You **ARE** able to bring alcohol to this event

Reservations are required as space is limited and can only be made by calling **217-947-2238 no later than **March 10th**- - Once you are confirmed, print this form, fill it out and mail it with your check **payable to: The Elkhart Historical Society, P.O. 255, Elkhart, IL 62634**
Prompt payment is required as **RESERVATIONS CANNOT BE HELD LONGER THAN 5 BUSINESS DAYS WITHOUT PAYMENT.** Doors open at 5p- - **After** placing your reservation, you may also fill out a form and submit it with your check at The Country Bumpkin (Wed-Sun 10-3p) Additional information and reservation forms for this & other upcoming events can be found on the Elkhart Historical Society website: www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org**

"RESERVATIONS WILL BE HELD ONLY UPON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT"

If you are joining others and wish to be seated with them please list their names below.



The 2026 Elkhart Historical Society calendar's have arrived and are available for purchase at The Country Bumpkin located at 103 Governor Oglesby St in Elkhart.

This is the first calendar in a series that explores the history of Elkhart, starting with the glaciers that helped form our wonderous hill, to the earliest settlers that helped Elkhart become what is is today. Makes for a fascinating read to all who would love to know more about our village! Copies can be purchased for \$20 for seniors, \$25 for everyone else

Elkhart Public Library District

February

NOTARY SERVICES

The Elkhart Public Library is proud to offer our community a notary public.

This service is usually available Tuesday - Friday, 9-11 and 12-4. You do not need to schedule an appointment, but it's always a good idea to give us a call so we can ensure that someone is available to assist you.

REMINDERS

February is Black History Month. We have books for all ages to help you learn more about many notable figures in the history of our nation. Come see what we have for you!

The library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 16th for Presidents' Day.

Homebound Delivery

If you or someone you know in our library district (Elkhart or Hurlbut Township) is unable to get to the library and would like to have books delivered, we are here to help. This includes people like new moms! You can choose your preferred authors, genres, and material type, and we will deliver and pick up your books every month at no cost. Let us know how we can help!

Find us on Facebook! 

217-947-2313

elkhartlibrary.lib.il.us