



# The Elkhart Echo



April 2026

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

Vol. 41 Issue 4

## VILLAGE BOARD NEWS

Mayor Lyle Fout called the meeting to order on April 6, 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, John Galassi, Matt Langan, and Travis Moore. Attorney Don Behle was absent. Clerk Mona Maas and Treasurer Amy Roberts were present.

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

- A. Approve meeting minutes from March 2, 2026
- 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**

**Kevin Lloyd**, IT consultant helping the Village, was here to assist setting up new email addresses for the Village. More to follow as new Clerk Jacinda Noltensmeier is sworn in at May meeting.

**Elise Gleason and Mark Moughan** discussed their continuing plans on the homecoming event scheduled for Saturday, July 18, 2026. Details are developing and will be posted in the newsletter.

**Paul Hayden** discussed some concerns with Pike Creek Wind turbine plans. Matt Fights joined in. There are concerns that Townships has a new map of layout proposals that identify numerous windmills that are not in the agreed upon setbacks; more research will be done.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

**Meetings-** Lyle attended meetings with GBA engineering to finalize Motor Fuel Tax compliance work for 2025 and 2026 planning. Lyle attended the Logan County Mitigation (ETC) planning meeting. There is paperwork to be completed to comply with requests to keep the Village prepared for assistance in emergency. Lyle communicated with Jeff Torricelli’s group to comply with requests for compliance on Energy Transition Community Grant work.

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

**Clerk-** training Jacinda Noltensmeier to assume Clerk office May 4. Noted that Logan County will hold Electronic Recycle on April 20-21 & 23-24 8 am- 2 PM April 22 8am-7pm At Lincoln Municipal Services Building, 313 Limit St. The Mt. Pulaski High School's Day of Service planned for Friday, April 24, with students helping around Elkhart, weather permitting.

**Treasurer-** Amy Roberts reviewed Budget work that will be finalized in May with Ordinance. Explanations about revisions, discussions on questions.

**ATTORNEY**

Absent.

**LIQUOR**

No report.

**TIF REPORT**

No report.

**SOLID WASTE**

No report.

**LOCAL EVENTS LIAISON/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

<https://www.il250.org/communities#form> is an opportunity for Illinois communities to access inclusion in promotional events tied to the Illinois 250 celebration across the State. This will be discussed at the May meeting; more research is needed.

**WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT**

No report.

**STREETS/ALLEYS**

Obtaining new street signs is moving forward. Research and selection are happening.

**BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT**

No report.

**VILLAGE PARK**

Predator animals have been removed. The pond will be stocked again. Discussion on approval of contract for stocking and maintenance, along with the need to implement a CATCH AND RELEASE ALL FISH policy for the 2026 YEAR. It was discussed, explained, and agreed. Motion to accept by Travis Moore, Second by Kyle Farmer. All Aye’s, no nay’s. The pond is being stocked repeatedly. It is IMPORTANT that you don’t remove the larger fish. **Please remember: \*\*There is a CATCH AND RELEASE ALL FISH policy for the 2026 YEAR\*\***

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

No report.

**FINANCE**

No report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Prairie Point subdivision covenant revisions.** Lyle Fout relayed for Atty Don Behle that the Prairie Point Covenants have been reviewed and revised. All landowners are being contacted as required and can submit their questions or comments through the May 4, 2026, Village Board meeting. There was a motion made to accept the revisions to the covenants; Travis Moore First, Matt Fights Second, All Ayes, no Nay. Motion has passed. **Fishing Pond**- see Parks/Halls/Ponds above. **MFT Compliance and 2026 Planning**- Resolution required was reviewed and approved. Motion by Matt Langan, second by Travis Moore to approve IDOT Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code. Trustees responded All Ayes, no Nay. **Purchased and Planted trees**, memorial plaques- purchased, planted, plaques will be put in place.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Grants-** Discussion of implementation and approval of Elkhart Grants and Fiscal Management Procedure to comply with requirements for Energy Transition Community Grant work. Motion by Travis Moore, second by Kyle Farmer to approve. Trustees responded All Aye's, no nay's. **Tourism-**There will be a meeting of Logan County Tourism – they are looking for community input for strategic planning. Stop in and share your thoughts and views with them at their meeting at the Elkhart Village Hall on April 21, 2026, from 5-8 p.m.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**Prairie Point Covenants Amendment** – see above in Old Business.

**MFT IDOT Resolution for 2026** - see above in Old Business.

**Grant Management Resolution** – see above in New Business.

## **ORDINANCE**

2026-01 Amendment Rules and Recreation. Discussed and approved. Motion by Matt Fights, Second by Travis Moore. Those voting Aye: Kyle Farmer, Matt Fights, John Galassi, Matt Langan, Travis Moore. Those voting Nay: None.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

7:15p.m. Motion by John Galassi, second by Matt Fights, to adjourn. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

## **Next meeting – 5/4/26**

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 May 2026 newsletter should be turned in before  
**5:00 p.m. on May 6, 2026**

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 April 15, 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

---



## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Bringing back the Elkhart Homecoming**

**7/18/2026**

**\*\*More information on the activities to come\*\***



# Elkhart Community

## Senior's Bingo

(the over 55 crowd)

*Sponsored by NAG*

**First Tuesday of each Month**

**2:00 pm**

**Village Hall**



Please contact Anderson's Lawn Care if you need your lawn  
mowed -  
Chris & Keigan Anderson  
217-737-9607



## **Elkhart Tree Advisory Committee Updates:**

We accomplished getting new trees planted at the Village Hall parking lot, and 2 more (6 total now!) along Route 66 "parkway".

All paid for with previous grant money and your generous donations during Native Plant Sales and that "REpurpose Plastic Bag project" over the last few years. *Thank you!*

We ARE an Arbor Day Tree City, and we will celebrate that with our "Proclamation" on Friday, April 24 at the Village Hall at about 8:30, with our Mt. Pulaski "Day of Service" helpers.

Rachel Leone and Mona Maas completed the annual "Trees of Concern on the Right of Way" inventory and are submitting that to the Village for review.

The Village plans to set aside \$\$ annually to address Trees of Concern along Elkhart's Right of Way. Great to be PRO-active!

Please join us at our next Tree Advisory Committee meeting (date to be determined and posted). Would REALLY welcome additional members to this committee! It is not a huge commitment of time.

***Ask us!*** [Elkharttreeadvisorycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:Elkharttreeadvisorycommittee@gmail.com)

***Thank you!*** From: *Mona Maas, Rachel Leone, Rob and Nina Gleason, Amy Roberts, Stephanie Lafarge*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2026

### Elkhart Illinois Historical Society Presents “Taking Leave,” a Mary Todd Lincoln Living History Program.

The Elkhart Illinois Historical Society invites the public to *Taking Leave*, an immersive portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln set on May 23, 1865, the day she left the White House for the last time. Actress and living-history presenter **Pam Brown** will appear as Mary Todd Lincoln, sharing memories marked by grief, resilience, and reflection.

This event will take place on **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** which includes a dinner followed by the lecture.

Dinner will be served at the **Wild Hare, 104 Governor Oglesby St., Elkhart**. Doors open at **5:00 p.m.**, with dinner served at **5:30 p.m.**

Entrée options are Coq au Vin or roast pork tenderloin in wine sauce, served with herbed mashed potatoes, baby carrots, and green beans. Dessert options are peach crisp with whipped cream or ice cream with chocolate sauce. Tickets are **\$50 per person**. Reservations **must** be made by calling **217-947-2238** by **May 13th**. More details are available at <https://www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org>.

After dinner, attendees will move to the **Elkhart Fellowship Community Center, 206 S. Gillett St., Elkhart**, for the program.

### About the Speaker

Actress, director, and living-history presenter **Pam Brown** has spent decades helping audiences connect with America’s past through portrayals of **Mary Todd Lincoln** on stage, at historic sites, and on film.

After relocating to Illinois in 1990 from Norman, Oklahoma, Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts in Acting/Directing from the University of Oklahoma and built a long-running career in community and professional productions. She has served as a featured interpreter of Mary Lincoln across Illinois and beyond.

### Career highlights include:

- Directed *Our American Cousin* for Springfield’s Bicentennial (2009) and again for the Sesquicentennial commemoration (2015).
- Performed in productions including *I Do! I Do!*, *Oliver*, *Noises Off*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *Steel Magnolias*.
- Portrayed Mary Lincoln in multiple Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum productions, including *The Last of Mrs. Lincoln*, *The Heavens Are Hung in Black*, and *Mrs. Lincoln Fights Back*.
- Appeared as Mary Lincoln in *The Insanity Re-trial of Mary Todd Lincoln* (Chicago and ALPLM), videotaped for PBS and nominated for a MidWest Emmy.
- Featured in two National Geographic documentaries: *The Real Abraham Lincoln* and *Lincoln’s Secret Killer*.

Brown is available for museums, schools, libraries, civic events, and heritage tourism programs, offering engaging presentations that combine historical research with theatrical storytelling.



**ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S DINNER LECTURE  
FRIDAY MAY 22, 2026, 5:30P**

**"TAKING LEAVE- A MARY TODD LINCOLN LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM" - PAM BROWN**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

This program will be presented at 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 choice:**

Coq au vin \_\_\_\_\_ OR

Roast Pork Tenderloin in wine sauce \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert choices: Peach Crisp whipped cream \_\_\_\_\_ OR

Vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce \_\_\_\_\_

Both entrees will be served with herbed mashed potatoes, baby carrots, and green beans. Tea, water or coffee will be provided. You **CAN** 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 **May 13th**- - 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](http://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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For Immediate Release**  
**March 4, 2026**

**Elkhart Illinois Historical Society Invites the Community to Spring Wildflower Walks on Elkhart Hill**

Spring comes alive on historic Elkhart Hill, and the **Elkhart Illinois Historical Society** warmly invites nature lovers of all ages to celebrate the season with guided wildflower and bird walks beginning this April.

Starting the first Saturday in April, guests can enjoy two guided walks at **10 a.m. and 2 p.m.**, exploring the beauty of blooming wildflowers and the songs of returning birds. Each walk offers a relaxed, enriching experience that blends natural history, local heritage, and the simple joy of being outdoors. Dates of the walks are



- **April 4**
- **April 11**
- **April 18**
- **April 25**

The cost is **\$15 per adult** and **\$10 per child**, making this a wonderful outing for families, friends, and visitors alike.

Groups of **10 to 20 people** may also schedule private wildflower tours during the week throughout April. A lunch option is available by reservation at Horsefeathers for the Saturday walks only for an additional **\$12 per adult** and **\$6 for children aged 10 and younger**. Lunch reservations can be made on the same form as the tour booking.

All walks and tours depart from **The Country Bumpkin**, located at **103 Gov. Oglesby St., Elkhart, IL 62634**. Please arrive 15 minutes early, and dress for the weather and terrain of this outing. Bug repellent is also recommended.

Participants will be guided by a knowledgeable and passionate team:

- **Gillette Ransom**, Wildflower Guide
- **Lara Borgerson**, Ornithologist
- **Joe Funk**, Ornithologist
- **Rhetta Jack**, Ornithologist

Whether you are a seasoned nature enthusiast or simply looking for a peaceful way to welcome spring, the Elkhart Hill Wildflower Walks promise a memorable experience filled with color, song, and history.

For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact the Elkhart Illinois Historical Society by calling **(217) 947-2238** or visiting our website.  
<https://www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org/>.

**Elkhart Historical Society's  
2026 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

1. Your name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

**FLOWER WALKS**

- Saturday, April 4 (circle)      10AM or 2pm
- Saturday, April 11 (circle)      10AM or 2pm
- Saturday, April 18 (circle)      10AM or 2pm
- Saturday, April 25 (circle)      2pm

**BIRD WALKS**

- Saturday, April 25      7:30AM
- Saturday, April 25      9:00AM
- Saturday, April 25      10:30AM

3. Cost walk only: \$15 per adult and \$10 per child (8 - 12)  
 \*\*\* Add \$12 for adult lunch      Add \$6.00 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 \$27 \_\_\_\_\_

**BIRD WALKS**

# of adults \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of children \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child walk & lunch \$ 16.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

4. 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, IL



# April 2026

Elkhart Public Library District



## Unearth a Story

Even though the air feels crisp now, summer is just around the corner — and our Summer Reading Program, Unearth a Story, launches in two months!

We're digging up a season of discovery with programs designed to spark curiosity in our pre-readers and younger readers, as we have fun with animals, magic, crafts, and more.

**Important: Sign-ups begin NEXT MONTH.**

Online registration will be available through a link on our website and our Facebook page, so please watch next month for that link to go live.

We can't wait to unearth stories with you this summer! Keep an eye on our announcements for exact dates and program details!



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

## Spring Book Sale

We've had a number of people stop by with book donations recently, which is good news for us AND for you.

Stop by the library the **second week of May (5/11 - 16)** to see what we duplicates we have to update your own collection!

## Notary Public

Need something notarized? Someone is usually available for you Tuesday - Friday from 9am-11am and 12pm-4pm.

An appointment is not necessary but we encourage you to call ahead, as schedules sometimes can change.

# Ready to travel back in time?



Join us in Rome!  
You'll explore the caves of the Underground Church, meet the Apostle Paul, create cool Bible-times projects, experience thrilling real-life dramas, play high-energy games, sample tasty Mediterranean snacks, and hear unforgettable music. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

**Location:** Elkhart Christian Church-FCC Building

**The adventure will last:** June 1 - 5  
(VBS dates)

**The fun begins at:** 9:00 AM  
(VBS starting time)

**The city gates close at:** 11:30 AM  
(VBS ending time)

**For more information, call:** Kay Faucon 217-947-2747

\* For children 4 years old to entering 6th grade

## **Elkhart Homecoming Committee Sponsorship Form**

We are bringing our community together and connecting residents by offering a place and time to reminisce about old traditions while creating new ones. This event provides a stage to showcase what makes Elkhart so unique.

Your support helps make the Elkhart Homecoming possible. Thank you for being part of our community celebration!

**Please make checks payable to:**  
Elkhart Homecoming Committee

**Mail your sponsorship form and check to:**  
Marsha Humphres Doerr  
Attn: Elkhart Homecoming Committee  
P.O. Box 15  
Elkhart, Illinois 62634

---

**First and Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address (City / State / Zip):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home or Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**I would like to sponsor the following amount:**

\$50.00

\$100.00

\$150.00

\$200.00

Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Elkhart Homecoming 2026 – Vendor Application

**Date:** July 18, 2026

**Location:** Elkhart, Illinois

The **Elkhart Homecoming Committee** is excited to revive the beloved **Elkhart Homecoming** tradition! This event celebrates community by bringing residents and visitors together to reconnect, reminisce about old traditions, and create new ones.

Our goal is to continue this long-time tradition by offering activities for residents and neighboring communities while showcasing what makes **Elkhart unique**.

We invite vendors, businesses, and organizations to be part of this special event. We will be accepting a free will donation to have join us with your crafts, handmade/homemade specialties in an approximate 10 x 10 booth.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the application below and submit it to **Jamie Hobson** at:

✉ [cartier.isabelle@gmail.com](mailto:cartier.isabelle@gmail.com)

---

### Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

---

### Business / Organization Information

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Merchandise / Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Website (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook / Instagram: \_\_\_\_\_

---

### Comments or Questions

---

---

---



My name is Angie Carter, and I would like to introduce myself to the community! I have been the manager for the Elkhart branch of United Community Bank for a little over a year and want to make sure that the town of Elkhart has my contact information. My office is in Lincoln, but I am happy to make an appointment to meet you in Elkhart to update any current accounts and discuss your complete banking relationship. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me,

Angie Carter

VP Retail-UCB BANK

Office: 217-732-1027

Cell: 217-737-3055

[acarter@ucbbank.com](mailto:acarter@ucbbank.com)