



The Elkhart Echo



July 2026

www.elkhartillinois.us

Vol. 41 Issue 7

VILLAGE BOARD NEWS

Mayor Lyle Fout called the meeting to order on July 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, and Matt Langan. Travis Moore, Karen Conn, and Treasurer Amy Roberts were absent. Attorney Don Behle was absent. Clerk Jacinda Noltensmeier was present.

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

- A. Approve meeting minutes from June 1, 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

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Lyle did not attend any meetings in June.

CLERK and/or TREASURER

No report.

ATTORNEY

No report.

LIQUOR

The Liquor License for the Talk of the Town and Trackside Social DBA Elkhart Station has been paid and delivered.

TIF REPORT

No report.

SOLID WASTE

Matt Fights is working on getting the dumpsters still. Once we have a date we will post.

LOCAL EVENTS LIAISON/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Homecoming will be July 18, 2026.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

No report.

STREETS/ALLEYS

Obtaining new street signs is still moving forward.

BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT

No report.

VILLAGE PARK

A motion was made for Travis Moore to purchase a new pump for the pond. Motion made by Matt Fights, Second by Kyle Farmer All Aye's no Nay's.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Letters have been sent out to property owners. Going to be mowing the weeds and ditches.

FINANCE

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

The Village of Elkhart Board has been getting several complaints about people not picking up their dog and cat waste. Fines will be received.

A motion was made by Matt Fights and second by Matt Langan for Lyle and Jacinda to go sign the paperwork on Thursday July 9, 2026, to close on the Prairie Point Lots. All Aye's and No Nay's.

NEW BUSINESS

The Village of Elkhart has received some money from The Woods Foundation Grant.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made to adopt the resolution for the IPWMAN. Motion by Kyle Farmer, second by John Galassi to approve. Trustees responded. All Aye's. no Nay's.

ORDINANCE

No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

6:49p.m. Motion by Matt Fights, second by John Galassi, to adjourn. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

Next meeting – 8/3/26

Submitted By: Jacinda Noltensmeier 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 August 2026 newsletter should be turned in before
5:00 p.m. on August 5, 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 July 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



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2026

Elkhart Illinois Historical Society Presents “Relive the True Mother Road: The Edwards Trace.”

The Elkhart Illinois Historical Society invites the public to *Relive the True Mother Road: The Edwards Trace*, a dinner lecture presented by **Anna Sielaff**, exploring one of Illinois’ oldest and most historically significant trails. This presentation takes audience members on a journey back in time, to an era when Illinois was not yet a state but a vast landscape of prairie grass and fertile soil.

The Edwards Trace is an ancient trail that dates back at least 3,000 years and went through Illinois, marking the migratory path of various animal herds from Kaskaskia, Illinois, to Peoria, Illinois. Native Americans used this trail to track the seasonal migrations of herds, leveraging it for hunting, trade, and warfare. Early European settlers, such as the French, British, and Americans, depended on this trail for their travels, similar to Route 66. Anna will discuss the historical significance of the Edwards Trace and its role in national events and the early settlement of Illinois.



This event will take place on **August 28th**, which includes 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 chicken marsala or beef bourguignon, both served with mashed potatoes, green beans, and baby carrots. Dessert options are apple 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 **August 21st**. More details are available at <https://www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org>.

About the Speaker

Anna Sielaff serves as the Local History Librarian for the Lincoln Library’s Sangamon Valley Collection in Springfield, Illinois. She holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Concordia University Chicago and a Master of Science in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Anna is passionate about her work and is living the best of both worlds being a librarian and a historian. She believes in the importance of connecting with communities, fostering meaningful discussions, and learning from one another through shared stories and experiences.

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ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S DINNER LECTURE
FRIDAY AUGUST 28, 2026, 5:30P
RELIVE THE TRUE MOTHER ROAD: THE EDWARDS TRACE – ANNA SIELAFF

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 Marsala _____ OR
Beef bourguignon _____

Dessert choices: Apple Crisp with whipped cream _____ OR
Vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce _____

Both entrees will be served with mashed potatoes, green beans, baby carrots 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 **August 21st- 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.

Schedule of Events for Elkhart Homecoming

July 18th 2026

7:30 am	Trail Run Starts
7:30 am – 10:00 am	NAG (Needs and Goals) Breakfast
9:00 am	Opening Ceremonies
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Noso Brass Band with opening Ceremonies
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Sam Madonia Sports Radio
9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Petting Zoo
9:00 am - 3:00pm	Street Vendors
9:30 am - sold out	Tyrian Lodge Lunch
9:45 am – finish	Kiddie Tractor Pull
11:00 am – 8:00 pm	Bounce Houses
11:00 am- 1:00 pm & 2:00pm – 4:00 pm	Chapel Tours in the cemetery
1:00 pm	Bike Parade
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Car and Tractor Show
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Bingo in the Tent
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Dunk Tank
3:00pm - 10:00 pm	Pit from the Prairie
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Corn Hole Tournament
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Your Photograph by Joann Carney Drake
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Bustin Loose Band

Elkhart, IL Homecoming Cornhole Tournament Application

Date: July 18, 2026 **Location:** Elkhart, Illinois **Entry Fee:** \$40 per team

Participant Information

Team Name: _____

Player 1 Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Player 2 Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Entry Fee

- **\$20 per team**
- **Payment Method:** _____ (Cash / Check / Other)

Waiver & Release

By signing below, I acknowledge that participation in the Elkhart Homecoming Cornhole Tournament involves physical activity and potential risk. I agree that the event organizers, volunteers, and sponsors are not responsible for any injury, loss, or damage that may occur. I participate voluntarily and assume all risks.

Player 1 Signature: _____

Date: _____

Player 2 Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Event Staff Only

Payment Received By: _____

Date Received: _____

Team Number: _____

Street Closure Notice — Elkhart, Illinois

Effective Date: July 18, 2026

Please be advised that the following streets will be temporarily closed to all traffic on July 18, 2026:

- **Governor Oglesby Street** — from **Latham Street** to **Gillette Street**
- **Bogardus Street** — from the **Post Office** to the **first block of South Bogardus**

These closures are necessary to support scheduled community activities and ensure public safety. Residents, visitors, and local businesses are encouraged to plan alternate routes in advance.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Elkhart Homecoming Bike Parade

The Elkhart Homecoming **Bike** will be held on **Saturday, July 18, 2026**, during the Elkhart Homecoming celebration.

This parade is for **all ages**—kids and adults! Festively decorated **bikes, skateboards, wagons, wheelchairs, and participants** are all welcome to join the fun.

Registration:

Registration begins at **12:30 PM**

Parade Route:

The parade will begin on Allison Street, to Noth Bogardus and end on **Governor Oglesby Street**.

No motorized scooters or battery operated rides.

Come out, decorate, and celebrate the fun spirit of **Elkhart Homecoming!**

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:

Elise Gleason/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

☐ \$250.00 ☐ \$500.00

☐ \$1000.00 Other: \$ _____

Elkhart, Illinois Homecoming Trail Run

Official Registration Application

Event Date: July 18, 2026 **Location:** Elkhart, Illinois **Registration Fee:** \$30.00

I. Participant Information

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City / State / ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Age on Race Day: _____ **Gender:** _____

II. Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Telephone: _____

III. Event Registration

☐ Trail Run – July 18, 2026 Registration Fee: \$30.00 (non-refundable)

IV. Liability Waiver and Release Agreement

In consideration of my participation in the Elkhart Homecoming Trail Run, I hereby acknowledge and agree to the following:

1. I understand that participation in a trail run involves inherent risks, including but not limited to falls, uneven terrain, weather conditions, physical exertion, and other hazards associated with outdoor athletic events.
2. I certify that I am physically capable of safely participating in this event and have consulted a physician if necessary.

3. I voluntarily assume all risks associated with participation and accept full responsibility for any injury, loss, or damage that may occur.
4. I hereby release and discharge the Elkhart Homecoming Committee, event organizers, volunteers, sponsors, the Village of Elkhart, and all affiliated personnel from any and all liability, claims, or demands arising from my participation in this event.
5. I grant permission for the use of my name, likeness, and image in any photographs, video recordings, or promotional materials related to the event.

Participant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18): _____ **Date:** _____

Shirt Size _____

V. Payment Information

☐ Cash ☐ Check (Payable to: Elise Gleason / Elkhart Homecoming)

Amount Paid: \$30.00 **Received By:** _____ **Date**
Received: _____



ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

JULY



EXTENDED...

Because the Summer Reading Program kickoff was delayed a week due to weather, we will conclude one week later on July 22nd at our regular time of 1pm.

MADLIB MONDAY

Join us on Monday evenings at 6:30 to play MADLIBS!

School's just around the corner--does your family remember what a noun is? A verb? A conjunction? Well lolly, lolly, lolly get your adverbs here! Bring the kiddos for a few laughs and a refresher, they'll never know!

3rd Annual Butterfly Release

Butterflies

FRIDAY, JULY 31st @ 5:30

Kona Ice

Registration opens Friday, July 10th.

It's back again! Craft time begins at 5:30 and the Countdown to Release will be at 6:30. Following the release, supplies to finish crafts will remain available an additional 30-45 minutes.

We have a limited number of butterflies so it's first come, first served, and you must register in advance. See our website and Facebook page to register online, or stop by the library and we will be happy to assist you.

NOTE #1: Once again we are limiting butterflies to 3 per group or family to include as many as possible.

*EXCEPTION: If there are more than 3 children in a family, each child will receive a butterfly.

Any extras will be distributed immediately before their release.

NOTE #2: Butterflies are not only for children, and not only for families! Adult groups and adult singles are invited to come enjoy the wonder too!

Even if you are not able to reserve a butterfly, we still invite you to come watch the release!

We look forward to seeing you!

SRP26 DONORS

Thank you to all who have sponsored our Summer Reading Program and kept our children in the books and fascinated by the world around them.
YOU ARE OUR HEROES!

Village of Elkhart	Moughan Electric, Inc.	Viola Cook	Redbird Transit	Elkhart Township
United Community Bank	Route 66 Model Raceway	Kay Davis	Elkhart Fertilizer Service	Powell Insurance Agency

A NOTE:

We are a bit behind in donations this year to fund our Summer Reading Program. If you would be interested in helping us reach our goal, contributions can be mailed to:
Elkhart Public Library District
PO Box 170
Elkhart IL 62634
Every dollar is helpful. Thank you!



elkhartlibrary.lib.il.us



217-947-2313

