



# The Elkhart Echo



March 2026

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

Vol. 41 Issue 3

## VILLAGE BOARD NEWS

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

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

- A. Approve meeting minutes from February 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**

Mark Moughan and Elise Gleason, discuss plans for a homecoming event on Saturday, July 18,2026. Discussions are just beginning, more information to follow.

Karen Conn shared insights from the Big Table event in Lincoln, highlighting challenges like housing inventory and workforce development. She attended the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs conference and can provide available resource information.

Tim Gleason represented the Elkhart Hill HOA, identified the need for sealcoating and remedy of rock sliding on road edges along with other road issues in the subdivision that they request be addressed in 2026. There was discussion of updating dilapidated road signs. Per Lyle, Motor Fuel Tax budgets are being developed now and should be completed in the next two months. Lyle mentions the need to count and replace dilapidated signs around town.

Matthew and Michelle Fuller have submitted an offer on Prairie Point lots for four lots at \$16,000 total. The offer includes stipulations about redoing covenants, which can be discussed next month. Discussion about potential issues with septic systems and electrical connections for the lots will be discussed further. The board approves the \$16,000 offer, with some members needing to work on specific issues.

Tim Good attended.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Met with IT consultant, planning limited IT work to set up with “.gov” account; board members will separate business and personal emails. Trustees should bring phones and/or laptops and come early to the April 6, 2026, VB meeting. Kevin Lloyd of Lloyd IT Services will be there to assist conversion to .gov account.

**CLERK and/or TREASURER**

**Clerk-** discussion of Open Meetings Act certification.

The NIMS training information will be emailed to trustees along with Logan County Multi Jurisdiction meeting info.

The Mount Pulaski High School's Day of Service planned for April 24, with students helping around Elkhart, weather permitting.

The village hall will be a polling place for the general primary election on March 17.

**Treasurer-** reports completion of the fiscal year 2025 audit.

Work continues streamlining the budget.

Deposit received from ENEL for community fund.

**ATTORNEY**

No report.

**LIQUOR**

The Talk of The Town transfer is complete.

**TIF REPORT**

No report.

**SOLID WASTE**

No report.

**LOCAL EVENTS LIAISON/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

See "Recognition of Public Section."

**WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT**

No report.

**STREETS/ALLEYS**

IDOT/Motor Fuels Tax compliance, budget for 2026 will be planned. Lyle is meeting with engineers to proceed.

**BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT**

John Galassi, Electric board at the park needs repair.

**VILLAGE PARK**

Discussion about the need for a trapper to handle the predator issue (Muskrat) Lyle will arrange contractor. Plans to be discussed on stocking the pond with more fish.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

No report.

**FINANCE**

Budget coming together will be done in April.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Mapping the Future program.** Discussion that it is not the right fit for Elkhart at this time. Clerk will notify program.

**Prairie Point subdivision.** The Fuller offer on 4 lots; some terms and covenants will be reviewed further.

Motion was made by John Galassi, second by Kyle Farmer, to approve sale of Prairie Point lots to Matthew and Michelle Fuller parcels 11, 12, 13, and 14. Roll call vote: Those voting yea: Kyle Farmer, Matt Fights, John Galassi, Matt Langan. Travis Moore was absent. Those voting nay: None.

**Income Survey update-** Jeff Torcelli has advised that grant application terms are changing and the Income Survey will be delayed until appropriate grant application window opens, most likely 2027.

**Window blinds purchased-** installation at the Hall est March 20. Terms discussed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Homecoming plan-** Event proposed on Saturday, July 18,2026. Board supports concept. Their planning will continue.

**Tree plantings:** Matt Langan suggests purchase and dedicating trees to former employees, board members, and others. A discussion about how plaques might be used. Motion was made by John Galassi, Second by Matt Langan, to approve purchase of memorial trees with plaques. Those voting yea: Kyle Farmer, Matt Fights, John Galassi, Matt Langan. Travis Moore was absent. Those voting nay: None.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

No report.

## **ORDINANCE**

2026-01 needs further revision and attorney review. Will present in April.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

7:03p.m. Motion by Matt Langan, second by John Galassi, to adjourn. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

## **Next meeting – 4/6/26**

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 April 2026 newsletter should be turned in before  
**5:00 p.m. on April 8, 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 March 19, 2026, at 11:30am at The Wild Hare.**

**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**



# March 2026

Elkhart Public Library District



**MPGS  
PRE-K & TK  
SCREENINGS**

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
and  
Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>  
(AM appointments only on Friday)

FOR ALL CHILDREN  
AGES 3-4 LIVING IN  
THE MOUNT  
PULASKI SCHOOL  
DISTRICT.  
SCREENINGS ARE  
REQUIRED TO  
ATTEND THE PRE-K  
AND TK PROGRAMS

CALL THE GRADE  
SCHOOL OFFICE  
TO SCHEDULE!  
217-792-7220

ASHLEY BURGARD- PRE-K TEACHER  
ABURGARD@MP23SCHOOLS.COM  
LEAH PIERANTONI- TK TEACHER  
LPIERANTONI@MP23SCHOOLS.COM

Don't miss this opportunity to help prepare your little ones for their future education!

How can we help you this month?

217-947-2313

**OUR SERVICES**  
*Here To Help*

- Public Computers
- Free WiFi
- Print/Fax
- Notary Public

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



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

New trees are being planted in Elkhart! We've helped to get 2 new trees on Route 66 "Parkway". A beautiful October Glory Maple and a Scarlet Oak. Both will provide beautiful fall color and help the pollinators!

We hope to gather more additional "boots on the ground" member volunteers for our committee. We only meet quarterly; we are always thinking about how to bring more trees into Elkhart and how to care for the ones we have.

THINK ABOUT JOINING US, please! It is **not** a big commitment of time!  
Our 2025 Arbor Day Tree City paperwork has been completed, **we will celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 24, 2026!**

We begin reviewing our Tree Inventory (compiled in 2024) to identify 2026's "Trees of concern" on Elkhart's Right of Way.

Yes, we still have some mature trees that need to have maintenance or be removed. We will document that, present to the Village Board, and help to see that funding is allocated to pay for the work.

INTERESTED to hear more?? Contact Mona Maas! You can email us at: [ElkhartTreeAdvisoryCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ElkhartTreeAdvisoryCommittee@gmail.com), or talk to me at the Village Board meeting April 6, at 6:30, or message me on Facebook.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2026

### **Elkhart Illinois Historical Society Announces Dinner Lecture “America 250: Independence Won—And Almost Lost”**

The Elkhart Illinois Historical Society will present a dinner lecture titled “**America 250: Independence Won—And Almost Lost**” on **April 17** at **206 S. Gillett St., Elkhart, Illinois**. Doors will open at **5:00 p.m.**, with dinner served at **5:30 p.m.**, followed by the lecture. The cost is **\$50 per person**, and reservations are required.

Main dish will be cranberry BBQ chicken breasts or herbed pork loin with gravy. Full menu and more information can be found at our website <https://www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org/>.

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, the lecture looks beyond the triumph of 1776 to examine the fragile years that followed—when independence had been secured, but the survival of the republic remained in doubt. Framed by Benjamin Franklin’s warning, “*A republic, if you can keep it,*” the presentation brings to life the financial collapse, political instability, military unrest, and global skepticism that pushed the young nation to the brink. Rather than a moment of certainty, America’s founding is presented as a narrow test of resolve that endured only because it was deliberately preserved.



### **About the Speaker**

The program will be presented by **Rick Klinedinst**, President and CEO of MidAmerica National Bank. Klinedinst’s banking career spans 48 years, including the past 16 years in his current role. He holds a Bachelor of Business degree from Western Illinois University and a professional diploma from the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Beyond his professional career, Klinedinst is a dedicated local historian and Lincoln enthusiast. He is co-author of *Camp Ellis – Once a City Not Forgotten*, which documents the history of one of the nation’s largest World War II medical training and prisoner-of-war camps. His article “*Banking on Victory: How Abraham Lincoln Funded the Civil War*” has been featured in *North & South* magazine, and he regularly presents lectures on Abraham Lincoln throughout Central Illinois.

Reservations must be made by **April 10** by calling **(217) -947-2238**. Please leave your name, phone number, and the number in your party. You will be called back to confirm your reservation. Once confirmed, checks should be mailed within **5 business days** to **The Elkhart Historical Society at P.O. Box 255, Elkhart, IL, 63634**, or dropped off at the **Country Bumpkin Shop at 103 Gov. Oglesby St., Elkhart, IL Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m-3 p.m**

**ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S DINNER LECTURE  
FRIDAY APRIL 17, 2026, 5:30P**

**"AMERICA'S 250: INDEPENDENCE WON- AND ALMOST LOST" - RICK KLINEDINST**

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

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

This program will be presented at the Elkhart Christian Church's Fellowship Center located at 206 S. Gillett St. 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:**

Cranberry BBQ Chicken Breast \_\_\_\_\_ OR  
Herbed Pork Loin with Gravy \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert choices: Texas Sheet Cake \_\_\_\_\_ OR  
Cheese Cake \_\_\_\_\_

Both entrees will be served with garlic almond green beans, mashed potatoes, roll and butter. Tea, water or coffee will be provided. You **ARE NOT** 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 **April 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](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.

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

**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.