

# The Elkhart Echo



May 2026

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

Vol. 41 Issue 5

## VILLAGE BOARD NEWS

Mayor Lyle Fout called the meeting to order on May 4, 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, Karen Conn and Travis Moore. Attorney Don Behle, Clerk Jacinda Noltensmeier and Treasurer Amy Roberts were present.

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

- A. Approve meeting minutes from April 6, 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**

Matthew & Michelle Fuler- Discussion of Prairie Point Lot purchase and covenants. Mona Maas- Tree Advisory Committee discussion of trees of concern.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

**Meetings-** Lyle attended meeting with Logan County Emergency Management Committee, GBA engineers with regard to water system.

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

Amy reviewed the 2026-2027 budget.

### **ATTORNEY**

ATTORNEY – Don suggested after numerous FOIA request from “robo” sources. Don, we require the written FOIA request form on Elkhart website be filled out.

### **LIQUOR**

Jacinda will prepare Liquor License for the month of June.

### **TIF REPORT**

No response on audit yet.

### **SOLID WASTE**

No report.

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

Route 66 Passports have been distributed to the local businesses. Logan County Tourism meeting is May 26, 2026, at 6 pm at Elkhart Village Hall. Elkhart Homecoming A motion to donate \$250, pay for Porta Potties and Trash bins. Motion to accept by Galassi, Second by Farmer. All Aye's, no nay's motion carried. Elkhart Summer Reading Program discussed and motion to donate \$100. Motion to accept by Moore, Second by Fights. All Aye's, no nay's motion carried.

## **WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT**

No report.

## **STREETS/ALLEYS**

John Galassi reported on the ongoing plan for street signs replacement.

## **BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT**

No report.

## **VILLAGE PARK**

Travis reports that pond is restocked. Maintenance continues.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Dumpsters will be late June.

## **FINANCE**

See Ordinance.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Prairie Point subdivision, future Lot Pricing/Covenants

Motion to accept Prairie Point Covenants Motion to accept by Moore, Second by Fights. All Aye's, no nay's motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

FY27 Finale Budget Ordinance- See Ordinance

Joining the IPWMAN plan was discussed. Motion to accept by Farmer, Seconds by Galassi. All Aye's, No Nay's motion carried.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

None.

## **ORDINANCE**

Adopted Ordinance 2026-02 FY27 Budget Motion by Travis Moore, Second by Matt Fights. Those voting Aye: Karen Conn, Kyle Farmer, Matt Fights, John Galassi, Matt Langan, Travis Moore. Those voting Nay: None.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

7:11p.m. Motion by Matt Fights, second by Travis Moore, to adjourn. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

**Next meeting – 6/1/26**

**\*\*\*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 June 2026 newsletter should be turned in before  
**5:00 p.m. on June 3, 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 May 21, 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



# 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:

Elkhart is an Arbor Day Tree City and celebrated that with our "Proclamation" on Friday, April 24 at the Village Hall with our Mt. Pulaski "Day of Service" helpers. It was drizzly that day but they did a great job helping Elkhart to clean up the Vet Memorial Park and the Pollinator Habitat, doing a few tasks for the "NAGS", and putting in Canna bulbs and sunflower seeds at the fishing pond.

As you know..Elkhart has a lot of mature trees on the ROW. We reviewed our annual "Trees of Concern on the Right of Way" inventory with our Village Board at the May 4th meeting. Our liaison, Lyle Fout, will take the next step..a drive with tree professionals for \$\$ estimate on action.

I'm hearing "What about putting IN trees to replace those mature trees on the Right of Way"? Great idea!....kind of. Because there will always be issues for the Village with keeping the road clear, the (few) sidewalks free, *and more*..best idea might be to develop a program to help **homeowners** plant appropriate trees in their yard, OFF the Right of Way! Other communities **are** successful at this.

BUT....that would need to be organized and funded. *YOU join this committee, maybe?*

Please join us at our next Tree Advisory Committee (planning meeting in late May..yes date to be determined).

Will post that date on Facebook and the website; come if you are interested in trees, plants, nature..or just in your community! It is not a huge commitment of time.

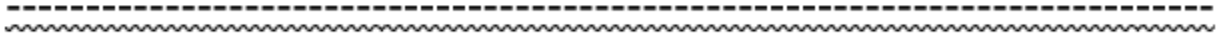
**Ask us!** [Elkharttreeadvisorycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:Elkharttreeadvisorycommittee@gmail.com)





**NAG** would like to thank everyone for shopping with us,  
for plants, over the weekend.

Your generosity helps us to continue to provide many  
services for the community.



If anyone is still interested in plants or vegetables,  
we have a few left.

Please contact either Elise Gleason or Ann Olson.

[anderson.elise@yahoo.com](mailto:anderson.elise@yahoo.com)

[jaolson83080@gmail.com](mailto:jaolson83080@gmail.com)

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

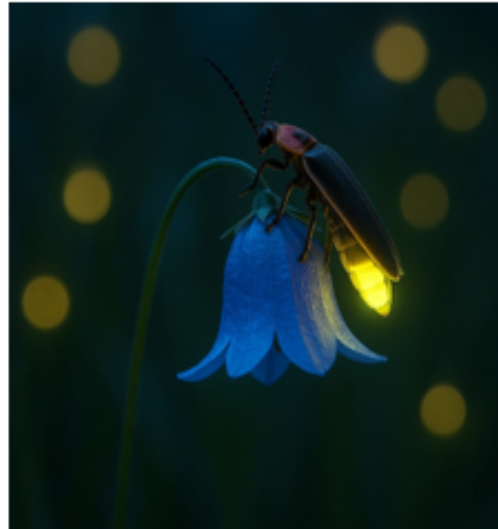
## Second Annual Firefly Picnic Walk

“Fireflies are stars that could not journey to the sky”

– Michael Bassey Johnson, Song of a Nature Lover.

The Elkhart Illinois Historical Society warmly invites the community to join them for the free 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Firefly and Picnic Walk on **Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>** with our guide Allen Yow.

An avid bird watcher, Yow became curious about the fireflies as he noticed the different patterns and colors. As you will learn on the walk, these differences allow the fireflies to find the right mating group and help us to identify them. Yow, will teach you about the life cycle, the different kinds of fireflies, and how to identify them from their glow to individual markings.



We will start the evening at the **Nancy Jane Moore Community Park** (109 Stellar St. in Elkhart, Illinois), at **6:00 p.m.** for a BYO picnic dinner.

The park playground will be open for children.

For those who want to take part in the walk only, please arrive at the park no later than **7:30 p.m.** The caravan to Elkhart Hill will start at **7:40 p.m.** for the walk and lecture portion of the evening. *Please apply all bug repellants at the park as they can harm our star attraction.*

To reserve your spot, please contact the Elkhart Illinois Historical Society at (217) 947-2238 or email [elkhart.hist.soc@gmail.com](mailto:elkhart.hist.soc@gmail.com) with your name and the number attending.

In case of inclement weather, the walk will be rescheduled for Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of June.

# May

Summer Reading Program 2026

## Unearth A Story

It's time to sign up for this year's Summer Reading Program!

June 17 - July 15 @ 1pm

Pre-Readers (pre-k/kindergarten) through 5th grade will have over an hour of fun with performers, prizes, and snacks on Wednesday afternoons from June 17 - July 15.

Registration opens on May 17.

You may register each child online (the link will be on our website and facebook), or stop by the library to pick up a form.

Book logs can be picked up to begin reading June 10th, and we will have grand prizes for four groups: Pre-Reader, Early Reader, Reader, and Advanced Reader.


Come and see what treasure you find when you dig into a good book!



**Book Sale:** May 11 - 16

Stop by the library and help us make space for new books for all ages!

Elkhart Public Library District

Facebook 

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

217-947-2313

# 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)

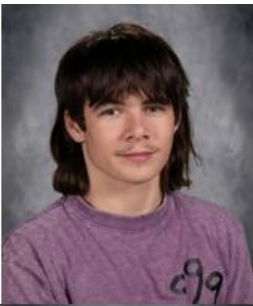





**For more information, call:** Kay Faucon 217-947-2747







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







# CLASS OF 2026







First Name	Last Name	PHOTO	Awards, Scholarships & Involvement
Zoey	Awe		Art Club, Day of Service, Yearbook
Kayla	Aylesworth		Day of Service, eSports Manager
Josie	Bard		Day of Service, FCCLA, Spanish Club, Student Council, Yearbook, Commendation towards Biliteracy in Spanish
Cameron	Baylor		Day of Service, FFA, Cooperative Work Program
Bailey	Birdwell		Day of Service, eSports, Pep Band, Topper Tees
Jayden	Brown		Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, Choir, Youth Group, FFA





Sophia	Buenrostro		<p>Cheerleading, Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, Drama, FCCLA, FFA, NHS, Pep Band, Science Olympiad, Soccer, Student Council, Spirit Squad, Track, Yearbook, Senior of the Month, Tomahawk Conference All-Academic Team</p>
Celestina	Clay		<p>Art Club, Day of Service, Topper Tees</p>
Eric	Cooper		<p>Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, FFA (Officer), NHS, Day of Service, Academic Challenge, SAAC, Spanish Club, Illinois State Scholar, Blair Hoerbert Memorial Scholarship, Senior of the Month, Iva Mae Blaum Trust Scholarship, Spot of Sunshine Scholarship, Phil Simpson Memorial Scholarship, FFA Alumni Scholarship, Caleb Coogan Memorial Scholarship, Tomahawk Conference All-Academic Team</p>
Preston	Cowan		<p>Baseball, Basketball, Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, FFA, SAAC, Spirit Squad, Spot of Sunshine Scholarship, FFA Alumni Scholarship, Caleb Coogan Memorial Scholarship</p>
Tyler	Cross		<p>Baseball, Day of Service, FFA</p>
Brayden	Dorsey		<p>Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, FFA</p>

Tucker	Fitzpatrick		Baseball, Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, FFA
Conner	French		Day of Service, Drama, FCCLA (State Officer), Soccer, Student Council, Track & Field, SAAC, Senior of the Month, MPEA Jill Paget Memorial Scholarship, Tomahawk Conference All-Academic Team
Jaeden	Jackson		Baseball, Day of Service, Football
Aaron	Kuznik		Basketball, Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, SAAC, FFA, Golf
Clay	Leonard		Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, FFA, Shotgun Sports, Golf
Tyler	Lowe		Day of Service, Shotgun Sports, Golf, Tomahawk Conference All-Academic Team

Elayna	Marten		<p>Basketball, Club America, Day of Service, FFA, NHS, SAAC, Spanish Club, Student Council, Theater, Track &amp; Field, Volleyball, Yearbook, Senior of the Month, Spot of Sunshine Scholarip, Phil Simpson Memorial Scholarship, Tomahawk Conference All-Academic Team, Commendation towards Biliteracy in Spanish</p>
Luke	Martin		<p>Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, Baseball, Basketball, FFA, Volunteer Hours, Senior of the Month, Logan County Farm Bureau Scholarship, Spot of Sunshine Scholarip, Phil Simpson Memoprial Scholarship, FFA Alumni Scholarship, Caleb Coogan Memorial Scholarship, Doris Cates Memorial Scholarship, Logan County Pheasants Forever Scholarship</p>
Kva	Matson		<p>Cheerleading, Day of Service, LTEC, Spirit Squad, Track &amp; Field</p>
Addison	Maus		<p>Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, Drama Club, Spanish Club, Volleyball, Yearbook, FFA, Student Council</p>
Bryce	Mitts		<p>Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, FFA</p>
Alyson	Murphy		<p>Basketball, Day of Service, NHS, Volleyball, FFA, Yearbook, Spanish Club, Spirit Squad, Senior of the Month, Caleb Coogan Memorial Scholarship, Cabin Ridge Farm Scholarship, Tomahawk Conference All-Academic Team</p>

Summer	Neaville		Day of Service, Soccer, Track
Isabella	Niccolls		Day of Service, Cheerleading, Student Council, FCCLA, NHS, Soccer, Senior fo the Month, Tomahawk Conference All-Academic Team
Meridith	Nixon		Art Club (President), Day of Service, Drama Club, FCCLA, FFA, Scholastic Bowl, Soccer, Volunteer Services, Yearbook
Keaton	Roemer		Day of Service, Student Council, Senior Class President, Pep Band, eSports, Claus Tanner Memorial Scholarship
Adison	Sanchez		Day of Service, Drama, FCCLA, FFA, Scholastic Bowl, Yearbook, Irma Maxheimer Dana Memorial Scholarship, CBAI Essay Scholarship,
Griffin	Skelton		Basketball Cameraman, Day of Service, eSports, Track & Field

Brooke	St James		Art Club, Drama, FCCLA, FFA, Humane Society Volunteer, Scholastic Bowl, Spanish Club
Beau	Tschantz		Basketball, Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, Golf, Shotgun Sports
Deegan	Tschantz		Basketball, Cross Country, Day of Service, Drama Club, Golf, Shotgun Sports, Tomahawk Conference All-Academic Team
Franklin	Wade		Baseball, Basketball, Day of Service, FFA, NHS, Spanish Club, Golf, Illinois State Scholar, Tomahawk Conference All-Academic Team, Commendation towards Biliteracy in Spanish
Johnathan	Walsh		Day of Service, LTEC
Blayton	Watkins		Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service

Aaliyah	Wayne		<p>Day of Service, LTEC, FCCLA, Drama Club, Spirit Squad, Spanish Club, Commendation towards Biliteracy in Spanish</p>
Addisen	Williams		<p>Cooperative Work Program, Cheerleading, Day of Service, FFA, Senior of the Month, Nutrien Scholarship, Mt. Pulaski Longview Community Bank Scholarship</p>
Charity	Woodford		<p>Academic Challenge, Day of Service, Drama Club, FCA, FCCLA, Scholastic Bowl, Science Olympiad, Soccer, Spirit Squad, Illinois State Scholar, Senior of the Month, FCCLA Service Scholarship, Tomahawk Conference All-Academic Team</p>
Lillian	Woodworth		<p>Day of Service, FCCLA, Science Olympiad, Softball, Spirit Squad, Student Council, Academic Challenge, Art Club, Topper Tees, Tomahawk Conference All-Academic Team</p>