



The Elkhart Echo



October 2025

www.elkhartillinois.us

Vol. 40 Issue 10

VILLAGE BOARD NEWS

Mayor Lyle Fout called the meeting to order on October 6, 2025, 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, John Galassi, Matt Fights, and Matt Langan. Travis Moore and Matt Olson were absent. Clerk Mona Maas, Treasurer Amy Roberts, and Attorney Don Behle were present.

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

- A. Approve meeting minutes from September 8, 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

Darren Horton, Commander with the American Legion Post 616 in Elkhart. The post has been here since 1920, and it's been a staple in the community for many years. 18 months ago, it was down to about 18 to 20 members, and it was looking at closing the doors; they recruited heavily in Williamsville and Sherman and increased their members to over 50. They are considering events in Williamsville, perhaps Sherman, and will continue their presence in Elkhart. There was discussion of their offer to provide the labor to paint the cannon (at the library) and help to have a new plaque produced for the Veteran's Park.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Lyle met with and completed an audit with IEPA; there is a check valve on order that needs to be installed and that will be completed when the part arrives; there is a need to clean the retention tank and that will be completed. Lyle will attend a training with Illinois Rural Water regarding boil orders and finance.

CLERK and/or TREASURER

Correspondence from Logan County Tourism Director discussed, Tree Advisory Committee has 3 new members to come before the Board in November, and the Village just received notice that the Ameren Right Tree, Right Place, grant has been awarded. Those dollars will help to pay for ROW tree removal and maintenance and some new trees for Elkhart. Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois and potential assistance for local residents; research and discuss at future meeting. Amy will start working on budget issues and items for next year's budget. Encouraged board members to consider additions and changes so she can organize materials for meetings with Lyle and John.

ATTORNEY

Don reviewed Open Meetings Act training that should be completed.

LIQUOR

No report.

TIF REPORT

Don reviewed the Revised Tax Increment Finance Redevelopment Plan that our attorneys prepared for consideration. It updates the footprint of our TIF program and makes it easier to access the TIF program. Ordinance vote follows.

SOLID WASTE

No report.

LOCAL EVENTS LIAISON/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Trick or Treating in Elkhart will be Friday, October 31, from 5-8pm.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

See President's report, no further report.

STREETS/ALLEYS

Street repairs have been marked; discussion on holding up just a bit until grain truck traffic has subsided.

BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT

The ADA renovation of the entrance to the Village Hall is funded by Illinois State Board of Elections Polling Place Accessibility Federal Grant; plan to replace the "historic window prints" on the new front windows with some edits, but that will be organized after the windows are installed. Installation of new doors must be complete before March 2026 election; the plan is for this renovation to begin later in November.

VILLAGE PARK

Aerators have been repaired, and the pond has been treated for the final time this year. Discussion on additional signage for the pond that clearly states rules/regulations will be pursued.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

No report.

FINANCE

See TIF, and Treasurer.

OLD BUSINESS

IDNR/Viper Mine hearing cancellation- possible next steps were reviewed. The Board agreed to proceed with correspondence to ICG to request a meeting to discuss their plan on reclamation, well monitoring, etc. at the Viper Mine site.

NEW BUSINESS

Revised Village Canvassing Permit form was reviewed and approved. Motion by Matt Fights, second by Kyle Farmer, to accept the Revised Village Canvassing Permit form. Those voting yea: Kyle Farmer, John Galassi, Matt Langan, Matt Fights. Those voting nay: none. Those absent: Travis Moore, Matt Olson. Motion carried. The Board discussed the need for Elkhart to develop a 5/10/15 year plan; this is needed as TIF plan has been extended to 2037, and as the ETCG grant moves forward into its next phase. Jeff Torricelli will assist us to prepare, and it was agreed to invite Western Illinois University "Mapping the Future" program to schedule a no cost, no obligation presentation to the Board; planned for the December 1 meeting. A discussion on research to purchase or lease a Skid Loader for the Village will be on the November agenda.

RESOLUTIONS

None presented.

ORDINANCE

2025-03, Levy and Assessment of Taxes. Motion by Matt Fights, second by Matt Langan to pass Ordinance 2025-03, An Ordinance for Levy and Assessment of Taxes. Roll call vote. Those voting yea: Kyle Farmer, John Galassi, Matt Langan, Matt Fights. Those voting nay: none. Those absent: Travis Moore, Matt Olson. Ordinance adopted. 2025-04, Amended Redevelopment Plan-Elkhart TIF Project Area. Motion by Kyle Farmer, second by Matt Fights to pass Ordinance 2025-04, An Ordinance for Amended Redevelopment Plan-Elkhart TIF Project Area. Roll call vote. Those voting yea: Matt Fights, John Galassi, Matt Langan, Kyle Farmer. Those voting nay: none. Those absent: Travis Moore, Matt Olson. Ordinance adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

6:59 p.m. Motion by Kyle Farmer, second by John Galassi to adjourn. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

Next meeting – 11/3/25

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 November 2025 newsletter should be turned in before
5:00 p.m. on November 5, 2025

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 October 15, 2025, at 11:30am at The Talk of The Town.

For questions, please call Anita at (217) 341-0167.



We Need Volunteer Firefighters!!!



Come Join Us!!

🔥 bad pay 🔥 crappy hours 🔥 tough working conditions

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



The Elkhart Historical Society is excited to introduce Janet Roney as the featured guest speaker for our Friday, October 24, 2025, dinner lecture program.



Janet is a multi-faceted individual with a background steeped in history, farming and writes a column for her local paper. She is an accomplished artist as well. Her realistic and detailed watercolors, oils and prints of the Central Illinois prairie landscape are showcased in many public and private collections. She is a graduate of Sullivan High School and a 1963 graduate of the University of Illinois.

Janet's presentation will be "How the Illinois Grande Prairie Helped Save the World from Hunger."

The Illinois Grande Prairie was considered worthless by the first pioneers. The swamps created an unhealthy place to live as well as the soil being too wet to farm. Many saw the prairie unfit for anything but grazing cattle and hunting prairie chickens. Janet will explain how the Illinois prairie was transformed into the most productive agricultural region in the world. She will share photos of the remaining prairie remnants that can still be found in forgotten places. Much of Janet's artwork has been inspired by these photos.

Cost per person is \$45 which includes dinner/dessert and lecture. For a complete menu and reservation form, visit our website: www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org . Reservations are required and must be made by calling 217-947-2238. The deadline for reservations is October 15, 2025.

Upon calling, please leave a message and you will be called back to confirm your reservation. Once confirmed, please mail your check, **within 5 business days**, to:

The Elkhart Historical Society, PO Box 255, Elkhart, IL 62634. You may drop your check off at The Country Bumpkin at 103 Gov. Oglesby Street, Elkhart, IL. Hours open: Wed-Sat 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Sun 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Name and address of venue:

Elkhart Christian Church Fellowship Community Center
206 South Gillett Street, Elkhart, IL

ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S DINNER LECTURE
FRIDAY OCTOBER 24, 2025, 5:30P
"HOW THE ILLINOIS GRANDE PRAIRIE SAVED THE WORLD FROM HUNGER" -
JANET RONEY

Name _____ Address _____

Phone # _____ cell # _____ Email _____

This program will be presented at the Elkhart Christian Church Fellowship Community Center at 206 S. Gillett St, Elkhart, Illinois 62634. Doors open at 5p, and meal service starts at 5:30pm. We bundle it into an all-inclusive package price of \$45, which includes the meal, tax, and \$15 for the Elkhart Historical Society program.

Please make your selection:

Country Ham _____ OR
Fried Chicken _____

Dessert choices: Pumpkin Pie _____ OR
Sherbet _____

Both entrees are served with green beans, roasted potatoes and roll with butter. Tea, water or coffee will be provided. You will **NOT** be 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 October 15th - - 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- -Please park in the paved parking lot and come in the south doors. 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.

Elkhart Historical Society Survey



Elkhart Illinois Historical Society needs to hear your voice!

We are sending out this survey to gather valuable feedback from our community, members and supporters. Your insights will help us understand your interests, preferences, and experiences better, enabling us to enhance our programs, events, and initiatives. By participating in this survey, you are contributing to our continuous efforts to preserve and promote our rich historical heritage. Thank you for your time and input!

36th Annual Christmas on Vinegar Hill

Saturday, November 22, 2025

Follow us on FACEBOOK or
www.cityofmtpulaski.com - click
on "In our community" - then
"Christmas on Vinegar Hill"

Scan for
Online Google
Map with details



*Held Annually the Saturday before
Thanksgiving in Mt. Pulaski &
Surrounding Towns.*



Elkhart Historical Society Christmas Candlelight Press Release

The Elkhart Historical Society's 35th annual Christmas Candlelight Services Saturday, December 6, and a matinee on Sunday, December 7, 2025, welcomes another season of celebration of the Birth of Christ with a new program of script and music set to the theme, "A Classic Christmas." Songs and memorable tales of Christmas will be experienced, taken from an era when riches were found in simple giving, and when timeless truths of kindness and goodwill were lived out in what otherwise may have been difficult days. Enjoy the musical talents and the dramatic readings of a gifted cast of performers, all set in the warm candlelight setting of the historical St. John the Baptist stone chapel located on Elkhart Hill. A beautiful wrap-around luminaria will welcome you; and friends and neighbors will come together to be ushered into the 2025 Christmas Season with a program designed to bring us *"peace on Earth, goodwill to men."*

Meals prior to or following all services will once again be available. The full details will be sent out soon allowing you to pick the service time and optional dinner-- reservations are required for both). Current (2025) members' reservations lines open on October 27th between 8 a.m. -7 p.m. Everyone else starting November 3, from 8a-7p. If you are not on the email list, and would like to be, please send your email address to: elkhart.hist.soc@gmail.com. Please watch your incoming emails so that you will be ready as the services tend to sell out quickly. Be prepared with a second choice of service in case your first choice is sold out.

October

Medicare Info Clinic

Find Medicare confusing?

We have two opportunities for you to learn more this coming week:

**Monday, Oct. 13.....5:30pm
and
Saturday, Oct. 18.....10am**

Mitchell Hudson will be here to share information and answer questions, so stop by and see us!

*There is no cost or obligation,
and
registration is not required.*

Pens and small notepads will be provided.

Questions? Stop by the library or call us at: 217-947-2313

Flu Shot Clinic

The Logan County Health Department will be at the library to administer FLU SHOTS and COVID BOOSTERS on

**Thursday, Oct. 23rd
3pm - 5pm****

for both children & adults.

*(**This is an hour earlier than previous years.)*

If you need to remain in your car, someone will be happy to assist you curbside again this year. 😊

If you are under the age of 65 and wish to receive the covid vaccine, you MUST bring a note from your doctor stating that you need it.

Stop by the library any time for the vaccine administration form if you would like to complete it in advance.

Remember to bring your INSURANCE CARD!

Thank You!

Our library has been the recipient of a thoughtful financial gift as well as some wonderful new items recently.

THANK YOU for partnering with us as we grow in all we offer our patrons!



Elkhart Public Library District

elkhartlibrary.lib.il.us

Facebook