The Elkhart Echo

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VILLAGE BOARD NEWS

Mayor Lyle Fout called the meeting to order on October 5, 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: Karen Conn, Kyle Farmer, Travis Moore, John Galassi, Matt Fights, and Matt Langan. Attorney Don Behle, Mayor Lyle Fout, and Treasurer Amy Roberts were present. Not present: Clerk Jacinda Noltensmeier.

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

A. Approve meeting minutes from September 14, 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
Cam McClellan, Judy Brown, Skylynn Howard, Emma Crawford and Brayden Hewitt.
Judy Brown requested information regarding putting down rock in her culvert. The request was approved by Mayor Lyle Fout. Mayor will with Judy Brown on getting the rock installed. The other members of the public were in attendance to the discussion of the chicken ordinance, which would be addressed later.

PRESIDENTS REPORT
No report.

CLERK and/or TREASURER
Clerk -no report. Treasurer – Amy Roberts provided updates to the Board on all accounts and reviewed the unpaid bills report.

ATTORNEY
Don Behle provided update on the village's purchase of 5 lots in Prairie Point. The title search is pending with Logan County. Per clarification with the Trustees, once the village officially owns the 5 properties, the Village will list them for sale. The Board mentioned that there has already been some interest in a few of the new lots.

LIQUOR
Current licenses do not expire until the end of this year so no information to report at this time.

TIF REPORT
No report.

SOLID WASTE
No report.

LOCAL EVENTS LIAISON/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
There will be a Hot Air Balloon Glow on October 11, 2026, at Elkhart Community Park at 6:30 pm. Karen Conn discussed Village Tree Lighting a proposed date is December 5, 2026. They may possibly add a Luminary Walk development is still in process. Information to come at the next board meeting. Karen Conn confirmed that Logan County submitted the complete Bike Trail application to the State of Illinois. It is anticipated that the State will respond next Spring/Summer 2027.
Halloween Trick or Treat hours were discussed and approved by the Board, Trick or Treating in the Village will be Saturday October 31, 2026, from 5:00pm to 8:00 pm.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT
No report.

STREETS/ALLEYS
John Galassi discussed trees blocking alley ways and clean up needed. The Board confirmed that the Village is responsible for up to 12 feet from the center of the alleys. There was discussion about lots needing to be cleaned up on Edwards Trace. It is confirmed that the Elkhart Hill HOA is responsible for the activity, not the Board. There will be follow-up with the HOA. Lyle presented the new street signs to the Board. The new signs will begin to be installed throughout the Village.

BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT
No report.

VILLAGE PARK
Matt Fights discussed adding millings and rock to improve the trails around the pond. The Board agreed.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
No report.

FINANCE
No report.

OLD BUSINESS
Chicken Ordinance Don Behle read the language specific to zoning of a property owners land within the Village limits- commercial verses agriculture- and also the types of animals that could be or were not permitted to be harbored on the land. Recommended working on language to amend the ordinance to further clarify zoning and restrictions.
The public in attendance spoke in favor of further clarifying the ordinance to allow for poultry on a resident's property and to define restrictions within the Village limits.
Conn indicated that this was an opportunity to put ideas together and work with the Village residents to present an updated ordinance at the next Board meeting in November.
Moore stated that the Board may wish to vote to bring forth a new ordinance to present to residents. The Current ordinance has been applied to other requests in the past, which resulted in denial of poultry and other farm animals from being raised on a resident's property.
The Trustees discussed polling the Village residents on their support for or against updating the Village's Chicken Ordinance.

The Board agreed to poll residents on their interest in this topic, and to table the topic until the next board meeting in November. The Board will include a brief survey for residents in the October Elkhart Echo to indicate their support for
or against having Chickens on homeowner's property within the Village limits. Residents can complete the survey and drop it off at the Village (in the mail drop box) before the next board meeting. In addition, the Board would post a brief survey on Facebook as a second source to gather feedback from residents.
The Board members also want to consider and discuss how changes to the ordinance would be enforced and what limits would be imposed on residents such as the total number of chickens that would be permitted on a property.

NEW BUSINESS
No report.

RESOLUTIONS
None.

ORDINANCE
No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
None.

ADJOURNMENT
7:00p.m. Motion by Matt Fights, second by Travis Moore, to adjourn. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

Next meeting – 11/2/26
Submitted By: Jacinda Noltensmeier Village Clerk

NEWSLETTER INFO

All material for the November 2026 newsletter should be turned in before
5:00 p.m. on ***November 4, 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 October 15, 2026, at 11:30am at The Wild Hare.

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

****BINGO IS CANCELED IN NOVEMBER DUE TO ELECTION DAY ON 11/3****

Elkhart Community Senior's Bingo

(the over 55 crowd)

Sponsored by NAG

First Tuesday of each Month

2:00 pm

Village Hall



October 2026

Celebrating Dolly Parton and the Imagination Library

Let's celebrate reading, creativity, and big imaginations all year long!
Every child can join in, and there are two fun ways to participate.

Coloring Pages

Each coloring page will have a different theme every month.

Color your page at the library or take it home to finish, then bring it back or leave it at the library and we'll display it for everyone to enjoy.

We can't wait to see your creativity!

Activity Pages

Preschool activity pages that go with a book Dolly featured through the Imagination Library will be available each month. (Older children are welcome to enjoy them too.)

October's book is Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter. The pages include a simple craft and little games.
We'll print your activity pages at no cost.
Just stop by the library to pick up your set!

**Every book can spark a new adventure,
and every imagination has something special to share.
Let's make this a year full of stories, color, and imagination!**

FLU SHOT CLINIC

The Logan County Health Department will be back again to administer flu shots on

**MONDAY, Oct. 26th
from 4:30 - 6pm**

As always, if you need to remain in your car someone will assist you curbside.
Stop by the library any time to get your vaccination form in advance, and be sure to remember your Medicare or insurance card.

Questions? Call us at 217-947-2313.

Vacancy

There's an opening on our board of trustees, and we invite you to join us.

The remainder of this term is two years. Meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of the month (except Nov/Dec when they're one week earlier) and usually last 30 - 40 minutes. Still not sure? Come observe a meeting and see what you think, we'd love to have you and answer any questions.

REMINDER: The library will be CLOSED on Monday, Oct. 12th for Columbus Day.

Elkhart Public Library District

elkhartlibrary.lib.il.us

State of the Society 2026
Elkhart Historical Society
P.O. Box 255, Elkhart, IL 62634
www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org

Celebrating 38 Years of History, Preservation, and Community

As 2026 draws to a close, the Elkhart Historical Society is proud to share this State of the Society letter in celebration of our 38th year. Founded in November 1988, the Society continues to be guided by its original mission: *"To preserve and restore what is historically valuable and integral to the Village of Elkhart—for the betterment of all."* This year, that mission was reflected in meaningful programs, memorable gatherings, and the continued support of members, volunteers, and friends who care deeply about Elkhart's heritage.

Throughout the year, we welcomed members, neighbors, and visitors to a variety of events designed to connect our community with the people, places, and stories that shaped Elkhart. Our four lecture dinners brought together audiences for evenings of learning and fellowship. We also continued beloved outdoor traditions, including our popular Wildflower Walks, and offered an enchanting second annual Firefly Walk and Picnic.

Our 2026 programs highlighted a rich range of historical subjects. Audiences were captivated by Pam Brown's dramatic portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln in *"Taking Leave,"* an exploration of Mrs. Lincoln's final moments at the White House. Anna Sielaff led us along Edward's Trace, Scott McCoy invited us to "get our kicks" with *"The History and Future of Route 66,"* and Rick Klinedinst helped us consider the man and the myth of Abraham Lincoln. Each program strengthened our shared appreciation for local, regional, and national history. Lastly, we took part in bringing Elkhart residents and friends together for our first "Elkhart Homecoming" in 25 years.

As the year winds down, we look forward to welcoming guests to one of our most cherished traditions: the **Christmas Candlelight Service** at historic St. John the Baptist Chapel on Elkhart Hill. This year's theme, *"Christmas at Valley Forge,"* will be presented across four services on Saturday. More than 280 guests will experience the talents of vocalists Megan Drake and Paul Drake, with narration by Mark Anderson. Surrounded by candlelight, luminaria, and festive greenery, the chapel will once again offer a beautiful setting to begin the Christmas season. Reservations open October 26 for members and October 28 for non-members, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Details are available at www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org or by calling 217-947-2238.

Looking ahead to 2027, we warmly invite you to renew your membership—or to join the Society for the first time. Your support makes our programs, preservation work, and community outreach possible. Annual dues are $20 for seniors age 65 and older, whether single or household, and $25 for regular members. Each 2027 member will receive a complimentary calendar celebrating Elkhart's legacy. To participate in the 2027 dues drive, please visit www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org, call 217-947-2238, or respond to our annual mailing.

On behalf of the Elkhart Historical Society Board of Directors, thank you for your generosity, enthusiasm, and continued commitment to preserving the history of our village. We are grateful to all who attended events, renewed memberships, volunteered time, shared stories, and helped carry our mission forward. We wish you and your family a joyful Christmas season and a bright New Year.

Warmly,
The Elkhart Historical Society Board of Directors

Ken Reese, President | Jamie Hobson, Secretary | Gillette Ransom, Treasurer
Carolyn Sue Brooks | Cynthia Clark | Tom Larson | Mary Buckles

Elkhart Historical Society
Press Release
A Valley Forge Christmas
Christmas Candlelight Services at St. John the Baptist Chapel in Elkhart
December 5

Celebrate the wonder of the Christmas season with the Elkhart Historical Society's 36th annual Candlelight Service titled, "A Valley Forge Christmas" on December 5. The historic St. John the Baptist Chapel in Elkhart will glow with candlelight as we gather for this treasured holiday tradition. Choose from services at 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., or 8:00 p.m. Each service lasts approximately one hour.

Let the music and story of the season fill your heart. The program will feature Marcy Brooks on piano and organ, narrator Mark Anderson, vocalists Megan and Olson Drake. Come enjoy their inspiring performances amid the soft candlelight and timeless beauty of the stone chapel atop Elkhart Hill.

Reservations are required, so gather your family and friends and call early! Reservations may be made by calling 217-947-2238 and will be accepted in the order received. The reservation line is open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Members may begin calling on October 26, and reservations open to the general public on October 28. Admission is $15 per person.

Turn your visit into a festive day in Elkhart by pairing the service with a delicious meal. For lunch reservations only at the Wild Hare Café, please call 217-947-2100. For dinner reservations at Oma's Kitchen and Bierhaus, visit elkhartstation.com. Dining reservations should be made directly with the restaurant. Since each service lasts approximately one hour, we recommend making dinner reservations for after your service. If you plan to eat beforehand, please arrive at the chapel at least 15 minutes before your service begins. As you plan your holiday outing, kindly remember that there are no restrooms at the chapel.

As a new year approaches, it is also the perfect time to renew or purchase your 2027 membership! Senior memberships are $20, and all other memberships are $25. If you would like your calendar mailed to you, simply include an additional $3 for postage. We look forward to celebrating the season with you!

For everyone's safety, services may be moved to another location if conditions at the chapel are unsafe. Tickets will remain valid for the same service time, and guests will be notified promptly of the new location. If a service must be canceled, ticket holders will receive information about available refund or credit options.

ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 255
ELKHART ILLINOIS 62634

Christmas Candlelight Service "A Valley Forge Christmas"

Saturday December 5, 2026

Name _____address _____city St. zip_____

Please reserve _____seats at 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. **(circle time)**

PHONE _____ e-mail_____ Total number x $15 _____

Please call for reservations 217-947-2238 starting October 26th for members & October 28th for non-members between 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., be sure to state your name, number in your party, time of service you prefer, and your phone number, we will call back to confirm. **One check for everything**, including tickets and membership, made payable to the Elkhart Historical Society.

Mail promptly as seats **cannot be held for more than 5 days without payment**. To receive your chapel tickets **by mail** please include a **self-addressed stamped envelope**.

Service reservations can be held at door_____ (For Chapel only)

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For lunch reservations at Wild Hare Café you must call 217-947-2238
To make dinner reservations at Oma's Kitchen & Bierhaus go to elkhartstation.com

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2027 AND CALENDAR ORDER FORM

name_____ address_____ city State zip _____

phone _____ Renewing $20 Senior Citz/Family _____ $25 Reg/Family_____

e-mail address print clearly_____

Please add_____ extra calendars @ $25 ea. (postage if mailing $3 ea.) Total _____

Please check box to **remove** your name from the mailing list. ☐ Wherever possible we would appreciate using emails as it is much less expensive for us, and we can let you know of other upcoming events.