

ELKHORN™

WISCONSIN



ELECTED

OFFICIALS

- Mayor:** Bruce Lechner
- District One:** Tim Shiroda
- District Two:** Frank Boggs
- District Three:** Ron Dunwiddie
- District Four:** Scott McClory
- District Five:** Tom Myrin
- District Six:** Karel Young

CITY DEPARTMENTS

City Hall	723-2219
Assessor	1-800-770-3927
Building Inspection	741-5124
Library	723-2678
Fire/EMS	723-2277
Municipal Court	723-2340
Police Department	723-2210
Public Works	723-2223
Recreation Dept.	741-5114
Utility Billing	723-2910
Utility Operations	723-3138
Zoning	741-5124

After Hours (Electric, Water, Sewer)
Emergency No. 741-3229
City of Elkhorn
P.O. Box 920 9 S. Broad Street
Elkhorn, WI 53121
cityofelkhorn.org

Ground Breaking for the New Municipal Administration Building

The City of Elkhorn awarded a contract in July, 2020 to construct a new Municipal Administration Building. Construction commenced in August and the planned completion date is July, 2021. This building will replace the present City Hall at 9 S. Broad Street. The new facility will house the same operations, which are City & Utility administrative services, Building & Zoning services and Public Works Administration services.

Changes made to City Open Burning Ordinance

The city's ordinance, Chapter 5.17 titled *Outdoor Fires*, was updated this past winter. One of the changes made to the ordinance includes allowing campfires, by permit, 12 months of the year rather than just a portion of the year (permit applications can be obtained at City Hall). The biggest change to the ordinance is banning open burning. Residents may no longer burn leaves at any time. Officials chose to coordinate the banning of leaf burning with the expansion of yard waste drop-off hours at the new public works building.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Greetings from your Mayor,

I have had great pleasure in working with the residents, council, and administration since I took office in April. I do not think anyone can disagree that this year has been rather unusual.

Six months ago, when the Covid-19 outbreak hit, our lives were flipped upside down. I know it has taken a toll on so many local businesses, restaurants, students, and concerts. Unfortunately, many events were cancelled and we were unable to open Sunset Pool this year.

Now, that the schools have re-opened, students are participating in sports and other after school activities. Many people have returned to their jobs, yet some are still working from home. The City of Elkhorn has still been able to host events such as Saturday on the Square, thanks to the vendors and residents who were still able to attend. The 14th Annual Elkhorn Oktoberfest will be underway on Saturday, October 17, 2020 in downtown Elkhorn from 9am-5pm. Please visit www.elkhornchamber.com for more information. I look forward to seeing you all there. The city-wide Trick-or-Treat is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 5pm-7pm. Soon it will be time for the Annual Christmas Card Town Parade on Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 1:30pm.

We are working hard on many city projects, such as breaking ground for the New City Hall, which is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2021, improving the city streets, and have also begun discussing a Senior Activity Center. I encourage all of our residents to attend public meetings and provide comments. I hope that there is at least one positive you can all take from this global health pandemic. We will get through this together and become stronger. Feel free to reach out to your local alderperson or myself with any concerns, ideas, questions, or comments. Please visit our website at www.cityofelkhorn.org.

Sincerely, Mayor Bruce Lechner



**The General Election
is Tuesday, November 3rd
at the National Guard Armory
REMEMBER YOUR PHOTO ID!**



The Election will take place at the Armory, 401 Fair Ave., from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To register or request an absentee ballot, go to <https://myvote.wi.gov/>

call 1-866-VOTE-WI or contact the City Clerk at 262-723-2219

SUMP PUMP AND CLEAR WATER DISCHARGE

Please be advised that an Ordinance adjustment regarding sump pump discharge was in effect on April 1, 2020 (Ordinance Chapter 13.4.040). Summarized adjustments are as follows:

- All sump pumps shall be connected to existing City of Elkhorn storm sewers as long as said City systems are within or near the existing parcel's frontage and out of the roadway.
- Sump pumps not connected to a City of Elkhorn system (as allowed, as noted above) may discharge over hard surfaces from April 1st to November 1st; discharge to terraced areas (grass surfaces) is permitted year round.
- If sump pump discharge is determined to create a Public Nuisance by causing freezing or slippery conditions within public right-of-way then the nuisance shall be promptly and properly abated.
- Sump pump piping from a building or home to the City's storm sewer system shall be the responsibility of the property owner, including connection to the public sewer.



ELKHORN AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT



Public Safety Referendum

Vote November 3

For 135 years, the Elkhorn Area Fire Department has faithfully responded to calls for emergency services in the Elkhorn community including the City of Elkhorn, Town of Geneva, Town of LaFayette, and Town of Sugar Creek. Changing times have forced the department to make changes in how they meet daily requests for Emergency Services.

On the November 3, 2020 general election ballot, voters will be asked to allow the City and Towns to exceed levy limits to provide additional funding for the Fire Department. The question on the City ballot (*actual dollar amounts and percentages will be different for each Town*) will be:

“Under State law, the increase in the levy of the City of Elkhorn for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2021, is limited to 2.51%, which results in a levy of \$5,758,109. Shall the City of Elkhorn be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2021, for the purpose of enhanced Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by a total of 28.22%, which results in a levy of \$7,384,011, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$1,625,902 for each fiscal year going forward?”

YES _____ NO _____

ELKHORN AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT REFERENDUM CONTINUED...

The question will also be asked of voters in the Towns of Geneva, LaFayette, and Sugar Creek, either by referendum or resolution. Additional funding will allow the Fire Department to continue to provide essential services to the communities they serve.

The total anticipated expense to provide these necessary services is \$2,475,902, an increase of \$1,625,902 from the current budgeted amount of \$850,000. In addition to the annual budgeted amount, each municipality will be asked to assume a portion of that funding increase.

The issues facing Elkhorn Area Fire Department include:

- Call volume and requests for emergency services has increased 82% since 2010

- Declining applicants for Paid on Call (POC) positions resulting in decrease in POC staff to cover calls; POC staff has decreased by 50% since 2010 Declining availability of current POC staff due to other jobs/family commitments, etc.

- 11 full-time (Paid on Premise (POP)) staff are currently "leased" from a private vendor and continued availability is not guaranteed

- Increased reliance on mutual aid from neighboring departments to cover certain calls

- Lack of legal authority by Wisconsin law to increase funding without a referendum

Additional sustainable funding will allow the department to:

- Increase staffing levels necessary to meet the current and anticipated increase in calls for service

- Provide Paramedic level EMS care 24/7/365

- Employ all staff, both Paid on Call and Paid on Premise

The changes that have caused the need for this additional funding are not unique to the Elkhorn community and are being faced by communities throughout Wisconsin and our country.

LEVY IMPACT ON TAX BILL

City of Elkhorn: If the \$1,625,902 is paid entirely by the City, the tax bill impact would be \$182.62 per year (\$15.21 per month) on a property assessed at \$100,000. If all three Towns continue their contracts with the City to provide Fire/EMS services, the tax impact in the City would be reduced to \$106.83 per year (\$8.90 per month) on a property assessed at \$100,000.

Town of Geneva: The Town's share of the additional funding is \$260,144. The tax bill impact will be \$28.90 per year (\$2.41 per month) on a property assessed at \$100,000.

Town of LaFayette: Voters in the Town will not see the question on their ballot; it will be asked of voters at the Town's Special Meeting of the Town Electors in the form of a Resolution. The Town will be asking for additional funding for LaFayette's share of Elkhorn Fire and Rescue needs as well as for Town Road maintenance and repair. The tax impact per \$100,000 assessment for the total amount requested will be \$99.17 per year (\$8.26 per month).

Town of Sugar Creek: The Town's share of the additional funding is \$61,000.00. The tax bill impact will be \$16.64 per year (\$1.38 per month) on a property assessed at \$100,000.

LEARN MORE

The four municipalities and Fire Department are co-hosting a series of informational sessions. All interested individuals are encouraged to attend. To allow for the greatest attendance while allowing for physical distancing, all sessions will occur at the James A. Wehner Auditorium at Elkhorn Area High School.

Tuesday, October 13 | 6:30 pm

Saturday, October 24 | 9:00 am

Wednesday, October 28 | 6:30 pm

Physical distancing AND face masks will be required at each session. If you have specific questions you would like answered during one of those sessions, please e-mail your question(s) to Chief Rod Smith at rsmith@cityofelkhorn.org. If you are not able to attend one of the informational sessions and would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact one of your local elected officials.

Items to be Recycled



Have your trash and recycling out to the curb by 6:00 a.m.

Cardboard (flattened)

Clean cardboard only; broken down and flattened, and placed inside the cart.

Aluminum

Aluminum beverage cans only. No food trays, aluminum foil, etc.

Glass (bottles and jars)


No window glass, light bulbs, TV tubes, drinking glass, etc.

Tin and Bi-Metal Cans

Soup, vegetable, juice cans, etc. *All cans must be rinsed out completely.*

Plastic and Aseptic Containers

This includes plastic bottles with threaded caps with recycling symbol 1 through 5 and 7. Juice and milk cartons are also accepted. *All plastic bottles must be rinsed out completely.*

Look for  on the container.

Newspapers, Magazines, Office Paper

Glossy inserts, catalogs, mail circulars, phone books, paperback books, school papers, cereal boxes, envelopes, wrapping paper, etc.

Place your recyclables in the recycling containers provided. These containers are to be left with the residence if you move.

Please keep your recyclables separate from your other garbage and easily accessible. Keep carts at least three feet apart and away from other objects (mailboxes, light poles, etc.)

City of Elkhorn's Recycling Collection is **every other week**, the same day as weekly trash services

Please call **Advanced Disposal at 920-563-4505** with any service questions or issues

- ⊗ **NO MEDICAL WASTE**—i.e. needles, rubber gloves, oxygen tubes, IV bags, etc.
- ⊗ **NO YARD WASTE**—it is illegal to landfill these items
- ⊗ **NO WET PAINT or HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**—contact Walworth County for disposal of these items
- 👍 **EMPTY or DRY PAINT CANS**—these items may be placed in the standard trash containers

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT ADVANCED METERING IN ELKHORN

You may have heard information recently about advance meters – sometimes referred to as smart meters. Many electric and water utilities, including Elkhorn’s locally owned municipal utility, are making use of this technology. Wondering what this industry shift means for you here in Elkhorn? Read on for answers to some frequently asked questions.

Q. Is Elkhorn Utilities using advanced meters?

A. Yes. Following several months of careful research and consideration, the Elkhorn Common Council approved a plan to transition to advanced electric and water meters. Elkhorn’s not-for-profit, locally owned utility is making use of advanced metering as an important tool for the business of operating our community’s electric and water systems

Q. How do advanced meters work?

A. Advanced meters are a safe, secure and effective two-way communications link that will allow our utilities to provide proactive customer service, improve system reliability, and operate more efficiently.

Q. Why are these new meters being installed?

A. Advanced meters are an important tool for the business of operating our community’s electric and water systems. They will help our utility to operate more cost-effectively and to provide more proactive and reliable service to our customers.

Q. Will my utility rates go up as a result of advanced metering?

A. No. Our use of advanced meters is not anticipated to have any impact on electric or water rates. In fact, this new technology will help bring important savings to our community.

Q. How can advanced meters provide savings?

A. Elkhorn Utilities’ use of advanced meters will help us operate more cost-effectively for customers. The utility currently meters 4200 electric services and 4408 water services, and our old system requires sending workers out in trucks and on foot to complete monthly readings, conduct regular testing, and perform disconnections and reconnections for these meters. Because advanced meters allow these functions to be carried out remotely, Elkhorn Utilities’ new metering system will eliminate nearly all of these expenses.

In addition, the use of advanced meters can more quickly alert us to problems that drive up costs for our utilities and our customers. We will be able to more quickly alert customers to costly water leaks. Advanced meters also allow faster detection of instances of theft and meter tampering, which are dangerous and costly for our system. In the future, advanced meter data will enable our customers to analyze their electric and water consumption. They will also take advantage of demand-response programs that will provide customers with more control over their usage and bills.

Q. How will advanced meters improve my utility service?

A. Advanced metering will enable our staff to provide proactive customer service. Advanced metering allows faster detection of service related problems such as electric outages, power quality issues, water leaks, and potential sources of water cross-contamination. Transitioning to the new meters also helps ensure that our electric and water systems will stay in good working order for the years to come.

Q. Will my privacy be compromised?

A. No. As always, our utilities take seriously our obligation to protect your privacy. That will not change with the use of advanced meters.

CALL US AT (262) 741-5129 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Q. What assurance do I have that my privacy is protected?

A. Utilities in our state are required to strictly protect your customer usage and billing information. Elkhorn Utilities works constantly to safeguard this data.

Q. Will the advanced meter make it possible to know what I'm doing inside my home?

A. No. The only information collected by an advanced meter is how much energy and water is consumed based on time of day, not how the energy or water was used. Advanced metering cannot detect the presence of people in their homes, nor can it collect information about customer's personal activities or private lives.

Simply put, the information collected by an advanced meter will be used for the same purpose as the data from the old meters: measuring consumption and preparing a bill.

Q. Are advanced meters safe?

A. Yes. While wireless advanced meters have become the subject of considerable attention for their use of low-level radio frequencies (RF), in-depth review of the scientific literature by the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that the small amount of RF energy produced by smart meters is not harmful to human health.¹

Q. What is the timeframe for Elkhorn's advanced metering initiative?

A. Following several months of careful research and consideration, the Elkhorn Common Council approved a plan in this Spring to transition to the use of advanced electric and water metering. In August, the Elkhorn common Council approved the project financing.

Elkhorn's advanced metering initiative is expected to proceed as follows:

- *Fall/Winter: Utility software installation and data management system testing*
- *Winter: Installation of new electric and Spring 2021 installation of new water meters/nodes*
- *Summer 2021: electric meter installations completed*
- *Fall 2022: Water meter installation completed*

Q. What changes will I see when my meter is installed?

A. You likely will not notice any change, but once your advanced meter is installed, your usage data will be transmitted securely and efficiently to Elkhorn Utilities.

Q. What if I have questions or want more information?

A. Please contact our Utilities Operations Center at 262-723-3138 and our staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

1 World Health Organization. <http://www.who.int/peh-emf/about/WhatisEMF/en/index1.html>

In the US, the FCC establishes the requirements for use of the RF spectrum and acceptable exposure limits for the public. Elkhorn Utilities' advanced meters comply with and exceed these requirements, as well as international requirements set by global bodies.

Elkhorn Utilities takes your health and safety seriously and would never install equipment that would jeopardize our relationship with you. The well-being of our customers is our community-owned Utilities' top priority.

CALL US AT (262) 741-5129 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Q. How significant is the RF signal from an advanced meter?

A. The low level of RF emissions associated with advanced meters is far smaller than that of the other common household items.² In fact, everyday devices such as cellular phones and microwave ovens typically cause far greater RF exposure than advanced meters.³ In terms of RF output, Elkhorn Utilities' advanced meters typically compare as follows to other common household wireless devices:⁴

Smart Meter
900 MHz radio



Baby Monitor
7 x greater



Wii Remote Controller
30 x greater



Nintendo DS with WiFi
180 x greater



WiFi Access Point
400 x greater



Cordless Phone
1,000 x greater



Cell Phone
1,000 - 10,000 x greater



Furthermore, RF exposure decreases with distance from the device. Elkhorn Utilities' advanced meters are typically installed on the exterior of a building, whereas much higher-emitting devices such as microwaves and mobile phones are often operated a few inches or a few feet from the user. In addition, while other common household devices emit RF signals far more frequently, or even constantly, Elkhorn Utilities advanced meters typically will only transmit a signal four times per day, and each transmission lasts for approximately one second.

² Environmental Defense Fund. <http://www.who.int/peh-emf/about/WhatisEMF/en/index1.html>.

³ Richard A. Tell, Richard A. Tell Associates, Inc. (April 6, 2005)

⁴ Based on FCC 47CFR1.1310, which averages exposure over 30 minutes of usage. Comparative data provided by Itron.

CALL US AT (262) 741-5129 FOR MORE INFORMATION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

FREE

6 FEET TRICK OR TREAT



- WEAR YOUR COSTUME
- BRING A FLASHLIGHT & CANDY BUCKET
- WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

THE ULTIMATE SOCIAL DISTANCING OPTION!

SUNSET PARK HILL PATH

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

FUN "TRICK STATIONS" USE CREATIVE DELIVERY METHODS FROM 6 FEET AWAY TO DISTRIBUTE PRE-PACKAGED TREATS!

(262) 741-5114 SEE FACEBOOK EVENT FOR UPDATES: ELKHORN RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES

City Hall will be closed in observance of holidays during the fall and winter, the dates are:

- Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27
- Thursday, December 24 & Friday, December 25
- Thursday, December 31 & Friday, January 1
- Friday, April 2

Winter & Spring Elections (7 a.m. to 8 p.m.):

- November 3rd, General Election, at the National Guard Armory
- February 16, 2021 Spring Primary (if needed)
- April 6, 2021 - Spring Election

WHAT'S NEW AT MATHESON MEMORIAL LIBRARY?

2020 has been a tumultuous year so far but the library is slowly returning to 'normal'. We have been open since June 8 with reduced hours and after Labor Day switched to our new fall hours which will be in effect through the end of the year.

Current Hours are:

Monday 9 am-8 pm
Tuesday-Friday 9 am-6 pm
Saturday 10 am-2 pm

Most of our collections are open for browsing, including the movie section and the children's area. We ask all patrons to wear a mask, social distance six feet, and use the hand sanitizer at our entrance. Thank you for cooperating with our safety guidelines!

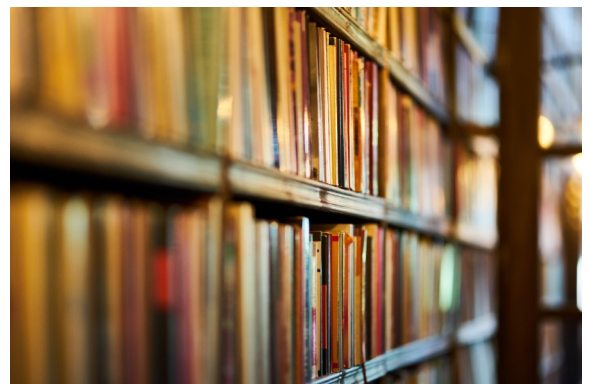
We switched over to all online programs this year so we are not gathering in large groups. Check the calendar on our website, <https://www.elkhorn.lib.wi.us/wordpress/> to register for these programs via Zoom. A library card is free for all area residents and is an important school supply for every child. Your library card will give you access to books, movies, video games and so much more! You can use any of the free resources on our Digital Resource page. Download free ebooks with Hoopla or the Overdrive/Libby app and download magazines with Flipster. (Both Hoopla and Overdrive have thousands of ebook and audio titles.) Other databases include Ancestry.com for genealogy research, CreativeBug to learn about craft and hobby projects, Duolingo to learn a foreign language, Kanopy to stream movies, Brainfuse to provide homework help for students, and much more. Now is the time to check out all these great resources.

We plan to offer a few in-person programs this fall with limited registration so check our calendar for more information. Sorry, no story times yet! The library is also participating in the Elkhorn Recreation Department's "6 Feet Trick or Treat" on October 30. Join us from 5:00 - 7:00 pm in Sunset Park for fun and lots of candy! You can sign up for our library newsletter here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxe3rkfp> for more information and to stay up-to-date on library happenings.

Support the Friends of the Library by joining for just a \$10 membership fee. We are always looking for new members and volunteers to help. The Friends supply our ongoing Book Store in the library where you can purchase books any time. Unfortunately, the popular fundraiser, Trick or Trivia, will not be held this year but we hope to bring it back in 2021. Membership applications are available at our main desk.

As always, I encourage you to contact me with any comments or suggestions regarding the library. You can reach me by phone at 262-723-9140 or by email at lselje@elkhorn.lib.wi.us

Lisa Selje
Library Director



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Jesus Armando Sanchez

Jesus Armando Sanchez joined the Department of Public Works in December 2019. He has lived in Elkhorn for the past 30 years and is also a member of a local non-profit organization called the “Rustic Road Riders” which raises money for Children’s Hospital.

“My hobbies include camping with my family, riding my motorcycle, enjoying the outdoors and spending time with family and friends but I especially enjoy spending time with my son Jesse. I am glad to join the DPW and serving the city of Elkhorn.”

Welcome Jesus!

Ryan O’Neill

Ryan O’Neill joined the Department of Public Works in January 2020. Ryan grew up in Elkhorn and is a 2001 graduate of Elkhorn Area High School. He has lived in the Elkhorn area most of his life and likes to volunteer at many local events. In his free time he also likes going to car shows and spending time with family and friends. He is very excited to join the city as a DPW Crewman because of his love of helping the community and making it a better place.

Welcome Ryan!



Marty Count

Marty Count started with the Electric Department in December 2019. He was born and raised in Elkhorn and graduated from Elkhorn High School in 2002. He graduated from Northwestern Lineman college in Meridian, ID in 2015. He obtained a 4 year apprenticeship at Madison Gas & Electric and became a Journeyman July of 2019. Before coming to Elkhorn, he worked for MGE for 4.5 years.

Welcome Marty!

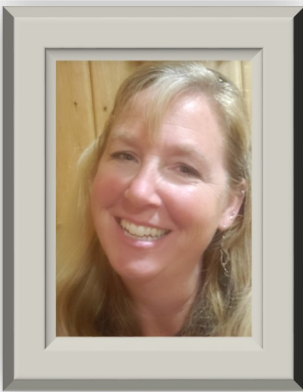
Shane Kurth

Shane Kurth started with the Water Department in 2019. He graduated from Burlington High School in 1990. Shane has been a Journeyman Plumber for 25 years. He lives in Lyons and enjoys riding his motorcycle and spending time at his cabin.

Welcome Shane!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED



Jodi Langer

Jodi moved to Salem, WI 26 years ago to raise her family. Upon becoming empty nesters in 2019, Jodi and her husband relocated to Elkhorn.

Jodi's favorite activities include exploring the US on her motorcycle with her husband and visiting their three children in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota.



Ben Lefevre

Ben attended the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, graduating with a Bachelor Degree in Criminology. He completed the 720 law enforcement academy at Gateway Technical College. He has just finished his first three weeks of field training.



William Pyle

William Hayden Pyle joined the Elkhorn Police Department in July of 2020. He is currently attending Gateway Technical College, pursuing a criminal justice degree. At present, William is a Community Service Office (CSO) at the Police Department. His end goal is to achieve his lifelong dream as a career as a police officer.

CITY DEPARTMENTS ARE ON FACEBOOK

[City of Elkhorn](#)

[City of Elkhorn Police Department](#)

[City of Elkhorn Utility Department](#)

[Elkhorn Recreation Department](#)

[Elkhorn Area Fire Department](#)

[Matheson Memorial Library](#)



City of Elkhorn, P.O. Box 920, 9 S. Broad Street, Elkhorn, WI 53121
Website: www.cityofelkhorn.org General email: info@cityofelkhorn.org
General number: (262)723-2219