

WELCOME

# CIVIC CONNECTION

*we're so glad you're here!*



**City of Elkhorn  
311 Seymour Ct.  
Elkhorn, WI 53121**

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**STAY CONNECTED!**  
**Scan the QR code to visit the  
city website.**  
**See our upcoming meetings  
& latest news!**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR



The relatively mild weather in February has many of us thinking about spring. I know it's been a difficult winter for ice-fishing, snowmobiling, and skiing enthusiasts except for a few weeks in January when we had several snowstorms and cold weather. The Public Works Department has been pleased by the lack of winter precipitation, although the week of January 7 to January 13 was challenging when two snowstorms impacted the City within a few days.

Special thanks to the Public Works team for putting in long hours to keep the streets clear during those storms.

Before looking ahead to spring, however, there have been several important developments the past few months since my last update in the fall/winter "Civic Connection." For example, on October 23, 2023, the Common Council approved Creekside Community Development's General Development Plan for the mixed-use residential and commercial development on S. Lincoln Street. Since then Public Works Director Matthew Lindstrom, Electric Department Superintendent BZ Kayser, and City Engineer Naomi Rauch have been assisting Creekside in planning for soil and erosion control as well as the layout of the new signalized intersection at Deere Rd. and S. Lincoln St.

In other economic development news, the City received news in January that Bielinski Homes is planning on proceeding with constructing 32 condos this spring as part of the Harvest Pointe Villas Condos near Walgreens on N. Wisconsin Street. We are encouraged by the news given the shortage of new residential housing in the City. In the past few months I have met with several other residential developers about possible projects, and we are hopeful there will be more housing projects in the future.

In early January the City transitioned from using Waste Management to LRS for residential recycling and solid waste collection. The transition went relatively smoothly, and we appreciated Elkhorn residents being accommodating and patient during the transition process.

In early January the City also welcomed half a dozen new Fire Department personnel, and Assistant Chief Trent Eichmann was appointed the interim fire chief following the retirement of former Fire Chief Rod Smith in early February.

On January 31, 2024, the City received a decision from the Public Service Commission approving a water rate increase—the first increase since 2017. The new rates start March 1, 2024 and will appear on bills mailed out at the end of April. Info about the new rates was included with the bills that were distributed at the end of February. This info is also posted on the City website at [www.cityofelkhorn.org/utilities/page/utility-rates](http://www.cityofelkhorn.org/utilities/page/utility-rates). The rate increase is greatly needed due to rising operational and maintenance costs as well as infrastructure improvements.

# Continued...

Looking ahead this spring is going to be another busy one. The City will be moving forward with the second phase of the Centralia St. Reconstruction Project, which includes the segment of E. Centralia St. near McKenzie Lane. The City will also be upgrading the Northeast Water Treatment Plant by installing a gravity sewer line and adding a segment of watermain to prepare for future use of well #10. The City will probably be postponing the rehab of the Lakeland Water Treatment Plant to 2025 due to possible federal funding for the project, which has been delayed due to the federal budget impasse.

There are several other important infrastructure projects in development. The Fire Department will be conducting a feasibility study on the fire station in the coming months to evaluate how the facility can be rehabbed to meet the needs of the full-time service.

Another infrastructure project is the rehab of the Sunset Park Band Shell. Recreation Director Karl Sorvick and Grant Writer Katie James are leading efforts to rehab the band shell in conjunction with the landmark's 100-year anniversary in 2026. Mr. Sorvick and Ms. James will be working with local charitable organizations, music groups, and other generous benefactors to help raise funds for the project.

Planning is also underway on how to use the 39.06 acres of property the City purchased from Walworth County last year on the north side of the City adjacent to the Stillwater Coffee Company and Frontida Assisted Living. Preliminary plans call for the undeveloped property to be used as a passive park with a walking trail.

In the coming months City residents will see further progress in the development of a downtown garden/park that will be located on private property but open to City residents as part of the Vibrant Spaces Grant. The new green space will be located adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce and is currently scheduled to be opened as part of the Chamber's 50-year anniversary in September.

Speaking of planning, City Clerk Lacey Reynolds and Deputy Clerk Rebeca Perez are busy preparing for the City's spring election and presidential preference vote on April 2, 2024.

As a reminder, the election will be held at the City Administration Offices from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. If you would like to verify your registration status or learn more about what's on the ballot, you can find this information at [MyVote.wi.gov](https://MyVote.wi.gov).

In closing, one event I have not yet covered in this update was the tragic shooting at the Sports Page Barr on Thursday, February 1, 2024. The deaths of Emerson and Gina Weingart shocked the community, and our thoughts and prayers go to their friends and families after this senseless act of violence. Although Elkhorn is a relatively safe community, the shooting shows that unfortunately no community is immune from violence. Public safety is a priority for the City, and we will continue to make it a priority. Thank you to Police Chief Joel Christensen, Confidential Secretary Theresa Boeger, and the entire Elkhorn Police Department for their professionalism and hard work following the tragedy.

If you want to learn more about the City's projects or have other questions or concerns about the City, please contact me at (262) 723-2219.





## A message from the library...

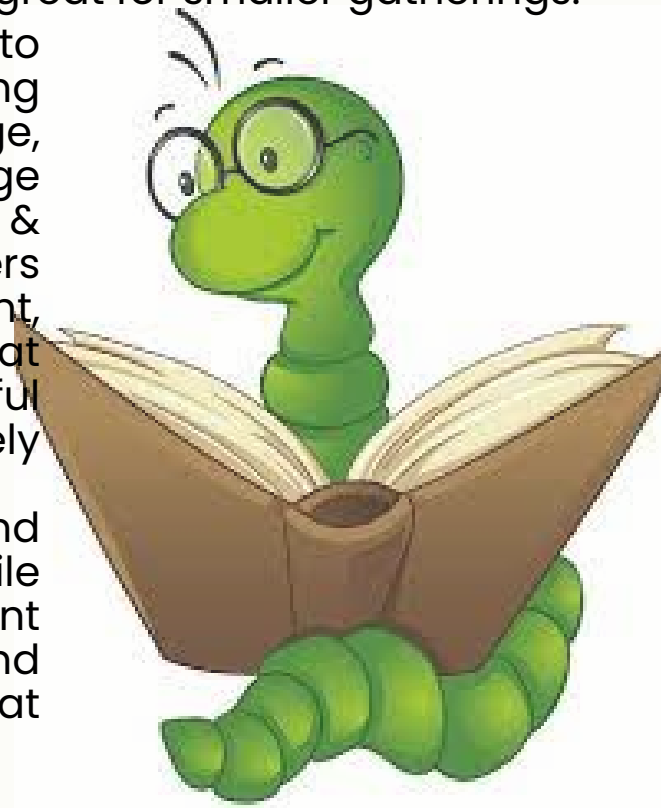
After a long, strange winter it's great to finally reach the spring! Here at the library, this is the time when we begin planning our summer reading programs in earnest. Each year, our staff works hard to plan a great summer reading experience for all ages, complete with events and programs that you're sure to enjoy. In addition, it marks the return of some of our annual traditions, like our community-wide read and our year-end celebration of our book club selections. And of course, we can never forget the big kickoff that happens at the beginning of our summer season! Please keep an eye on our online calendar and our seasonal newsletters so you don't miss a thing...very soon we'll be revealing our Big Community Read title...

Outside of our great programs, your library is here for all your reading and learning needs. Let this spring and summer be a time to learn a new skill, brush up on a favorite subject, or discover a new book that you'll fall in love with...and let us help with all of that. Our staff is here to support all your reading and education needs, regardless of age, experience, or subject, and we strive to provide a great collection of books and other learning and fun materials. Try us out!

Our beautiful building is a great place to read, find resources, or meet with friends while beating the heat. For clubs, groups, and nonprofits, our Friends Room and Mary Bray Room are excellent venues for holding meetings and discussions, and our three Study Rooms are great for smaller gatherings.

If you enjoy using the library and want to support us, there's no better way than sharing your talents with the Friends of MML. This large, diverse group of library lovers provide a huge amount of support to the library, from Book & Bake sales, author visits, and other fundraisers like our awesome annual Halloween event, Trick or Trivia. More importantly, it's a great way to make connections with a wonderful group of like-minded people who absolutely love the library.

We hope to see you here this spring and summer, and if you haven't visited in a while (or ever), we think you're in for a very pleasant surprise. Remember, this is your library, and we love to see you using it. Have a great spring and summer!







**City of Elkhorn**

# **Cat/Dog Licensing**



## **2024 Annual Fees**

**\$14 - Spayed/Neutered**  
**\$33 - Unaltered**

**City ordinance requires that all dogs and cats more than 5 months old be licensed.**

**To obtain a license you will need a current rabies vaccination certificate.**

**The license expires on December 31st each year and must be renewed before April 1st to avoid a \$5 penalty.**



**Pets can be registered at the City Administration Office**  
**311 Seymour Ct.**  
**Elkhorn, WI 53121**

**Or mail in your registration to City of Elkhorn**  
**P.O Box 920**  
**Elkhorn, WI 53121**



# ELECTIONS ARE COMING!

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### 2024 Elections:

April 2-  
2024 Spring & Presidential  
Preference Election

August 13-  
2024 Partisan Primary

November 5-  
2024 General Election



# VOTE

## Are you registered to vote?

Scan this QR code to visit  
MyVote!



Register to vote, change your address, check your registration status, find your polling place, see what's on your ballot, request an absentee ballot, check your voting history, find your ward, and elected official information 24 hours a day!

- **REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE** with your WI driver's license or WI ID (you must have your current address updated with the DMV).
- **REGISTER BY MAIL** up to 20 days before the election. You can start your voter registration form online at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov). Your form must be printed, signed, and mailed or delivered, to your municipal clerk. You must always provide a Proof of Residence document when registering.
- **REGISTER IN-PERSON** you may register in-person in the City Clerk's office up until the Friday before the election at 5 p.m. You must always provide a proof of residence document when registering to vote.



*Do I have the right ID?  
How do I get a State ID?  
Scan the QR code below  
to learn more!*



**BRING IT**  
— TO THE —  
**BALLOT**

# VOTING INFORMATION CONTINUED...

## What are the deadlines for making an absentee request?

**Online and by mail:** The request must be in the office of the municipal clerk no later than 5:00 pm on the 5th day preceding an election.

**In-person at the clerk's office:** Each municipal clerk's office sets its own schedule for in-person absentee voting.

**Note:** A person cannot request an absentee ballot and leave the clerk's office with the ballot. The ballot is either voted in the clerk's office, or the clerk must mail the ballot to the elector.

**If you vote absentee by mail, you will notice the certificate envelope has a new design!**

**Election Questions?  
Contact  
Lacey Reynolds- City Clerk  
or  
Rebeca Perez- Deputy Clerk  
(262)723-2219**

## ABSENTEE VOTING:

Request an absentee ballot at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) or visit us at the City Administration Offices to apply A photo ID is required to receive a ballot in all Wisconsin Elections

**Official Absentee Ballot Certificate & Application**

**CLERK OR DEPUTY >>> Initial Here >>>**      In-person absentee voter showed valid POI      Voter exempt from or met POI requirement

**STEP 1 CLERK OR VOTER must complete this part**

**Voter Information**      Election Date (mm/dd/yyyy) / /

City Name:       Village Name:       Town Name:

Name (Last, First, Middle)

Street Address

County      City

State      Zip      Ward      Ald. Dist

**STEP 2 VOTER must complete this part**

I certify, subject to the penalties for false statements of Wis. Stat. § 12.60(1)(b), that:

- I am a resident of the ward or aldermanic district of the municipality in the county and state of Wisconsin indicated hereon OR I am entitled to vote in the ward or aldermanic district at the election indicated hereon
- I am not voting at any other location in this election
- I am unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place in the ward on Election Day, or I have changed residence within the state from one ward to another less than 21 days before the election
- I displayed the ballot unmarked in the presence and in the presence of no other person marked the ballot enclosed and sealed it in this envelope in a manner that no one but myself and an assistant under s. 6.87 (5), if I requested assistance, would know how I voted
- I requested this ballot and this is the original or a copy of that request

X

**Voter Signature**

**Certification of Assistant** (if applicable)  
I certify that the voter is unable to sign their name due to a disability and that I signed the voter's name at the election and requested the voter

Assistant Signature

**STEP 3 WITNESS must complete this part**

I the undersigned witness, subject to the penalties for false statements of Wis. Stat. § 12.60(1)(b), certify that:

- I am an adult U.S. citizen
- The above statements are true and the voting procedure was executed as stated
- I am not a candidate for any office on the enclosed ballot (except in the case of an incumbent municipal clerk).
- I did not solicit or advise the elector to vote for or against any candidate or measure

**WITNESS REQUIRED**

X

**Witness Signature**

**Witness Printed Name**

# MEDICAL ALERT !

**Do you use medical equipment that needs electricity to run?  
Are you prepared for a power outage?**

To apply, complete a Medical Alert Response Application. The application does contain a section which must be completed by a physician and requires an **annual** renewal. The information on the application may be subject to verification and additional information may be required from you or your physician.

The Medical Alert Response Application is available at the City Administration Offices or on the City's website [www.cityofelkhorn.org](http://www.cityofelkhorn.org).

Completed forms may be submitted by mail or dropped off at the City Administration Offices.

For more information call 262-723-2219.

## Continue to Pay your Utility Bill this Winter.

The end of the winter moratorium is approaching. If you have a past due balance, you will see a disconnect date of

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

on your utility bill that will be mailed March 29, 2024.

In order to avoid disconnection of your service, either

pay your past due balance in full,  
seek assistance or if you are eligible, set up a  
**Deferred Payment Agreement (DPA).**

### **Deferred Payment Agreement (DPA) Rules:**

**Residential Tenant Customers will not be eligible for a Deferred Payment Agreement (DPA) if any of the following apply.**

- **The residential tenant has greater than \$100 of account arrearages that are more than 90 days past due.**
- **The residential tenant has defaulted on a deferred payment agreement in the past 12 months.**
- **The residential tenant is responsible for account arrearages that were placed on any property owner's tax bill in the utility's service territory in the past 24 months.**
- **The residential tenant has a balance that accrued during the winter moratorium that is more than 80 days past due.**



# Need Assistance on your utility bill?

## 2023-2024 Home Energy Plus Income Guidelines 10/01/2023 thru 09/30/2024



Assistance may be available through:

**Energy Services of  
Walworth County  
(262)427-8505  
Apply online at  
<http://energybenefit.wi.gov>**

Household Size	ONE Month	Annual Income
1	\$2,820.67	\$33,848
2	\$3,688.58	\$44,263
3	\$4,556.50	\$54,678
4	\$5,424.50	\$65,094
5	\$6,292.42	\$75,509
6	\$7,160.33	\$85,924
7	\$7,323.00	\$87,876
8	\$7,485.75	\$89,829

Free energy-saving products delivered right to your door and include a variety of products designed to reduce energy waste at home. Order your free pack\* now at [focusenergymarketplace.com/free](http://focusenergymarketplace.com/free) or give Focus on energy a call at 1-800-762-7077.



**focus on energy**<sup>®</sup>

Partnering with Wisconsin utilities

Before ordering your pack, please have your electric utility account numbers handy. Focus on Energy, Wisconsin utilities statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy, helps eligible residents and businesses save energy and money while protecting the environment.

**\*Limit of one pack per eligible household per year. Pack contents may vary.**

## City Administration Offices Closed:

- **Friday, March 29, 2024**
- **Monday, May 27, 2024**
- **Thursday, July 4, 2024**
- **Monday, September 2, 2024**

**After Hour Emergency Numbers:  
Power Outages (262)723-3229  
Water Dept (262)325-5766  
Public Works (262)729-2167**



# SPRING BRUSH COLLECTION SCHEDULE - 2024

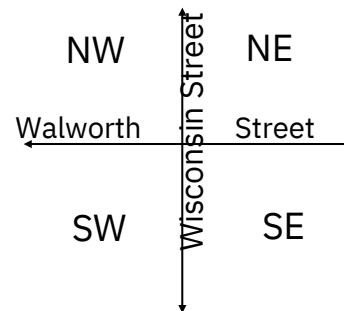
NOTE: Brush Collection during all weeks begins on Tuesday

Tuesday, April 2, May 7 & June 4: Northeast Section

Tuesday, April 9, May 14 & June 11: Southeast Section

Tuesday, April 16, May 21 & June 18: Southwest Section

Tuesday, April 23, May 28 & June 25: Northwest Section



## RESIDENT GUIDELINES:

- \*Do **NOT** co-mingle leaves with brush.
- \*Place cut ends facing direction of traveling traffic.
- \*Maximum Length—12 feet, Maximum Diameter - 9 inches.
- \*Brush should **NOT** be in terrace earlier than Saturday prior to collection week.
- \*Brush **MUST** be in terrace no later than 7 am of collection week.

The public works crew will begin the route on Tuesday morning and will pick up your properly disposed of brush sometime during your scheduled week. Please do not place brush out after the crew has gone by, they will only go through the route once during the week. **Parked cars must not block brush piles.** If you hire a contractor for tree work, **the contractor must take all debris.**

## SPRING LEAF COLLECTION - 2024

Spring Leaf Collection is scheduled to begin Monday, April 1st and ends on Friday, April 12. During leaf collection schedule, rake leaves into the street at least 1-foot away from the curb to allow storm water to pass and prevent flooding. The 1-foot gap also mitigates concerns with equipment being damaged and also the curb. Do not combine brush with leaves, the City offers a separate brush collection operation. Do not include pumpkins, litter or yard waste such as flowers, garden trimmings and weeds in leaf piles. Do not place leaves in bags or boxes. Place leaves when you are able throughout the Spring and Fall leaf collection schedule. Leaf collection operations will cycle through the City systematically with a goal of clearing it weekly.

- \*Rake leaves into street at least 12 in. away from curb to allow for passing storm water. Leaves will be collected from the street.
- \*Do **NOT** place leaves in the street sooner than the Saturday prior to your collection week.
- \*Leaves **MUST** be ready for collection no later than 7 am of the scheduled pickup day.
- \* Do **NOT** combine brush with leaves or place leaves in bags or boxes.

## YARD WASTE DROP-OFF SITE @ CITY DPW FACILITY

401 EAST CENTRALIA ST. ( SITE LOCATED @ END OF GETZEN ST.)

Opening Date: **April 1, 2024**

Closing Date: **December 1, 2024**

Open Daily: **8am-8pm**  
**(7days/week)**

- \*Leaves, vegetables, and grass clippings may be brought to the Yard Waste Drop-off site.
- \***NO** stumps, roots or shrubs with intact root balls
- \*Yard/garden debris and brush—including clean, woody vegetative material no greater than 9 inches in diameter.
- \*Tightly bundled tree limbs and branches no greater than 9in. in diameter and 12 ft. in length. **NO wire or nylon.**
- \*30 gallon paper bags or Dry cardboard boxes not larger than 3 ft. x 3 ft. **NO plastic bags.**

INFORMATION ALSO AVAILABE ON CITY OF ELKHORN WEBSITE AT [cityofelkhorn.org](http://cityofelkhorn.org) > City Services> Public Works>Compost Site

# QUESTIONS ON YOUR PROPERTIES ASSESSED VALUE? HERE IS SOME HELPFUL INFORMATION

The City maintains a full value assessment program through the services of Accurate Appraisal LLC. New construction and permitted improvements continue to be inspected annually. Properties are assessed using a market value analysis with necessary adjustments made to keep the assessed values at 100%. Property owners are notified prior to physical inspections being conducted and also when changes are made to their assessed value. **The assessor will be available for Open Book any time from when you receive your notice through May 15, 2024.**

## Open Book

(for residents without access to a computer)

April 17, 2024

10:00am-12:00pm

## Board of Review:

May 22, 2024

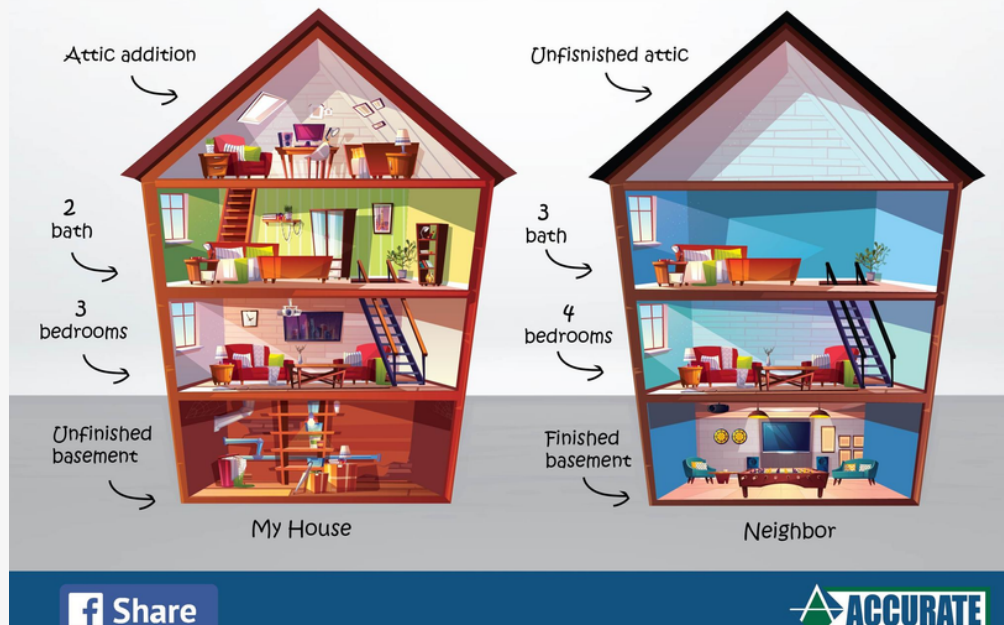
5:30pm-7:30pm

To schedule an appointment with the assessor during open book hours visit [www.accurateassessor.com](http://www.accurateassessor.com) and click the online appointments link at the top of the screen.

My Neighbor's house is ~~the same~~  
different



Scan the QR code to watch a video on what assessors do!



ACCURATE APPRAISAL | (920)749-8098

WWW.ACCURATEASSESSOR.COM







# latest news!

## **ELKHORN WINS US DOT RURAL & TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR CENTRALIA PROJECT**

The City of Elkhorn has been selected by the US Department of Transportation for a \$320,000 grant to assist with the design and engineering of the 2025 West Centralia Street reconstruction project. Elkhorn was 1 of only 13 rural communities selected in the nation, with a total of \$3.4 million awarded to advance vital transportation projects in underserved communities across the United States. The Build America Bureau, who is administering the program, shared in its press release that their administrators received 406 applications totaling \$127 million in funding requested from all 50 states.

Elkhorn Community Grant Writer Katie James said it was a long shot to win this grant because of its unique first-come, first-serve nature. Grant administrators opted to consider applications in the order they were received, beginning at 2:00pm CST on August 14, 2023, rather than a typical federal grant with a set due date, complicated scoring metrics, and hundreds of pages of requirements to complete. James knew the challenge wouldn't be in the five-page application, but rather the time it took to click "submit" on opening day.

"There were representatives from over 2,000 rural municipalities on the informational webinar, so I knew competition was going to be stiff." James said. She pre-wrote her application text, practiced filling out the application beforehand, and asked a coworker to double check her work when the department portal finally went live late last summer. Her submission time? "90 seconds!" James laughs. It was the second application received and fast enough to be awarded the maximum funding: \$320,000 with no local match required for the City of Elkhorn.

The Elkhorn Public Works Department is going to use those funds to assist with the upcoming West Centralia Street reconstruction and repaving, which is slated to begin next year.

Congratulations Elkhorn!







[cityofelkhorn.org/parksrec](http://cityofelkhorn.org/parksrec)

# SUNSET POOL

320 Devendorf St  
ELKHORN, WI

Zero Depth Entry // Concessions  
Kiddie Slide // Drop Slide // Water Table  
Geysers // Lap Swim // Swim Lessons  
Aqua Fitness // Special Events

## JUNE 8 - AUGUST 18

Open Swim Daily:  
11:00AM - 6:00PM

More info:



# \$6.00

Daily Admission  
Ages 2 & Under: Free  
Memberships Available

# SUNSET CAMP

Recreation Center  
200 Devendorf St  
ELKHORN, WI

- 1st-5th Grade 2024/25 School Year
- Monday-Friday
- 11 Weeks from June - August
- Swim at Sunset Pool
- Crafts, Games, & More
- Field Trips & Special Guests
- Weekly Themes

## REGISTER TODAY!

Payment Available: 262-741-5114      Plans Available

More info:



# Say hello to your new city employees!



## Michael Georgalas

Michael has been a resident of Elkhorn for 8 years. He's the newest addition to the Department of Public Works team. He is glad to be working and making a difference in his community.

## Tina Zabler

Tina resides in the Burlington area where she and her husband raised their family, and now enjoy their two grandchildren.

When not at work, you can find her gardening, camping, fishing or out on the ATV trails of Wisconsin. She is happy to be serving the residents of Elkhorn as the new Customer Account Clerk!



## Tressa Lamella

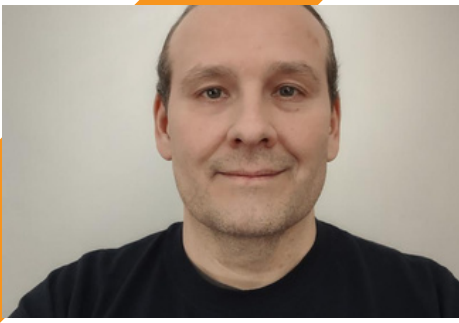
We are welcoming a new face to the library, Tressa Lamella, who will be taking over Sara's former position as Circulation Associate. Tressa comes to us with many years of library experience and is looking forward to getting to know and serve the Elkhorn community. Welcome to the library Tressa!

## Jess Nicikowski

Jess has been in emergency services for 7 years now. She is a mom of a beautiful six year old daughter. Jessica loves hiking, kayaking and reading. She spends most of her time with her family and is very involved with her church. Jess is so excited to be a part of EAFD!







## Jeremy Castel

Jeremy has been in EMS for 28 years and a Critical Care Paramedic for 23 years!

## Ben Kempen

Ben is joining us full-time with the fire department. He is a Fond Du Lac native. He's been married for 8 years to his wife Madalyn and has two kids Macie (6) and Tucker (4). Ben comes from being a personal trainer for over 8 years. He loves to spend time with family & friends along with his dog Chandler and cat Hank. He also enjoys keeping up with the Wisconsin sports teams!



## Tristan McNamara

My family and I reside in rural Walworth County. We keep a small hobby farm together to keep us humble and teach our children the rewards of hard work and dedication. I have worked in the fire service for over 6 years, starting as a volunteer. Now I am proud to be a part of a young, progressive fire department here in Elkhorn. We are here to serve!



## Daniel Ace

Daniel is a native of East Troy. He comes with a background in firefighting and EMS ranging from volunteer and combination to career. Daniel is excited now to be serving the City of Elkhorn and the surrounding communities.



## Trent Eichmann- Interim Fire Chief

I am a 2nd generation fireman. My mother and stepfather were in the fire service. My wife and I have 7 adult children between the 2 of us and 11 grandchildren. We have 2 German Shepherds that keep us busy in our time off of work. We enjoy camping and are happy to be back in Wisconsin and look forward to finding a property up north for us and our families to enjoy!



# CITY OF ELKHORN FIREWORKS

FRIDAY  
**June**  
**28th** 2024

***SUNSET PARK,  
ELKHORN***

See Facebook:  
Elkhorn Recreation  
Department  
for rain cancellation  
notification

**Sunset Pool Open 'til 8PM!**

5:00 PM: FOOD VENDORS

7:30 PM: HOLTON BAND

DUSK: FIREWORKS

Available for purchase  
from Elkhorn FFA and  
Elkhorn 4-H:  
hot dogs, brats, burgers,  
sweet corn, popcorn, ice  
cream and more!