

# Civic Connection

. . .A message from your City

## City of Elkhorn

P.O. Box 920  
9 S. Broad Street  
Elkhorn, WI 53121

City Hall	723-2219
Public Works Dept.	723-2223
Parks & Rec. Dept.	723-2223
Light & Water	723-2910
Building Inspection	741-5115
Assessor	1-800-770-3927
Police Department	723-2210
Municipal Court	723-2340
Library	723-2678

### Elected Officials

**Mayor:** Michael Roberts

### City Council Districts:

One:	Howie Reynolds
Two:	John Karcher
Three:	Doug Gallagher
Four:	John Giese
Five:	Charles Van Dyke
Six:	Julie Taylor

### Staff:

City Administrator:	Sam Tapson
City Clerk:	Nancy Jacobson
City Treasurer:	Mary Hinske
Public Works:	Terry Weter
Parks & Recreation:	Dan Wick
Electric Supervisor:	Mike Lange

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## Sunset Park Pool gets face lift for 2003 Season

The Sunset Park Municipal Pool seems to be the place to go during summer for Elkhorn's residents. Following its closing over Labor Day weekend, Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick tallied up the numbers. The pool served 14,384 during the 2002 season.

The City Council decided to expand the life of the pool at a cost of \$114,480. The contractor provided a 10-year warranty on the pools. Work began after the pool was closed for the season. RenoSys resurfaced both pools, including decks and walls. Steps were added to



Construction crew replaces surface of baby pool

the large pool to allow for easier access. Engineer Gary Welsh and City staff are currently working on the design for renovation of the pool house. It is expected that the work will be bid out

and completed by opening day for the 2003 season. Funds for the projects are part of the \$500,000 set aside for the pool in the Capital Improvements Program.

## 2003 BUDGET PROPOSED

The proposed 2003 Operating and Capital Budget sets total spending at \$24,613,856, which is to be applied to the following general expense groups:

General Operations [\$4,667,008]; Utility Operations [\$10,880,614]; Debt Service [\$2,256,234]; and Capital Projects [\$6,810,000]. Among the projects supported within the capital portion of the budget are: STH 67/S. Wisconsin reconstruction; Voss Road Electric Utility Substation; Library/Community Center; STH 67/Market Street Signalization; and Sunset Park Pool Restoration

A public hearing is on the agenda Nov. 18, 7 p.m. at the Council meeting. Copies of the budget are available for public inspection at City Hall and Matheson Memorial Library.



Steps added to Sunset Park Pool

## Christmas Card Town celebrates the holidays

**December 6:** Tree Lighting at F & M Bank — 6:30 p.m.

**December 7:** Annual Christmas Card Town Parade — 1:30 p.m.

**December 14:** It's A Wonderful Town — Elkhorn Retail Open House

## Employee spotlight

The City welcomes Rod Smith as full time Fire Chief. Smith began his full time duties on October 1, 2002. Under his command are 45 firefighters. He handles all fire inspections and reporting, training programs and daily operations. Public Education is important to the Chief. He is developing public education programs such as visiting schools and offering adult fire extinguisher training. Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Non-emergency phone number is 723-2277.

### **MILESTONES (25+ CLUB)** **Public Works Dept.**

Al Hegberg—30 years  
Carl Hugg—32 years  
Dave Gilbert—25 years

### **Electric Dept.**

Tim Leach—28 years

### **Police Department**

Bob Hutton—28 years  
Sue Zimmerman—29 years

### **Library**

Valerie Lapicola—35 years

### **RETIREMENTS**

Our congratulations and thanks go to Ray Otto (30 years), Mike Lange, (30 years) and Bob Hutton (28 years) for their years of service. Ray will be retiring Jan. 3, Mike Lange Feb. 14, and Bob in May of 2003.

### **GOOD JOB!**

Ed Gepford, Elkhorn, suffered heart failure on Aug. 31 in the front yard on N. Wisconsin St. Elkhorn Police Officers Joe Kirkpatrick, used the patrol car's defibrillator twice after which he began to breathe and a pulse was found. He has since made a full recovery.

### **PROMOTION**

Patrolman Jennifer Schmidt was promoted to Sergeant.

## FROM THE EDITOR . . .

I hope all of you had a great summer. As you can see by the street projects, the City's summer was a busy one. All of us at City Hall apologize for the inconvenience construction has caused on S. Broad Street and appreciate the patience you have demonstrated. The improved infrastructure and the beauty of the street will be worth it all in the end.

If there is any need for clarification or more information on a City issue, please call me at 723-2219 or send an e-mail to njacobson@elknet.net. Our next issue will be in the spring. If you want a specific story or information, let me know. Happy Holidays!

## WHEN THE LEAVES FALL . . .



After a season of mowing grass, painting strips on parking lots, and street repairs, the City joins its residents in preparing for the winter season.

### **Flushing fire hydrants**

During the months of November and December the Water Utility will be flushing fire hydrants. The city will be sectionalized into four parts: Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest. The dividing line for the city is Wisconsin Street for east and west, and Walworth Street for north and south.

The third week of November the Northeast and Southeast sections will be flushed. The next week is a short week with the holiday so we will continue the first week of December to flush the Northwest and Southwest portions.

You may experience at times some rusty looking water. You should allow the water to run a few minutes to clear up. If you have any concerns or problems call 723-2223.

### **Leaf Collection**

Crews began collecting leaves starting on October 21 and will continue until November 15. During the

next week the crews will be setting up the Christmas decorations on the square.  
**Winter parking**

A reminder that during the winter months snow shall not be plowed, pushed, thrown or shoveled onto the streets. This causes problems for vehicle traffic and requires extra time for the street crew to clear the streets.

December 1, 2002, marks the beginning of winter rules for parking on City streets. When the snow flies, cooperation is needed to allow the snow plows to do their job.

The rules are enforced as follows:

- Parking will be permitted on the even numbered sides of the street on even number calendar days; and,
- On the odd numbered sides of the street on odd numbered days.
- The day will be a 24-hour period beginning the preceding day at 5:01 p.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. that calendar day.
- If tomorrow is the 15<sup>th</sup>, an odd numbered day, the odd numbered side parking begins at 5:01 this evening, the 14<sup>th</sup>.



## AND THE SNOW FLIES

⚡All posted no parking zones will remain in effect.

Residents should be patient with the snow removal crews because they are attempting to have the major streets cleared by the time school starts and then they concentrate on the secondary streets. The streets that seem to always be last are the cul-de-sacs because they take the most time to clear. It may seem that your street is always last. The crews alternate routes after every storm s to alleviate the problem that one area has their snow removal completed first every time, with the exception of the school routes and downtown **Keep sidewalks clean**

Residents and business operators are reminded that the sidewalks are required to be kept clean and clear of snow and ice. It is still early, but we can expect occasional freezing rain or heavy frost, which can cause the sidewalks to be slippery. It is recommended to use a de-icing agent that will not harm the grass or concrete, these are sold at the local stores.

## Parks & Rec. Director takes Onalaska post

Dan Wick came to Elkhorn less than two years ago, but has made a major impact on the City's Parks and Recreation Department. He turned summer recreation into a year round program for all ages. Often, you would find him spending time with the seniors during Culvers Cards or working with youth organizations to better utilize the City's parks. Among his accomplishments are the renovation of the Sunset Park Pool, development of fall and winter programming, an improved and more extensive summer program, Parks and Rec. program guides and an agreement with the Elkhorn Area School District for the use school facilities including use of the school pool.

Dan has created a good foundation for his successor. We wish him luck in his new position. The enthusiasm, creativity, and never ending energy he gave to the Parks and Recreation Department, the City and its residents will be sadly missed.

## Utility bills do not go away during State's moratorium

November 1 marks the day that the State of Wisconsin winter moratorium begins. Annually, the date marks the time when utilities cannot disconnect its customers due to outstanding balances on their accounts. The State created the law to protect those who cannot pay their bills in full when temperatures may plummet. Disconnections begin again after April 16.

City Treasurer Mary Hinske recommends that customers continue to pay their light and water bills to the extent possible throughout the winter months. "Those who did not make monthly payments last year found themselves with large balances due on April 16 when

disconnects were again allowed." Hinske said. "Remember, the bill does not go away, it just accumulates with penalties."

REMEMBER, that Elkhorn Light and Water works with Community Action to assist customers with bill payments when financial difficulties exist. Customers can apply annually Oct. 1 through Sept. 30 for assistance through this program at (262) 728-8296.

If you are a customer who does not make payments during the moratorium but has the ability to pay, Elkhorn Light and Water can take the customer to court and seek treble damages—meaning the court would require the customer to pay three times the balance at the time of judgment.

## DVDs, CDs at MML

Music CDs, movies on DVD, and books on CD are being added to Matheson Memorial Library's collection. The popular formats have been around for some time, but library staff delayed adding them due to lack of space. "We decided we just couldn't wait any longer," said library director Valerie Lapicola.

More than 20 DVDs and several books on CD are being processed right now. A basic music CD collection will soon follow. The collections will be small to start with, but will grow quickly through the winter. The library still has an excellent collection of videos (both movies and educational non-fiction) and audio books on cassette, for those who prefer those formats.

Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, WI 53121, 262-723-2678.



## COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2001/2002

Elkhorn Light & Water began collecting Public Benefits program fees from its customers in October 2000. For the fiscal year (July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002), the total Public Benefits fees collected were approximately \$60,314. This was spent on the following programs.

### Low-income Customer Credit Program:

This program is intended to ease the energy burden facing our customers with limited financial resources.

Customers may be eligible for the Customer Credit Program under which they can receive an account credit of up to \$150 of their annual electric costs. Customers may also qualify for an annual Crisis Assistance payment of up to \$200.

FUNDS PAID FOR CUSTOMERS = \$23,027

NO. OF CUSTOMERS SERVED = 183

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS = \$7,320

AVERAGE SIZE CREDIT = \$126

### Energy Efficiency Programs:

This program focuses on electrical savings. Eligible savings include compact fluorescent light bulb installation, refrigerator replacement, and domestic hot water heating measures where homes have electric hot water heat (water heater tank wrap, pipe insulation, low-flow showerheads, and faucet flow restrictors.)

FUNDS SPENT = \$2,724

NO. OF CUSTOMERS SERVED = 8

REFRIGERATORS REPLACED = 2

NO. WITH CFL LIGHTBULBS = 8

NO. OF HOMES RECEIVING HOT WATER SAVING MEASURES = 0

Community Action, Inc., Delavan, has been contracted to administer the programs. Interested customers should call 728-8296 to inquire about assistance available.

Customers may make voluntary contributions to either or both of these worthwhile programs. Donations will be accepted at City Hall. These funds are available to Elkhorn Customers only.

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## 9th Annual Cookie Sale December 7

First Congregational United Church of Christ will hold its Christmas Cookie sale beginning at 10 a.m.



### Lakeland Players presents "Silent Night"

The Lakeland Players will present "Silent Night", a children's matinee at 4 p.m. at the Sprague Theater. December 7 and

### Love-Lite Christmas Tree Lighting

Compassionate Friends will light the Love-Lite tree in the Courthouse Square at 7 p.m. on December 8.



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## TEMPORARY POLLING PLACE FOR DISTRICTS 1, 2, 5 AND 6

Although, construction on S. Broad Street is moving forward at a steady pace, access may still be difficult for November 5 voters to vote at their regular polling places at City Hall and the Fire Station.

By resolution, the polling places have been temporarily moved to F & M Bank at 10 N. Lincoln Street. Districts 1, 2, 5 and 6 will be located in the Community Room at the Bank. The room is accessible by elevator or stairs. Enter at

the south end of the building.

If you are unsure of your District or polling place, please call City Hall and ask for City Clerk Nancy Jacobson or Deputy Clerk Shari McKinney.

District 3 and 4 will remain at the Community Center.

The polling places open at 8 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. If you have not registered to vote, you may do so at the polls. You will need some identification with your permanent address, such as your

driver's license or a utility bill. You are eligible to vote if you:

- Are a U.S. citizen
- Are 18 years of age
- Have lived in the election district for at least 10 days
- Does not have any other impediment to voting.

