



Ely Expression

ECR WSS
ELY, IA 52227

C O M M U N I T Y N E W S

Cook's Corner

Baked Ziti

- 1-pound hamburger
- 1-pound Italian sausage
- 1 large onion (chopped)
- 2 cloves garlic minced (optional)
- 1 green bell pepper (diced)
- 1 red bell pepper (diced)
- 1-cup parmesan cheese (grated or shredded)
- 1-pound box penne pasta
- 1 32-ounce jar spaghetti sauce
- 2-3 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 450° F.

Cook the pasta so it is slightly less done than "al-dente", rinse thoroughly with cold water, drain and set aside.

Brown the hamburger and sausage with the garlic and onion and drain well. In a large bowl combine the cooked pasta, cooked hamburger/sausage/garlic/onion mixture, green and red peppers, parmesan cheese and sauce. Place in a 13"x9" casserole pan, cover with aluminum foil and bake for 45 minutes (or until middle is hot). Remove aluminum foil, sprinkle the top with mozzarella cheese and bake until cheese is golden brown.

Website

Have you visited our website?

 elyiowa.com

New to the Website:

The City Hall Blog and Online Forum. This new feature encourages discussion of topics related to city activities. You are invited to visit the blog to read current blog postings and share your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

Coming Soon:

Many residents have asked the Utility Billing Department if there is another way to pay for the utility bill.

Currently our system only accepts cash, money order or check payments.

The Ely City Council has approved an upgrade to the utility billing system that improves efficiency and will also allow for payments to be received with Direct Payment Authorization.

Direct Payment Authorization will help you in several ways:

- It saves time and postage.
- Your payment is always on time and no late charges.
- It is easy to sign up for and easy to cancel.



Please call City Hall Utility Billing for more details. More information will follow as the upgrade comes closer to our expected launch date of April 1, 2009.

JAN – MAR
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City of Ely
1570 Rowley Street
P. O. Box 248
Ely, Iowa 52227

www.elyiowa.com

Ely Community TV
Channel 217
South Slope Digital Video

Phone/Fax: 848-4103
After Hours Emergency
Only: 848-7603

Regular business hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Office Closed:
New Year's Day, Memorial
Day, Independence Day,
Labor Day, Thanksgiving
Thursday & Friday, and
Christmas Day.

Council Meetings:
2nd Monday each month
7:00 p.m. in the Council
Chambers 2nd floor.
Public is welcome and
encouraged to attend.

Ely Mayor and City Council Plan for the Future

In December the Mayor and City Council updated Ely's 2 & 5 Year Capital Improvements and Program Plan for projects to be achieved in 2 and 5-year time frames. There was a lot of discussion about the plan and the activities to be performed under it because of the expected cost of some of the projects and the un-settled state of economy in general. Projects to be worked on in the next two years include: completing the water tower project; improving drainage in the Fuhrmeister Street area; and constructing a ball field and entrance off Hillcrest Street for the Ely City Park. Longer-range projects include upgrading State Street to better meet current and future traffic levels; extending water and sanitary sewer utilities to the northwest to support likely commercial and residential growth; and extending the Hoover Nature Trail through Ely. The complete 2 & 5 Year Capital Improvements & Program Plan is available at City Hall, or on the City's website at www.elyiowa.com.

Ely's Wastewater Treatment Plant

Work is now complete on Ely's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that was built to effectively treat Ely's wastewater so it meets state and federal water quality standards now and in the future. Work began in spring of 2007 and was completed in November at a cost of just less than \$2,490,000. Our WWTP is unique in Iowa because it uses a series of very large wheels to add oxygen to the treatment process, instead of blowers or air compressors. This makes the facility more energy efficient, less susceptible to mechanical failures and less expensive to operate than similarly sized facilities that use blowers. The WWTP has capacity for a population of at least 3,000 people and can be expanded fairly easily.

Snow Removal

It's winter, which means snow and having to remove snow from streets, sidewalks and driveways. Ely's Public Works crew asks you to not push snow into the street when you are clearing it from your driveway or sidewalk. We also ask you not to push snow across the street from your drive unless you have the permission of the property owner and make sure not to leave snow deposits in the street. Pushing snow into the street from your sidewalk or driveway is likely to result in big piles of snow in the street that can lead to traffic and parking hazards, especially if the snowplows have already gone by.

Possible Sewer Rate Increase

The City Council will consider increasing sewer rates to help pay for the new WWTP at their January 12, 2009 City Council meeting. They will consider increasing the minimum monthly sewer fee by \$2.00 per month; and adding \$1.50/1,000 gallons used to the current user fees for wastewater over 3,000 gallons per month. Ely utility bills for customers who use less than 3,000 gallons per month would increase \$2.00 per month, bills for customers who use more than 3,000 gallons/month would increase \$2.00 plus \$1.50 for every 1,000 gallons over 3,000 gallons used in a month.

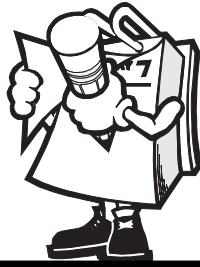
Annual Garbage Tag

Ely now offers a voluntary annual garbage collection tag that allows you to place one container (up to 40 pounds) of residential waste at the curb for pickup every week. Just slap the tag on the body of the container and you're set through December 31. You can purchase your annual voluntary garbage tag at Ely City Hall during regular office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). The annual tag can only be purchased at City Hall; the regular \$1.00 tags can be purchased at City Hall, Casey's General Store and Cleppe's 66 Service.

More Front Page News

Opening on Park & Recreation Committee

Ely has an opening for a volunteer to serve on the Park and Recreation Committee. The Park & Recreation Committee works with the Mayor and City Council to plan and develop Ely's parks and recreational activities; and meets once a month (occasionally twice per month). Members of this board must be eligible to vote in Ely and should be interested in Ely's parks and recreational activities. Contact Ely City Hall (848-4103 or email elycity@southslope.net) if you are interested in serving on the Park and Recreation Committee.



Rotary Club Chili & Chicken Soup Dinner

The Ely Gateway Rotary's Chili & Chicken Soup dinner will be Saturday February 21 at the American Legion Hall in Ely from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Join the club for famous chili, and heart warming chicken soup and, always grand, bake sale. You will have the opportunity to win a lot of great prizes through the raffle. BINGO is new this year; so stop by and join the Rotary club for a great meal and lots of fun.



Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Citywide Garage Sales

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
For more details and registration contact Ely Public Library 848-7616

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Friends of the Library

Annual Library Book Sale

At Ely Library

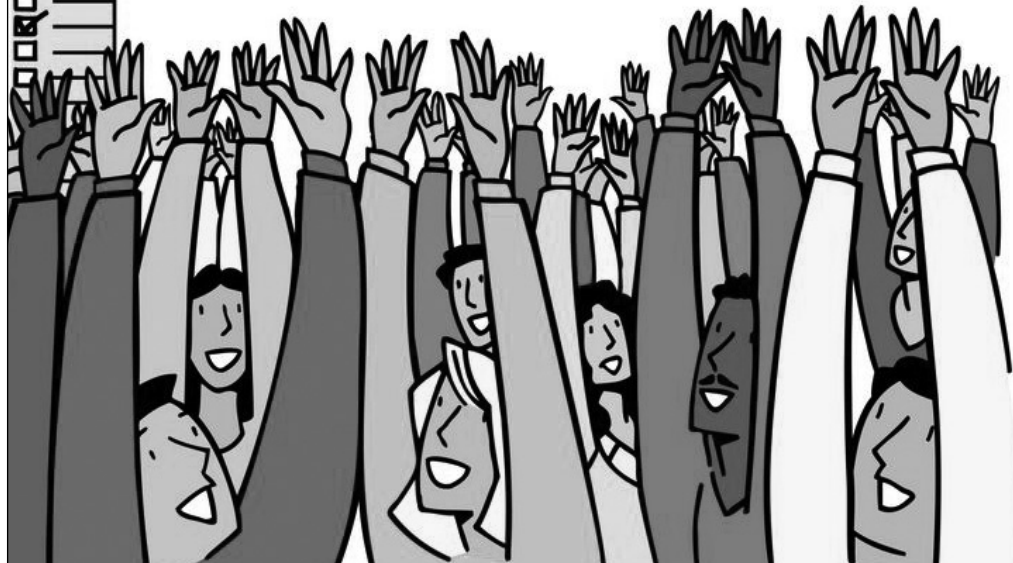
May 16, 2009

Citywide Clean-up Day

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Contact City Hall for more details

2010 Census, One Year from Now

Taken every 10 years, the census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. Census data directly affects how more than \$300 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more. Census information helps determine locations for schools, roads, hospitals, child-care and senior citizen centers, and more. Businesses use census data to locate supermarkets, shopping centers, new housing and other facilities. The census determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the boundaries of legislative districts. More information is available online at www.census.gov



Ely's EDGE

The Economic Development Group of Ely (**EDGE**) is meeting Thursday, January 22 at 6:30 PM in the conference room of the Ely Public Library. EDGE is organizing to provide a forum for learning about economic development, to facilitate economic growth and enhance quality of life in our wonderful community. You are encouraged to attend and participate if you are interested.

Having grown by more than 300% in the past twenty years Ely is one of Iowa's fastest growing communities. Fortunately we have retained the best qualities of small town Iowa life, but we have our growing pains. Foremost among them is lack of widespread participation Ely's planning and growth. Over the years Ely has been well served by groups of volunteers who have worked diligently to plan for Ely's future. Our planning efforts have identified a need to plan for economic growth and maintain our continued "small town" quality of life.

Ely is likely to continue to grow due to our proximity to the Eastern Iowa Corridor and demographic trends in Iowa, in spite of the nation's recent economic turndown. Even a growing community cannot be vital if its business community cannot thrive. As our residential community has grown in the recent past, our business community has not. Unless we approach this unbalanced growth directly, the city will experience a shortage of the revenue it needs to provide infrastructure, quality services at low cost and plan and grow effectively as the type of community we have come to appreciate.

Many Iowa communities have benefited from creating a private, non-profit group to create an effective business environment and help the city maintain and enhance quality of life. Efforts along this line run the gamut from helping fledging businesses; to attracting new business to the area; to helping develop strong business networks. These groups also mobilize the business community for trail and park development, other tourist attracting features, and many other initiatives that foster desirable community development.

In a nutshell, this is the task EDGE has embarked upon. Come down and find out how you can participate.

From the Desk of the Holiday Lights Committee...

2008 has proven to be a difficult year for Iowa. Our lands have been ravaged by tornados and flooding creating unimaginable hardships for many families, businesses and communities.

Ely has not been overly harmed physically by Mother Nature's powers but our families, friends and outlying neighboring communities have all experienced, in one way or another, the challenges of recovery. What is truly amazing ~ is the strength that comes with recovery and the kindness and generosity of others that never waivers.

In these uncertain times we all have so much to be thankful for. We are more than thankful for all we have and truly appreciate the offer of donations to the holiday lights fund from our community and neighboring communities. It is with your generosity Ely is able to light up the holiday season for all ages. Our sincerest thank you to you all.

