

## CITY OF ELY

1570 ROWLEY ST  
P. O. BOX 248  
ELY, IA 52227

PRSR STD  
POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ELY, IA  
PERMIT NO. 249

ECR WSS  
ELY, IA 52227

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

## Ely Community History Society News

The Ely Community History Archives, located on the second floor of the Ely Community Center has changed its hours. Hours are now weekly, on **Wednesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - Noon.**

We are pleased with the number of donations to the archives from Ely residents and people in the surrounding rural community. We now have almost 50 collections in the archives, which contain nearly 400 photographs, as well as collections pertaining to the history of Ely, Shueyville, Western and surrounding rural areas, City of Ely, Putnam Township, area churches, town and country schools, cemeteries, local families, early settlers and much more. Thanks to those that have contributed! We are always looking for more people to donate & help preserve our unique history.

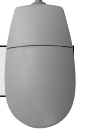
A recent donation is the Bill & Irene Novak Collection. Besides family information, it contains copies of invitations to area dances including a "Hard Times Dance" held in Western; a 1923 article with history & photos of Ely pioneers and street scenes; and copies of Civil War letters from William "Nitterhizer" written to his parents in Ely. These letters tell of William's experiences in the war, including the death of Frank Woitisek of Ely. William also died in service and although his grave stone is in Rogers Grove Cemetery, his body never returned. This is just one example of the history contained in collections at the archives.

We also invite you to visit the Ely Community Center to view the historic wall displays in the upper and lower levels. In the future we plan to add temporary displays on various subjects of historical interest. The building is open Monday through Friday during business hours. We are always happy to open the Archives Room for visiting researchers or for those who wish to contribute to our growing collections. **Call Clary Illian (848-4963) or Barb Horak (848-4074) to arrange an appointment time.**

## Website

Have you visited our website?

 [elyiowa.com](http://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.

## Cook's Corner

### Rhubarb Cherry Jelly

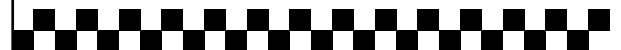
6 c diced rhubarb

4 c white sugar

1-21 ounce can cherry pie filling

1-6 ounce package cherry flavored gelatin

Place rhubarb in a large bowl. Pour sugar over top and stir to coat. Cover bowl and refrigerate overnight. Place rhubarb mixture in a pot and cook over medium heat until tender, stirring frequently. Stir in the pie filling, the dry gelatin, and bring mixture to a boil. Pour into a shallow pan and allow to cool in refrigerator. When jelly is cool, pack into jars or plastic containers. Can be refrigerated or frozen.





**JULY-SEPT  
2008**

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

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

[www.elyiowa.com](http://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 Expression

## Linn County Code RED



The Linn County E911 Services Board has instituted the CodeRED Emergency Notification System – an ultra high-speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications. This system allows Linn County to telephone all or targeted areas of Linn County in case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action. The system is capable of dialing 60,000 phone numbers per hour. It then delivers our recorded message to a live person or an answering machine, making three attempts to connect to any number. Examples of emergencies include evacuation notices, bio-terrorism alerts, boil water notices and Amber Alerts.

CodeRED system is a geographical based notification system, which means street addresses are needed to select which phone numbers will receive emergency notification calls. Businesses will need to enter their phone numbers into the emergency notification database, as will households with unlisted phone numbers or households without land-lines. Households with published phone numbers will likely already be included in the database. The information will only be used for emergency notification purposes.

Sign up on the web at: [www.co.linn.ia.us](http://www.co.linn.ia.us), or the Ely website: [www.elyiowa.com](http://www.elyiowa.com)

## Front Page News

### June 2008 Floods

Ely has thankfully been spared the horrible devastation of June's flooding on the Iowa and Cedar Rivers. Ely is most affected by what happens on the Iowa River at the Coralville Reservoir when it comes to stream levels and the potential for flooding, even though we are very near the Cedar River. This is because all the creeks that run through Ely flow into the Coralville Reservoir, as water levels rise at Coralville the streams in Ely fill up and remain elevated with the reservoir. This spring was also a reminder that Ely is susceptible to urban flash flooding that happens when heavy rain falls in a short period of time. These events are usually intense but clear away fairly quickly. Flash flooding when Hoosier Creek in Ely is full is a definite concern that Ely officials pay special attention to. Please remain aware of the possibility for flash flooding, and take the proper precautions when warning advisories are issued.

Ely's water system and wastewater treatment facility were not damaged or taken out of service in any way during the area's June flooding. Ely's public works crew monitored stream levels very closely and built a berm around the lowest levels of the wastewater treatment facility as an extra

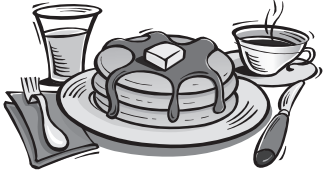
precaution. This berm was to protect the WWTP if Hoosier Creek rose drastically due to flash flooding or similar events. Hoosier Creek remained well below the berm and we will keep it in place until the creek is back to pre-event levels.

**FLOOD VICTIMS SHOULD REGISTER WITH FEMA.** If your home or property was damaged in the June flooding, you may be eligible for disaster recovery assistance. All residents or business owners who suffered damages from the flood should register promptly with FEMA. FEMA's phone number 1-800-621-3362, or register online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

### Ely's Dozinky Day

Make plans now to celebrate the harvest season at Ely's Dozinky Day, Saturday October 4. "Dozinky" is Czech for "harvest", and the Ely Parks and Recreation Commission is putting together the first of what will hopefully be an annual community harvest celebration. Ely Dozinky Day will debut Saturday October 4th. Watch the Ely website ([www.elyiowa.com](http://www.elyiowa.com)), the quarterly Ely Expression and the monthly NOJOCO for more information on opportunities to volunteer and participate in this exciting, fun festival.

# More Front Page News



## **ALL YOU CAN EAT ELY FIREFIGHTER'S BREAKFAST**

Ely Fire Station, 1300 Main Street

# July 4, 2008

Pancakes – Sausage – Bacon – Eggs

Serving 7:00 Am – 12:30 Pm

Adults	Children Under 12
Advanced....\$4.50	At The Door....\$2.50
At The Door....\$5.00	

**Tickets Can Be Purchased In Advanced  
From Any Ely Volunteer Firefighter.**

## **Ely Roadways Visioning**

The Ely visioning committee conducted a design workshop on June 11, 2008 at Ely City Hall/Community Center. The workshop, called a charrette, was an opportunity for Ely residents to view and critique preliminary conceptual plans and drawings for enhancing the community's landscape. Drawings showing some of the concepts resulting from the planning and design workshops will be presented at the Committee's next meeting at 7:00 July 2nd in the Ely Community Center. Everyone who is interested is invited to attend, as all visioning committee meetings are open to the public.

The Visioning Program is a transportation enhancement-planning program that assists members of Iowa communities in creating roadside enhancement plans. Residents who want more information or who are interested in participating in the visioning process should contact the local committee chair Tim Grimm, 319/848-4181 or Roger Hunt, Trees Forever field coordinator at 319/728-2064. The Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation in partnership with Iowa State University Extension Landscape Architecture and Trees Forever.

## **Openings on City Boards**

Right now there are openings for volunteers to serve on the Ely Park and Recreation Commission and Ely Board of Adjustment. The Park & Recreation Commission 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). The Board of Adjustment hears and decides requests for special exceptions and variances, and meets when needed. Members of both boards must be eligible to vote in Ely. The City Council approves appointments to both of these important city boards. Please contact Ely City Hall (848-4103 or email [elycity@southslope.net](mailto:elycity@southslope.net)) if you are interested in serving Ely on either board.

## **At Your Service ... Sewer Problems**

Residents experiencing slow drains, sewers, and/or sewer backups are encouraged to call City Hall at 848-4103, or after office hours and on weekends at 848-7603, as soon as possible. A random blockage in the City's main may be creating the problem. Ely Public Works will check the main and clean any blockages in the main. Blockages located in the home sewer system are the responsibility of the homeowner. Ely has a scheduled inspection and maintenance program of the sanitary sewer system. Please be aware that, according to case law, if a city maintains an inspection and maintenance program they cannot be held responsible for any damage resulting from sewer main back-ups.

## **Consider Installing a Backwater Valve**

A backwater valve is a mechanism to prevent sanitary sewer back-ups. Backwater valves provide a physical barrier to sewage back flowing into a home or business. Backwater valves are designed to block drainpipes temporarily to prevent backwater flow from entering the house. When open, the valves allow flow through the sewer line, so wastewater that goes down the drain can flow away from your home or business. When closed, the valves do not allow flow through the line, preventing the wastewater from backing-up into your home or business. When the valve is closed, homeowners cannot use any water in the home or flush the toilets. Homeowners may use water normally after the sewer backup has cleared away. Property owners may be able to minimize their risk of sanitary sewer backup by installing a backwater valves, although the backwater valve may not work in all cases.

(SOURCE: KANSAS CITY, MO)



## **Animals at Large**

We have all encountered dogs or cats running loose and tearing into garbage at homes. To have an animal getting into garbage is frustrating, unpleasant and a can be a safety concern. If you have a dog or even a cat, keep them contained/tied to your own yard. Please be courteous to your neighbors and all Ely residents, be vigilant with the proper care and ownership of your animals.

## Enjoy the parks in Ely

**Community Center Park located at 1570 Rowley Street next to City Hall.** Here you can enjoy a 1/2 court basketball court, tennis court, fully equipped children's playground and large grass area at the rear for organized games, Frisbee or other activities.

**Ely City Park located off Northgate Drive.** This park is "work in progress" and currently offers a baseball diamond with backstop, fan bleachers and soccer field with goal nets. Future development will offer many more amenities, contact City Hall for more details.

**Schulte Park located at 1310 Banner Valley Road.** In Southbrook Addition this park offers a pavilion equipped with picnic tables, counter space, grill for charcoal cooking, electricity, lighting, running water, restroom, trash bins, a fantastic children's playground and open space for organized games or parking. Rentals for the pavilion are offered at \$10.00 per day through City Hall. Call 848-4103 for more details and reservations.

**Vavra Park located off Vavra Drive.** Nestled quietly off Vavra Drive, open space with a view of Hoosier Creek, 1/2 court basketball court and children's playground are offered at this wonderful quite park.



## Yard Waste and Open Restricted Burning

The City of Ely can assist with proper disposal of yard waste. All pickups must be scheduled with City Hall.

The Public Works Department and not Waste Management will do the pickup. The cost per container or per bundle is \$2.00 and will be added to your monthly utility billing. Yard waste must be separated by the owner from all other solid waste and placed in environmentally approved biodegradable refuse bags. Tree limbs (less than 4" in diameter) and brush shall be securely tied in bundles no larger than 48" long and 18" in diameter. The weight of each individual container or bundle will not exceed 75 pounds. If yard waste does not meet these standards it will not be picked up.

**Open restricted burning:** Burning of yard waste consisting of grass trimmings, leaves and trimmed branches is allowed. Burning of any other materials is not allowed. Use care in open burning. Be certain it is not done on a windy day, keep fire contained, do not burn at curb or on the street. Keep children away and safe. If fire emits smoke or fly ash that is a nuisance to neighbors it must be distinguished immediately. Recreational fires for cooking, heating, and ceremonies are allowed provided they comply with the limits for emission of visible air contaminants established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

## New Homes, Additions, and Improvements

The City of Ely requires building permits on new home construction, additions or improvements to existing homes, fences and other various projects. Before work begins a building permit application must be submitted along with a detailed written and drawn plan that includes plat of the lot, dimensions of the addition/structure and required setbacks at each lot line. One complete set of blueprints will need to be included with the permit application for new home construction. Please keep in mind that your property may have restrictive covenants that may further limit what you are allowed to do or requires the homeowner to get prior approval from the developer before work begins. Please check with your developer.

Staff at City Hall can help with any questions you may have in preparing the application for submission. After the application has been submitted it will be reviewed by city officials to ensure all requirements of Ely City Code are being met. Depending on the project, the review time is 4-6 business days. During the review process if there are areas of concern city staff will contact you in a timely manner to go over these items. The permit can be issued after the review verifies the project meets relevant codes and the permit fee has been paid. Permit fees are based on the value of the project or improvement. For additional information, contact City Hall at 848-4103 or go to our website [elyiowa.com](http://elyiowa.com) to link "Living and Building in Ely" for more details and download an application.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

With the onset of spring the swimming pools will be filled and prepared for use. It is critical to review water safety with our families as well as be aware of the City of Ely Fence Requirements for Swimming Pools.

Fenced enclosures shall be provided for those outdoor swimming pools of a permanent nature designed or constructed to remain in place for at least 6 months with a depth of 18"(inches) or more. Fences must be at least 4'(feet) in height from ground level but not to exceed 7'(feet) from the top rim of the pool, and have no spaces that would allow a 4"(inch) sphere to pass through. Fences must have a self-closing and self-latching device on the gate. Fences must be located so no part of the pool and fence combination is within 3'(feet) of an alley. Front yard fences may not extend into the area of the front yard between the front lot line and the front yard setback requirement designated in this ordinance. – Ref. Ordinance 194 adopted March 12, 2007 as amendment to Section 6-13-8.B of the Ely Code of Ordinances

Temporary inflatable and soft side pools are inexpensive, convenient, and very popular. Covering the pool when not in use is highly recommended as open unattended water is very inviting to children of all ages. Many of these pools come equipped with covers. If your pool does not come with a cover, they can be purchased separate. The sides of the pools are easily altered and give with the weight of small child. To avoid head injuries, other possible injuries, and accidental drowning be vigilant to keep children/adults from sitting or applying weight to the sides.

Keep all chemicals needed for water stabilization in a safe place and out of a child's reach.

*Have enjoyable and safe summer!*

