

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

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Ely Expression

ECR WSS
ELY, IA 52227

JAN/MARCH
2008
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

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

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

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

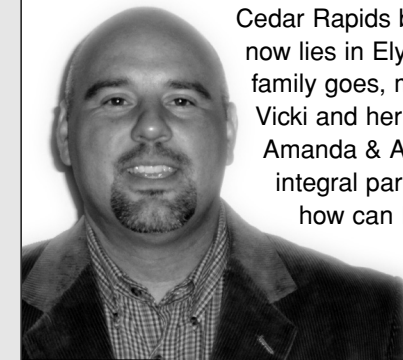
Office Closed:
New Year's Day, Memorial
Day, Independence Day,
Labor Day, Thanksgiving
Thursday & Friday, and
Christmas Day.

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

Hello, my name is Jim Doyle. You might have already heard but just in case not I was elected as Mayor of Ely in November '07 and officially took office on January 2nd, 2008. Before I begin sharing some information about myself I would like to take a moment to congratulate and thank former Mayor Stanek and the City Council for their dedicated service. Several important projects were completed or are currently in progress thanks to their decision-making and focus.

Now to share a little bit about myself. I was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, IA. I attended LaSalle High School and graduated from the University of Iowa in 1993 with a degree in Economics and a minor in Business. My career thus far is pretty easy to sum up — McLeodUSA. I have been employed there for the past fourteen years. Currently, I work in the Finance Department as an Analyst. My tenure in Ely goes back to November '01. I was the first house built in the North Park Development. I may have grown up on the NW side of

Cedar Rapids but my heart now lies in Ely. As far as family goes, my girlfriend Vicki and her kids (Andrea, Amanda & Alex) are an integral part of my life and how can I forget about my parents (Jim and Aggie)



who are always there supporting me. Outside of work I love to spend time outdoors. My passions include golfing, snowmobiling, hunting, gardening, spending time with family and friends and eating at my favorite restaurant The Vine in Coralville.

I decided to run for mayor because I wanted to get involved in the community and I thought I could help guide the town and people in a direction that would be beneficial for both the short-term and long-term. Just to list a few goals I hope to accomplish over the next four years:

- Guide decisions and help implement a solution to the water supply concerns,
- manage the development of a city park plan that people of all ages can enjoy,
- assist the City Council in making sound financial decisions that get the town the most bang for the buck and
- finally, enhance the communication and cohesiveness of the community.

Is this all that needs to get accomplished? No way. Can all this get done? Why not? Will it be easy? Not likely. What I can promise is I will always put forth my best effort and I will always try to think and act in the best interest of the community. In closing, I hope I have been able to share a little bit about myself and my beliefs. Please feel free to introduce yourself should our paths cross and I hope that they do.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Need a Place to Gather?

The City of Ely offers the following areas for meetings, family gatherings, and other social activities.

Ely Community Center

1570 Rowley St
Meeting/Activity Room: accommodates up to 25 people.
\$15.00 1/2 day rental - \$25.00 full day rental
\$25.00 deposit, refundable (ask for details)

Gladys C. Holets Dining Room and Kitchen:

accommodates up to 60 people.
\$60.00 1/2 day rental - \$100.00 full day rental
\$25.00 deposit, refundable (ask for details)
The facility is a non-smoking facility.

Schulte Park Pavilion

1310 Banner Valley Road
Rental season: April 1st through October 31st.
\$10.00 per day (non refundable, ask for details)
\$20.00 damage deposit (refundable, ask for details)

*For reservations or more details contact City Hall 848-4103.

Looking for a larger facility?

American Legion Hall located at 1545 Main Street can accommodate up to 350 people. The facility offers a kitchen and dining hall in the lower level. The upper level has larger seating area, stage and dance floor and bar service availability. For more details and reservations call 848-4161.

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.

Cook's Corner

Mustard Pretzel Dip

- 1 C sour cream
- 1 C mayonnaise
- 1 C prepared yellow mustard
- 1/2 C sugar
- 1/4 C dried onion flakes
- 1 envelope dry ranch salad dressing mix
- 1 T prepared horseradish

In a bowl, combine all ingredients and stir until well blended. Chill for several hours and serve with pretzels. Great on cold cuts or grilled meats. Store in airtight bowl and refrigerate for up to 2 weeks.



Public Safety

Look outside it is STILL snowing!!!

Snow removal can be and has been this winter, very challenging to our Public Works Department. Our goal is to remove snow and ice from the streets safely and quickly. Please help and keep vehicles off the streets when ever possible. With a very heavy snow a Snow Emergency, proclaimed by the Mayor, may be put in place to assist them further. Parking restrictions during a snow emergency shall continue from its proclamation though the duration of the snow or ice storm and the 48-hour period after cessation of the storm. **Parking will be allowed within the 48-hour period only if the street has been fully opened on both sides of the street.** Snow Emergency notices will be televised on the local news channels in the same manner school and other closings are televised.

A courtesy reminder: It is the duty of property and homeowners to keep sidewalks abutting the property clear of natural accumulations of snow and ice. Sidewalks need to be free of snow and ice within 24 hours of the accumulations. With everyone's cooperation our sidewalks will be safe for families, friends and visitors.



More Front Page News

Upcoming Events:

May 3, 2008

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

May 17, 2008

Citywide Clean-up Day
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Contact City Hall for more details

New Development

Edellen Meadows, LLC, Fred Showalter and Wayne Jones owners, is seeking to develop slightly more than 90 acres on the north end of Ely as a residential subdivision with 180 numbered lots and two non-buildable outlots. The developer would construct all municipal improvements within the development including curb and gutter streets, sidewalks, water and sanitary sewer utilities, and other drainage control improvements. The developers expect to build this subdivision over five to ten years if the City Council approves the preliminary plat. The City Council has approved re-zoning roughly 20 acres on the northwest of the parcel to R-2 Multi-Family residential to allow for possible duplex units and an assisted living care facility. The City Council will consider approving the preliminary plat at their regular February 11, 2008 meeting.

New Sidewalk Ordinance

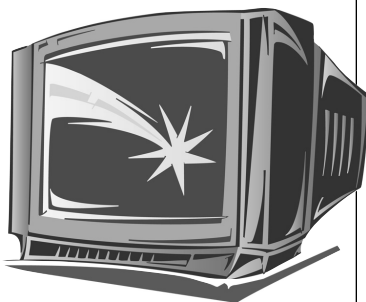
Property owners, who apply for a building permit for work valued at \$10,000 or more, must now install sidewalks if sidewalks are not already in place. Specifically, property owners who request a building permit for work \$10,000 or more in value will be required to install a sidewalk, if no sidewalk already serves the property, under the following conditions:

1. The value of the work to be done under the building permit is \$10,000 or more;
2. The lot is adjacent to a public street and curb and gutter are available;
3. Sidewalks have not been installed abutting the public street for the property prior to the request for building permit.

This requirement was enacted by the City Council as Ordinance No. 200 on November 12, 2007

Ely Community TV

Ely Community Cable TV is now on South Slope cable channel 217. South Slope cable TV subscribers can check Channel 217 for information about city and community events in Ely and the immediate Ely area. Please contact Ely City Hall (848-4103) if you have information about community events in the Ely area you would like to see on Channel 217, or email the information to elycity@southslope.net.



Voter Registration

Iowa's new Election Day Registration law allows voters to register and vote on Election Day, but there is still a 10 or 11 day pre-registration deadline. People who register to vote before the pre-registration deadline will NOT be required to show identification at the polls. Those who do not register by the deadline and register to vote at the polls will be required to show identification at the polls, which will lengthen the time it takes to cast a ballot. You can pick up the new Voter Registration form at City Hall in Ely, or the Linn County Auditor/Commissioner of Election's Office in Cedar Rapids. Voter Registration forms are also available online at www.elyiowa.com, or the Linn County website: www.linncounty.org.

Deadlines for registering to vote before Election Day are:

- Saturday, May 24, for the Partisan Primary Election
- Friday, August 29 for the Regular School Election
- Saturday, October 25 for the Presidential General Election

Dangerous Animals

Spring is coming (eventually), and people will want to be outside enjoying the spring weather. We'll also want to let our pets out to play, it is very important that everyone is able to enjoy being outdoors safely. Ely's animal control ordinance prohibits ownership of any dangerous animal that "has a known propensity, tendency or disposition to attack human beings or domestic animals without provocation".

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.

Something to look forward to – Nice weather and the warmth and beauty of our parks.

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, picnic tables, 1/2 court basketball court and children's playground are offered at this wonderful quite park.

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

Senior Dining Lunch

Senior Dining Lunch is available Monday through Friday served at 12:00 p.m.

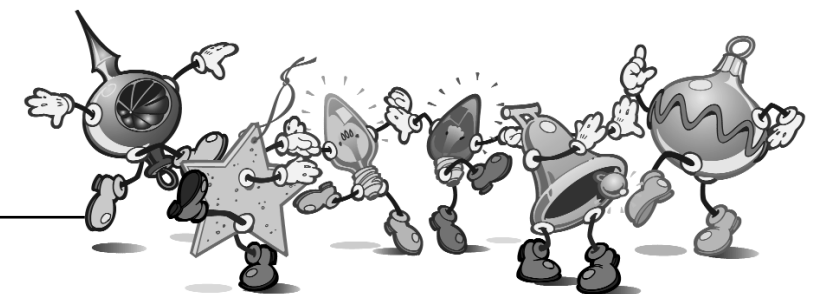
Location: Ely Community Center
1570 Rowley Street
Lower level dining room

Cost: 60 yrs and up: \$2.75 "Eat in" dining
60 yrs and under: \$3.75 "Eat in" dining
\$3 "Shut in" home delivery (within Ely only/need to set up in advance)

Reservations for your meal must be made a day in advance. To make reservations call 848-4140. If no answer, call 848-4103, City Hall. Cards are played every Tuesday and Friday beginning at 10:00 a.m. For more details call Rachel Hodina or Lenna See at 848-4140.

Historical Preservation Committee News

The displays of Ely Civic History were installed this winter and can be found in the Council Chambers of Ely City Hall. They feature the early contentious story of our incorporation and historic photos of the Fire Department, Library, 1972 Centennial Celebration and Community Center Conversion. For history related information, go to www.elyiowa.com/history. There is so much to discover about Ely on the website!!



FROM THE DESK OF THE

Holiday Lights Committee...

The residents and businesses of Ely and the surrounding areas pulled together as a community to support and contribute to the Christmas Decoration Fund. The decorating and lighting of State Street and downtown area of Ely with holiday lights will continue. Many offered donations of dollars and others of time. The continuation of this tradition has been made possible by the kindness of others and we would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for the overwhelming generosity!