

The countdown has begun!

Last weekend I was invited to join the Junior Auxiliary meeting at the Legion to sign a proclamation recognizing May 28th as Poppy Day in Ely. For more info on Poppy Day click [HERE](#). One of the topics was the end of the school year and immediately one of the girls piped up with the exact number of days left. That is always a sign we are getting close to summer when the kids know the exact number of days until the end! Now let's get you caught up on what is going on in our city!

Council approved the hiring of a couple local residents, Matthew Hilleman and Jaymeson Westphal, for summer help. Matthew will be helping Public Works with mowing and trimming in the City Parks. Jaymeson Westphal will be helping with the Park and Rec Department. Riley Knopf was also hired as a Recreation Intern through a program with the University of Iowa.

Council discussed the reopening of City Hall to the general public. Staff recommended changing office hours to 7:00am-3:30pm daily with extended hours the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month to 7:00pm. The goal is accommodate more residents who were unable to get to the office before 5:00pm. City Council members suggested a trial period and then get feedback from residents. Council will revisit this topic at the 1st meeting in May.

Council discussed and approved having the 4th of July parade this year. It was recommended to follow guidelines provided by the Linn County Health Department. More details will be forthcoming. There is also a need for volunteers during the parade and for someone to be in charge the day of. Support will be provided by city staff leading up to the 4th. If you are interested in helping out please email Callie by clicking [HERE](#).

As Spring gets into full swing you will continue to see more activities offered by the Library, Rec Department and City. Keep a look out for these events and take advantage of them. One of them coming up is a Community Barbeque in the Park. For more info click [HERE](#).

Enjoy the town-wide garage sale sporting event this weekend ! Until next time!

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