

More Front Page News



Sunday, April 3
American Legion Breakfast
7 a.m. - noon

Friday, April 8
Ely Parks Clean-Up Day

Saturday, April 30
5th Annual Plant Swap

Saturday, May 7
Citywide Garage Sale Day
Friends of the
Library Annual Book Sale
at Ely Library

Saturday, May 16
Ely Spring Spruce Up Day

Monday, July 4
Ely Firefighters' Breakfast

**Friday & Saturday,
September 23 & 24**
9th Annual Fall Fest!

Firelake Wedding & Event Center

Crutchley Farms, Inc., and DJ Wacker are working on design for the Firelake Event Center on Rogers Creek Road, east of the bridge. The current version of the proposed site plan shows first phase of the wedding/event center to be construction of a two-story 6,944 square foot facility per floor for banquets, weddings and other events; and a building for an on-site brewery. Crutchfield Farms, the developer, has also indicated an interest in adding as many as 15 single-family residential lots on the west side of the property. They are still working on the final version of their site plan, so specifics may change from what the Plan and Zoning Commission discussed in March. This project is still in design and review stages, the developer seeks to start construction on the Firelake Event Center in 2016.

Roadwork on Ely Road This Spring

Expect work to grade and widen shoulders and ditches on Ely Road in April. The Linn County Secondary Roads Department reports: "The contractor will be finishing the dirt work in the ditches from the Johnson County line north to Cedar Rapids. The road will remain open to local traffic, but there will be some delays. The contractor will use flaggers or a pilot car to control traffic through work zones." Check the NoJoCo and www.elyiowa.com for updates. Contact Linn County Secondary Roads at (319) 892-6400 or online at www.linncounty.org for updates, more information and instructions to subscribe to the Ely Road email list for project updates.

Give Ely's Parks Some TLC on Friday, April 8

Take advantage of your opportunity to join a crew of community minded Prairie Point Middle School volunteers and the Ely Park & Rec gang in giving our city parks some tender loving care during this year's annual Parks Clean-Up Day starting at 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 8. Please contact City Hall at 848-4103 or Parks & Recreation Commission via email at elyparks@gmail.com to let us know you are helping out. Join us at City Hall (1570 Rowley Street) starting at 10:00 a.m. if you have some energy and a little free time to get our parks ready for another great year of fun!

Ely's Community Garden

Do you want more (or any) space to grow your own fresh vegetables? If so, Ely's community garden is your opportunity for more gardening space. Garden plots will be near Ely's water tower on Jappa Road and awarded on a lottery basis. Gardeners need to follow Ely's community garden rules. The City will not be responsible for the vagaries of gardening in a public place. Please contact City Hall by April 15 if you are interested in a patch of your own in Ely's community garden.

Ely is Hiring a Seasonal Mowing/Landscape Employee

Ely is hiring one seasonal worker to mow, trim and weed-eat city properties including parks, along trails and other open areas; and prepare sports fields including striping fields and dragging infields. Employee will start as soon as possible and needs to be available through at least September 15, 2016. Starting wage is \$10.00/hour. Contact Ely City Hall (319-848-4103) or on line at elyiowa.com for more information. Apply at, or send applications to, Ely City Hall. Position open until filled. EOE

5th Annual Plant and Landscape Tack Swap is Saturday April 30!

Plants of all types and sizes are welcome along with other garden related items at the Swap Saturday, April 30 in front of Ely City Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We happily accept yard art, mulch, tools, pots, planters, bird baths and lawn ornaments. The goal of the swap is for gardeners to have fun gathering together, share plants, exchange ideas and to help new gardeners get started.

For anyone looking to swap their plants or to get plants from other gardeners, bring your plants or something to barter. Bring 5 and swap 5, bring 2 and swap 2. The number of items you bring can be swapped 1 to 1. Items remaining at the end of the swap will be cultivated back in to Ely by being placed in the parks and along the trail. If you are interested in helping with this let one of the volunteers know. What a great way to start an Ely "Garden Club"!

PLAY BALL!

Ely Waterball Contests

Saturday, June 4th, in front of the Ely Fire Station at 1300 Main Street. Registration from 11:00 a.m. to noon; Women's contest starts at noon; Men's contest follows the women's. Women will use 1-1/2" hose and Men will use 2-1/2" hose. Women's and Men's Trophies for 1st - 4th place. Food will be available - so come one come all and don't forget your umbrellas. Any questions contact: Brad Malatek at 319-521-5205.

Ely Kids Soccer Kicks Off Spring!

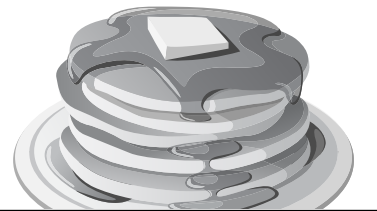
Ely Kids' Soccer kicks off Monday April 4th so over 50 area kids can learn about and play "the beautiful game" at Ely City Park Monday evenings starting at 6:00. This year the kids are playing soccer at Ely City Park, 1635 Hillcrest Street. Ely Spring Soccer is a product of the hard working Ely Parks and Rec Commission. Games and practice are Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. April 4 through May 2 at Ely City Park. Volunteers are welcome to enjoy a great opportunity to coach and otherwise have fun teaching the tykes about soccer and having fun with sports.

Ely Youth Baseball Season - the Best Time of Year

Ely's Spring Baseball program will have 83 Ely area youth are playing baseball and T-ball this spring; with 33 kids playing T-Ball, along with 24 "Single A" baseball players, 14 "Double A" and 12 "Triple A" players. Games are Monday through Thursday May 11th through July 1st. Teams play at Ely City Park (North end of Hillcrest Street), Walford, and the College Community campus. Ely Youth Baseball is organized and run by the excellent Ely Parks Commission folks. Practice starts in April and team coaches will contact team members about practice schedules. More information and schedules will be available online at www.elyiowa.com/Ely_Recreation&Leagues.htm. Both ball fields at Ely City Park are reserved for softball tournaments Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24.

Sunday Breakfast at the Ely American Legion!

Enjoy an excellent Sunday Breakfast with the Ely American Legion Sunday, April 3rd. This year's annual Legion Sunday Breakfast starts at 7:00 a.m. and runs through noon April 3 at the Legion Hall, 1545 Main St. in Ely. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children between 5 and 12 years old, kids 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets are available from Legion members prior to the breakfast; or at the door. On the menu: pancakes, fried potatoes with or without onion & caraway, scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, biscuits & gravy, milk, juice and coffee. Gather your family and friends at the Ely American Legion for a delicious Sunday breakfast on April 3.



Ely Winter Farmer's Market

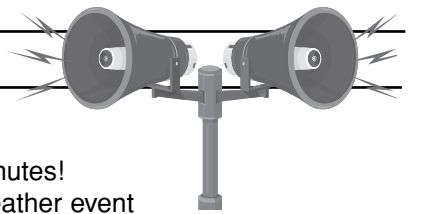
Come to this year's final Winter Farmers Market from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Ely Public Library Meeting Room Saturday, April 16 for great variety of locally produced food and goodies. Contact the Farmer's Market team at elyfarmersmarket@gmail.com, if you are interested in being a vendor. Come by for the best in locally made goodies and sundry to brighten your winter.

YOU NEED TO KNOW

Emergency Sirens & Severe Weather

Take shelter immediately when the Fire/Emergency siren sounds continuously for three minutes! Ely's Fire/Emergency sirens sound for three continuous minutes when there is a severe weather event like a tornado or severe thunderstorm with dangerous winds in the area. Go to shelter in a windowless room in your basement or the lowest level of your house immediately when the siren sounds for 3-minutes. Take shelter in the innermost room of the lowest level of your home if you do not have a basement. After you are safely in shelter check local radio, TV or other local media for more information on the weather emergency.

Linn County Emergency Management Agency (LCEMA), in partnership with our trained weather spotters, will closely monitor the weather conditions and activate the sirens from the Ely Fire Department when dangerous high winds or tornadoes become a threat to the area. During radar indicated weather situations, LCEMA directs our weather spotters to activate the sirens when needed. An "All-Clear" siren will sound for 1 continuous minute once the severe weather event has passed. The Ely Volunteer Fire Department tests the sirens the last Monday of the month. During the test you will hear one short buzz for sound, followed by a voice warning that will cycle 3 times - once for each siren in Ely.



ECR WSS
ELY, IA 52227

Ely Expression



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

Ely Community TV
Channel 266
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.

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

Ely Considering Changes in Residential Garbage/Recycling Collection

The Ely City Council is considering changing how residential solid waste and recycling are picked up, and what residents are charged for the service. The City Council is considering changing from the current \$1.00/tag residential garbage and 18-gallon tub collection to cart-based solid waste (trash) and recyclables collection. Under the garbage/recycling system being considered Ely would offer three levels of service:

- **Standard Service:** One 64-gallon solid waste cart, and one 96-gallon recycling cart - \$18.00/month. This will be the default service,
- **Family Service:** One 96-gallon solid waste cart; and one 96-gallon recycling cart - \$22.25/month,
- **Light Generation Service:** One 64-gallon solid waste cart; and one 64-gallon recycling cart - \$14.25/month.

With the change that is being considered trash would continue to be collected every week, and recyclables collected every other week. More details on this possible change in service are available in the green flyer folded in the newsletter. The City Council will discuss this matter again at their April 11, 2016 meeting which starts at 7:00 p.m. Please read the green insert in this newsletter for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Website

Have you visited our website?

→ elyiowa.com



The Ely Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank **Randy Zbanek** for his **24 years of dedicated service** as Ely Fire Chief. December of 2015 Randy stepped down as Chief, though he continues to serve as an active member as Fire Fighter and EMT on the department. If you see him, please thank him for his time as Fire Chief and continued service to our community. His past, present and future leadership is of great value to all of us.

Thank you Randy!

Cook's Corner

Teri Billick, Ely Iowa,
from the *FallFest 2014 Cookbook*



Rhubarb Cherry Jelly

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 C. Diced Rhubarb
- 1 (21 oz.) Can Cherry Pie Filling
- 4 C. Sugar
- 1 (6 oz.) pkg Cherry Jello

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.

This and many other great recipes are in the FallFest 2014 Cookbook available at City Hall for \$10. All proceeds from cookbook sales go toward FallFest to support Ely's parks and recreation activities.

SAVE SEPTEMBER 23 AND 24 FOR FALL FEST!

Ely Parks Commission is excited to announce that Fall Fest 2016 will be Friday evening September 23rd, and all day Saturday September 24th! Set your calendar for Fall Fest '16 and our great variety of activities like the Friday evening Fall Fest 5K and 1-mile events; along with Fall Fest favorites and great new activities throughout the day Saturday, September 24th. The P&R Crew is looking for volunteers to help out so please contact them at 319-848-4103, or by email at ely-parks@gmail.com if you or your organization is willing to offer your time and talents to help Fall Fest. Visit us on the web at www.elyiowa.com for the newest Fall Fest info.

Community Meeting re: Status of Hoover Trail to Linn/Johnson Line

The Ely City Council is holding a community meeting and update on the status of extending the Hoover Nature Trail south from the Ely Community Center to the Linn/Johnson County line Tuesday April 5 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. The community meeting will focus on the segment of the Hoover Trail located in Ely. In addition to updating on the status of this project Todd Happel will discuss an option to build the trail adjacent to a median on the east side of State Street. There will be opportunity for public comments toward the end of the meeting.

Creekside Estates, A New Residential Development Proposed

SK Development, LLC, from Walford, has applied to subdivide roughly 11 acres to create Creekside Estates in Ely. The proposed subdivision would result in fifteen single family lots ranging from slightly less than one-half acre in size to roughly .9 acres. This proposed residential subdivision is located on the south side of Banner Valley Road, roughly diagonally southeast from the Ely Fire Station and south of the Ely Community Center. The proposed

preliminary plat includes a storm water management basin; the City Engineer and SK Development are working to address drainage conditions in area considered for development. The City Council is expected to review the preliminary plat for Creekside Estates at the April 11, 2016 meeting.

Public Works Will Flush Water System in May

This is routine maintenance we perform to maintain good water quality in the system. You may occasionally notice minor discoloration to the water while this is being done; the water poses no health risk and is safe to drink, even though it may look a little different. We will announce the scheduled dates in the May NoJoCo.

Renew Your Ely Golf Cart & ATV Permit

It is time to renew your Ely Golf Cart/ATV permit; if you haven't already. Your annual golf cart/ATV permit was supposed to be renewed by April 1, so it is essential that you renew it as soon as possible. The registration fee is \$25 per year; and the City Clerk/Administrator has to inspect the vehicle before issuing or renewing a registration. Stop by City Hall Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to renew your permit.