

CITY HALL CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2024

This newsletter is your connection to City of Ellsworth local government updates. Help us connect with people across the City; share the newsletter with your friends, your family and your community. Subscribe to the monthly newsletter at www.ellsworthmaine.gov

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION - PARTY ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

On Tuesday, March 5th, Mainers will cast their votes in the Presidential Primary Election. The Ellsworth City Clerk's Office is currently assisting Ellsworth residents with voter registration and providing guidance on ballots for the upcoming election. Our aim is to ensure you have the best information regarding the ballots. Please review the following information to learn more on ballot access.

- If you are registered with either the Republican or Democratic parties, you will receive a ballot specific to your party.
- However, if you are enrolled in one of the three other qualified political parties in Maine—Green Independent, Libertarian, or No Labels—you will not receive a ballot, as these parties are not participating in the Presidential Primary, but you may still have an opportunity to participate in the primary if you review the following information.
- If you wish to switch a political party, you will want to re-register at least 15 days before election day. The deadline to change party enrollment for the primary is Friday, February 16, 2024.
- Voters who aren't in a specific political party can be registered as "Unenrolled." Unenrolled voters have the flexibility to choose either a Democratic or Republican ballot for the primary. Voters in Green Independent, Libertarian, or No Labels may choose to switch parties or unenroll to participate in the primary.
- When using the online absentee ballot service, if you are registered as "Unenrolled" please select your ballot, either Democratic or Republican.
- It's important to note that a voter must remain in a party for 3 months before withdrawing or changing enrollment to a new party.

We hope this information helps you navigate the voting process effectively. If you have any questions, contact the City Clerk's Office at 207-669-6630.

Ballot Access for the Presidential Primary Election

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Enrollment	Ballot Options
Unenrolled	May select either a Democratic or Republican ballot
Democratic	Must receive a Democratic ballot
Green Independent	No ballot selection - Party not participating in the Presidential Primary
Libertarian	No ballot selection - Party not participating in the Presidential Primary
No Labels	No ballot selection - Party not participating in the Presidential Primary
Republican	Must receive a Republican ballot

• A voter must remain in a party for 3 months before withdrawing or changing enrollment to a new party. Voters that withdraw or change enrollment must do so at least 15 days before the election or will be ineligible to participate in the primary.

• **Deadline to change party enrollment: Friday, February 16, 2024**

Become an election worker and help your community on election days!

The City has 4 wards that require a certain level of staffing to assist voters each election. The duties include welcoming voters, registering new voters, handling ballots and preparing end of night tally sheets.

Election workers must be registered to vote and Ellsworth residents.

Interested? Visit our website and fill out the Election Worker Signup form!

THINKING OF STARTING A CHILD CARE BUSINESS?



Our **Economic Development Department** wants to inform community members interested in starting a childcare business about the **Child Care Business Lab**! The program offers free business education and assistance with the licensing process. Participants will learn how to write a business plan, create a financial forecast, apply for grants & loans, and much more.

Check out their webpage here:

<https://www.ceimaine.org/advising/business/child-care/>

Have question or want to learn more about these programs? Contact Janna Richards, Economic Development Director, at jrichards@ellsworthmaine.gov or call 207-669-6655. She can help connect you with staff supporting the Child Care Business Lab program, located right here in Ellsworth, at the Small Business Development Center, housed within the Union River Center for Innovation.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT CODE ENFORCEMENT

We welcome Robert Grant to the Code Enforcement Office! Robert recently became a Code Enforcement Officer, LPI, Health Inspector, Electrical Inspector, and Building Inspector for the City.

The Ellsworth Code Enforcement Office ensures compliance with codes regarding new construction, land use regulations and the maintenance of structures and premises. If you have any questions call the Code Office at (207)667-4910. Robert and his department are here to help!



WATER DEPARTMENT BILLING AND PAYMENT CHANGE

For our Water and Sewer Customers, due to an upcoming software transition there are two updates that may affect how you receive or pay your next bill.

- **Online Payments** will be unavailable during the transition. **The last day to make payments on the current online portal was January 30th.** Payments now need to be made in-person or by postal check, or a debit/credit card payment (plus processing fee) can be done over the phone by calling the Utilities Billing Office.
- **Water and sewer bills will not be emailed** to subscribers as the new system does not provide that option. Instead, the next round of bills will be **mailed to the account billing address.**

If you have been accustomed to receiving your water and sewer bill via email, we kindly ask you to take a moment to ensure that your mailing address is up-to-date. You can do this by contacting the Water Department. Those who are subscribed to receive the bills by email will be notified and reminded via email of change.

We understand that this may cause some inconvenience, but please be assured that it is a temporary situation. In the coming months, we are working to establish a new online portal that will allow you to conveniently pay your bills and receive email notifications again.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this transition. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to our Utilities Billing Office at utilitybilling@ellsworthmaine.gov

RESERVE YOUR WEDDING ON VALENTINE'S DAY WEDDING

Love is in the air! This Valentine's Day, make your love story even more special by tying the knot at Ellsworth City Hall! Say 'I do' on the most romantic day of the year. Contact the City Clerk's Office now to reserve your Valentine's Day marriage ceremony!

The cost of the ceremony is \$100 and is disbursed in the following manner: \$25 to Christmas for Kids, \$25 Clerk Revenue, and \$50 to the Notary. There is a 2.5% surcharge when paying with credit/debit.



MISSED TRASH PICK-UP?

The City of Ellsworth contracts with Pine Tree Waste, a division of Casella, to collect trash from residential households. If you utilize this service, remember these tips to ensure your trash gets collected:

- Each bag must have a clearly visible RED \$3 sticker attached.
- Bags need to be out before 7 AM.
- Any bag weighing more than 50 pounds will be refused.
- If you live on a private road, place your bag with red sticker at the designated areas where the private road meets the public road.

Casella/Pine Tree Waste Observes the following holidays: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

In the event that one of these holidays falls on a collection day, route schedules are as follows: Should a holiday fall on a Monday; Mondays trash will be collected on Wednesday and Tuesday trash will remain unchanged. Should a holiday fall on a Tuesday; Mondays trash collection will remain unchanged and Tuesdays trash will be collected on Wednesday.

If your trash collection is missed call (207)848-7551 to speak with a Casella representative for further information.



2024 CITY REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULES

City Council - Regular meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month at 6 PM in the Council Chamber.

JANUARY 8*	JULY 15
FEBRUARY 12*	AUGUST 19
MARCH 18	SEPTEMBER 16
APRIL 15	OCTOBER 21
MAY 20	NOVEMBER 18
JUNE 17	DECEMBER 16

*January and February meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of the month due to the observance of Holidays on the regularly scheduled 3rd Monday of the month.

Finance Committee - 8 AM every Friday.

Planning Board - 1st Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM.

Board of Appeals - 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 PM, held as necessary.

Recreation Commission - 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:30 AM.

Historic Preservation Commission - 3rd Wednesday of each month at 4 PM.

Arbor Commission - 1st Monday of each month at 8:15 AM.

Harbor Commission - 4th Wednesday of each month at 6 PM.

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee - 4th Monday of each month at 5:30 PM.

Communications Committee - Quarterly on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 PM.

School Board - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 PM (except June).

School Board Workshops - 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 PM.

Library Board of Trustees - 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Library.

Visit the City of Ellsworth website or call City Hall for the most up-to-date information on meetings and to learn of changes or cancellations.

UPCOMING FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Finance Committee

Every Friday at **8 AM** in the Council Chamber

February 5 - Arbor Commission

8:15 AM in the Council Chamber

February 5 - Local Roads Committee

7 PM in the Council Chamber

February 7 - Arbor Commission Workshop

3 PM - Remote Meeting - see notice for details

February 7 - Planning Board

5:30 PM in the Council Chamber

February 12 - City Council

6 PM in the Council Chamber

February 13 - School Board

6 PM in the Council Chamber

February 20 - Recreation Commission

8:30 AM in the Council Chamber

February 21 - Historic Preservation Commission

4 PM in the Council Chamber

February 26 - Steering Committee

5:30 PM in the Council Chamber

February 27 - School Board Workshop

6 PM in the Council Chamber

February 28 - Harbor Commission

6 PM in the Council Chamber

NEW CITY HALL HOURS

Monday - Wednesday: 8 AM - 5 PM

Thursday: 8 AM - 6:30 PM

Friday: 8 AM - 12:30 PM

UTILITY BILLING OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 8 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday: 8 AM - 1:30 PM