



CITY HALL CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 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

CITY HALL LIMITED TO ELECTION BUSINESS ON NOVEMBER 5 & 6

City Hall will be open only for election-related business on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. All other routine administrative services will be unavailable on this date. Additionally, City Hall will remain closed for all services on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

The closure includes City Hall based departments, excluding Fire Department response. Services such as car registrations, tax payments/inquiries, purchasing trash stickers, IFW licenses, shellfish licenses, vital records, business licenses and similar tasks will resume November 7. We appreciate your understanding as we dedicate November 5 and 6 to the election process.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES ABSENTEE BALLOT

From November 1 - 5, 2024 absentee ballots may only be issued with a Special Circumstances request form. The “special circumstances” are:

- An unexpected absence from the municipality during the entire time the polls are open on Election Day (7 a.m.–8 p.m.).
- A physical disability.
- An inability to travel to the polls because the voter is a resident of a coastal island ward or precinct.
- An incapacity or illness that has resulted in the voter being unable to leave home or a treatment facility.

POLLING LOCATIONS BY WARD

Ward One

1 City Hall Plaza 2nd floor Auditorium
(Downtown Area east side of the Union River)

Ward Three

867 Bangor Road – Maine Coast Baptist Church Gymnasium
(North Ellsworth)

Ward Two

4 Old Mill Road – Your Place Community Center
(Ellsworth Falls area, and Fletchers Landing Township)

Ward Four

1 City Hall Plaza 1st floor Council Chambers
(Bridge Hill area west side of the Union River)

CITY HALL HOURS

Monday - Wednesday: 8 AM - 5 PM
Thursday: 8 AM - 6:30 PM
Friday: 8 AM - 12:30 PM

CITY HALL

1 City Hall Plaza
Ellsworth, ME 04605

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 18 at 6pm in the Council Chamber at City Hall.
Available to stream online through the City of Ellsworth YouTube and Facebook.
Check the City website for the latest updates and meeting agenda.

RECENT EVENTS

ARBOR COMMISSION RECEIVES \$193,000 FOR URBAN FORESTRY PROJECTS

The City of Ellsworth's Arbor Commission is celebrating the completion of its first year of service to the community with the announcement that it has secured \$193,000 in grants through the Maine Forest Service for tree planting and other urban forestry projects over the next three years.

A Project Canopy Planning Grant will support the development of a comprehensive Forestry Management Plan for the City including a plan for the City's newly expanded Public Forest, an Invasive Pests Management Plan, and a small planting project on High Street in November. The grant will be matched by in-kind contributions by commission members, city staff, and local non-profits (the Ellsworth Garden Club, Frenchman Bay Conservancy, and Green Ellsworth).

The second grant, for \$173,000, was received from the US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program. It will fund an extensive tree-planting project, stretching from the High Street area along Foster and Washington streets to the waterfront and the City's Harbor Park. This area includes the largest concentration of low-cost housing in the City, as well as Card Brook, which has historically been an urban impaired stream, and a high concentration of paved and impervious surfaces. The plantings will not only make these areas more attractive and welcoming to residents and visitors alike, but also function as green infrastructure capable of mitigating the effects of climate change such as extreme heat, storm water run-off, and flooding during increasingly extreme weather events.

ELLSWORTH JOINS U.S. THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM TO IMPROVE HIGH STREET CORRIDOR



The City of Ellsworth is one of 52 communities selected to participate in this year's U.S. Department of Transportation's Thriving Communities Program (TCP). Through TCP, the City is paired with a technical support team of project managers, engineers, and designers to help find solutions to safety and mobility challenges that impact the High Street corridor. Other issues such as stormwater, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, and access to housing along this corridor are also being addressed. The work through this program will help the City be more competitive for federal grants to move identified solutions forward.

Last week, City Planner Matthew Williams and Economic Development Director Janna Richards attended a convening at the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington D.C. where they met other participating communities and learned about additional resources, experiences, and practices from across the country that can be applied back home in Ellsworth.

BRANCH LAKE PUBLIC FOREST ANNUAL CLEAN-UP

City staff, along with volunteers from Woodard & Curran and Frenchman Bay Conservancy, came together last Friday morning for trail maintenance in the Branch Lake Public Forest. Maintenance efforts included clearing debris, such as fallen trees, from trails and refreshing trail blazes (wayfinding markers).

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing teamwork that ensures the Public Forest remains a beautiful place to hike each year! A special thank you to Friend & Friend for providing the ATV rental, making it easier to transport people and equipment along the tote road, and to our dedicated volunteer, Bill Nelson, for his unwavering commitment to the City and nature.



SILENT AUCTION RETURNS IN NOVEMBER

SILENT AUCTION

The City of Ellsworth invites you to participate in our November Silent Auction, with all proceeds benefiting the Christmas for Kids fund. This fund helps provide gifts for 80-100 children in our community each year, ensuring they experience the joy of the holidays. We aim to provide \$60 per child, and with your support, many children receive even more, thanks to generous donations.

Stop by the City Clerk's Office in November to place your bids! Winners will be contacted in early December.

NEWS FROM THE UNION RIVER CENTER FOR INNOVATION

Area business owners -- seasoned, novice, large, and small -- you are invited to participate in a Business Brainstorming Forum to **share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions for the tools and resources** you would find beneficial as topics for upcoming educational workshops. From marketing to legal to business planning to bookkeeping to any other topic areas you need help navigating, bring it all with you to this free and open event!

While there you'll also receive industry knowledge from a panel of experts from:

- Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI)
- Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
- Barbee Business Services
- Eaton Peabody law firm
- TS2 Marketing Consulting

Drinks and light snacks will be provided and the event is **FREE** for Ellsworth area business owners and prospective entrepreneurs.

RSVP is required. RSVP here:
<https://bit.ly/bizforumrsvp>



Your Ideas Are Needed!



Business Brainstorming Forum

November 13th from 5 PM - 7PM

at the Union River Center for Innovation
at 415 Water Street in Ellsworth.



The Union River Center for Innovation has a new Facebook page. Be sure to follow the new page today to stay up to date on all of their events and opportunities!
www.facebook.com/Unionrivercenter

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

The **Annual Tree Lighting** will be November 30 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the City Hall Parking lot. Vendors, including nonprofits, are welcome to join the event. Contact community organizer Kim Fitch for more information and to sign up: (207)812-0172 or soxgirl247@gmail.com.

44TH ANNUAL DOWNTOWN ELLSWORTH CHRISTMAS PARADE OF LIGHTS

Join us on December 7 for a **Christmas in Toyland Parade!** It will kick-off at 4 p.m. (inclement weather date is Sunday, Dec. 8). Starting from EEMS, the parade will travel down State Street to School Street, across School Street, turning onto Main Street and travel down to the lower light and back up State Street. Eager to participate? Check out the details below to register!

Parade Details:

Date & Time: Line-up begins at 3 p.m. at Ellsworth Elementary Middle School and the parking lot behind Mill Mall (off State Street). The parade will be a light themed parade again this year. Parade participants are encouraged to deck out their floats/vehicles with Christmas lights and other light up decorations and get creative!

All community/civic groups, churches, businesses, schools and any entertainment are encouraged to register to be part of the parade and join the festivities of Christmas In Toyland.

Parade Float Registration Link is available on our website:

ellsworthmaine.gov/event/44th-annual-downtown-ellsworth-christmas-parade-of-lights/

For more info contact Kimberly Fitch, (207)812-0172 ellsworthchristmasparade@gmail.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY?

ELLSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

& THE ACADIA HANDBELL CHOIR
A COMMUNITY EVENT FOR ALL AGES!



NOVEMBER 21 THURSDAY
6 PM COOKIES, CRAYONS, COCOA, COMMUNITY!
7 PM ANNUAL PERFORMANCE: ACADIA HANDBELL CHOIR

THE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE IS CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Star 97.7 The Ellsworth American.

20 STATE STREET | 04605 ELLSWORTH
ELLSWORTHLIBRARY.NET

Mushroom Week

November 12 - 16, 2024
A week of fungi programming for all ages



November 12 at 1 PM
Mushroom Ornament Making



November 13 at 6 PM
Mushroom Movie Night
RSVP & Choose between 2 Movies.



November 14 at 5:30 PM
Beginner's Mushroom Cooking Class
Spots are limited. Please RSVP.

 **Middle Earth Mushrooms**
Log-grown Shiitake from Seal Cove, Maine



November 15 at 2 PM
After-school: Mushroom Crafts



November 16 at 10:30 AM
Mushroom Story Time



For more information and to register visit ellsworthlibrary.net or call (207) 667-6363

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TREE PLANTING!



Meet
Vivek Philip

The library has two trustee positions up for election. Their current board chair, Craig MacDonald, who has served on the board for 6 years will be up for re-election. Vivek Philip is a new member of the board. Vivek and his whole family have been active library users since moving to Ellsworth 14 years ago. Thank you to Craig and Vivek for serving the library and this community. More information on [city-wide elections on Nov 5.](#)

Interested in becoming a Trustee? Be on the lookout for 2 additional Trustee seats next fall!

On November 14 at 9 a.m. the City of Ellsworth's Arbor Commission will be launching a three-year tree planting program with the installation of eight trees along the verge of Route 3 near the Goodwill Store.

The Arbor Commission is looking for volunteers to help with this great event! Those available should meet at the Goodwill parking area at 9 a.m. Volunteers should wear sturdy footwear and bring shovels and rakes if they have them.

November 14 starting at 9 a.m. (Rain date is November 15)

Organized by the Arbor Commission, contact chair Tabatha White at: arborcommission@ellsworthmaine.gov to sign-up!

CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS:

The **Recreation Commission** promotes recreation activities within the City of Ellsworth. The Commission sponsors activities and collaborates with area groups and organizations to encourage recreational activities within the community and at city-owned recreational facilities.

Applicants must be willing to commit to every third Tuesday of the month 8:30-10 a.m. To apply, please submit a letter of interest to City Planner Matthew Williams by e-mail at mwilliams@ellsworthmaine.gov



The **Planning Board** reviews land use and development proposals, zoning changes, and ordinance amendments. The Board is seeking two knowledgeable, committed, and community minded volunteers to join the board. Prospective candidates must be a resident of Ellsworth and have the ability to meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest along with any other information or qualifications to City Planner Matthew Williams by e-mail at mwilliams@ellsworthmaine.gov.

WE'RE HIRING!

Are you looking for a rewarding career where you can make a real impact in our community? The City of Ellsworth is hiring! Join our team and be a part of creating positive change in a dynamic and growing city. Whether you're passionate about public service, skilled in administration, or looking for hands-on work, we have opportunities for you. Apply today and help shape the future of Ellsworth!

Current opportunities:
FIREFIGHTER/EMT
WATER OPERATOR
UTILITIES COORDINATOR

UPCOMING PUBLIC WORKSHOP: HANCOCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

There will be a public workshop on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Ellsworth City Hall regarding the Hancock County Courthouse and potential alternative location. Broadcasting will be available.

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.

BIG FINANCE FRIDAY - 2nd Friday of each month at 8 AM

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.

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.

BIG FINANCE FRIDAYS

Join us as we review the year-to-date budget performance. Every second Friday of the month will be used to examine the current actuals, broken down by department, and we would love for you to watch in-person or online at 8 a.m.!

In addition to the regular business of the Finance Committee meetings, the City Manager will present information and planning related to the upcoming Road/Infrastructure BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) Proposal. The topics covered are listed below:

Oct. 25 – Seasonal Parking Kiosks (watch on YouTube)
Nov. 1 – Local Roads and Plow Truck (watch on YouTube)
Nov. 8 – Water Main Contingency & Courthouse Access Road
Nov. 15 – Review and Proposal Finalization



Coffee with a Cop held Oct. 9 at Flexit Cafe