**CITY OF ELLSWORTH NEWSLETTER October 2020**

City of Ellsworth Residents,

The Minnesota Secretary of State is encouraging all voters to vote from home to reduce the spread of disease and keep our communities healthy!

The City of Ellsworth is a city that is under the 400 registered voters & has chosen to hold this General Election on November 3rd, 2020 by mail ballot due to COVID-19. This decision by the Ellsworth City Council, was made back in May 2020.

The mail ballot voting procedure is a relatively simple one. If you are a registered voter in the City of Ellsworth, the Nobles County Auditor’s Office will mail a ballot directly to you to vote for the November 3rd, 2020 election. Your ballot will arrive byOctober 20th. You may have already received your ballot if you are a **registered voter at your current address**. If you have more than one registered voter in your household, each one will receive a separate ballot with their own return postage paid envelope. You may put your completed ballot back in the mail (no postage necessary) or drop it off @ the secure drop box in front of the Nobles County Government Center (315 10th Street, Worthington, MN 56187). You may track the status of your ballot and confirm that it was received by the Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer and counted by contacting the Nobles County Government Center @ 507-295-5258.(even if you drop your ballot off at the secure drop box @ the Nobles County Government Center).

If you have moved or a name change, you will need to update, your voter registration to your new name or address at least 21 days before the election. Contact the Nobles County Auditor’s Treasurer’s Office @ 507-295-5258. The deadline to register online is 11:59PM, 21 days before Election Day. “mnvotes.org”. The deadline to register on paper is 4:00PM, 21 days before Election Day. Otherwise, you may register on Election Day (Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020), at the Nobles County Government Center.

If you are **NOT** currently a registered voter you will still be able to vote, you just need to register by contacting the Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer’s Office @ 507-295-5258 to assist you in registering to vote 21 days before the election (prior to OCTOBER 13TH, 2020). Or, go online to “mnvotes.org” and fill out the application.

**After the 14th of October**, you will need to register and vote in person at the Nobles County Government Center (Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer’s Office @ 315 10th Street, Worthington, MN 56187). Make sure you bring along a proper ID. Example: Driver’s License and a current electric, water, gas bill with your name and date listed on the bill.

Ballots returned in person must be delivered by 3:00PM on Election Day, November 3rd, to the Nobles County Government Center 315 10th Street, Worthington, MN 56187. Ballots returned by mail, must be postmarked on or before the Election Day, November 3rd, 2020 **AND** received by Nobles County within the next seven calendar days (November 10th, 2020). Your ballot will not count if it is received after the deadline.

If someone is dropping off your ballot, the carrier may only have up to three other ballots. You will need to show ID with name and signature if dropping off someone else’s ballot.

Please keep in mind that the State Voter Registration System will automatically remove voters who do not vote at least once every four years, so you must vote on a regular basis to continue an updated registration.

**TREE, BUSH, BRANCH TRIMMING** ~ Letter were sent out to those who need to trim back tree’s, branches, bushes on the boulevard by November 1st, 2020 so that the city vehicles (Snow Plow, Loader tractor, Fire Department Rigs etc.) can get through safely.

**GIVING ~** Christmas will be upon us before we know it! Several giving people each year, stop in city hall & give a “silent donation” to a property owner in need; which, is applied directly onto a water/sewer bill. A great way to give and keep it local. A receipt will be written to the person who was so generous to give & it shall be kept confidential if you so wish. Many people struggle this time of year… keep it local & help a family or individual out. Thank you to those individuals who have so graciously given in the past & to those who will donate again this year!

**SNOW PLOWING STREETS WITH VEHICLE REMOVAL ~** please remove vehicles off of the city streets so that the city employees can do their job to remove the snow or you may be ticketed/towed. A link to the City Streets Department Snow Removal Policy is located on the City webpage for your viewing. [**www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org**](http://www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org)

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** The City of Ellsworth can prohibit the deposit of snow on the street from private property owners. Essentially the city can clear the snow from the street. If the individual property owner choses to have a parking lot or spaces (or driveway) then they would be responsible for removing the snow on that area.  Even if it is snow that the city pushes there in the process of cleaning the street.  For instance, your driveway.  **But the property owner does not have the right to take this snow and move it back to the street or to move snow from their private property to the street.**  Please be patient. Snow removal does take time.

Also, to those of you who have chosen rural route for your mail, please remember that it is your responsibility for snow removal around the mailbox and in front of your mailbox in the winter so that your mail can be delivered in a timely manner.

Also, with snow brings snowmobiles. Please adhere to the City of Ellsworth Snowmobile Ordinance, Chapter 6; respect others property while you are enjoying your ride. If you have a problem with snowmobiles on your property, please contact the Nobles County Sheriff’s Office at (507)295-5400. Please review this ordinance that has been added to the Ellsworth web page:

**Section 605 – Snowmobiles, All Terrain Vehicles, Go-Carts and Recreational**

**Vehicles. (This ordinance also includes Golf Carts):** [**www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org**](http://www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org)

 Sewer and water rates beginning January 1, 2021 and billed to you in February of 2021 for the year 2021 shall be as follows

**Rates for 2020 include:** **Rates for 2021 include:**

Water 0 – 1000 gallons **base** fee: $13.50 $15.50

After the first 1000 gallons $1.40 $ 1.50

Sewer **base** fee $22.25 $23.00

MN Dept. of Health annual fee $9.72 $9.72

**EYE ON WATER APP ~** youare now able to see your water usage through an APP called EYE ON WATER. You can apply this app through your smart phone, tablet or computer. You will need your water bill account number.

Available through Badger Meter’s BEACON advanced metering analytics, Eye on Water lets you view and understand your usage through simple graphs. It also lets you establish alerts to better manage your usage. It’s designed to promote conservation by offering hourly, daily, monthly and yearly data directly from the metering system. It will spot costly leaks and set up alerts. EyeOnWater is available as a smartphone app for Android (5.0 and higher) and iOS (9.1 and higher). For computers, go to the City website [www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org](http://www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org) page for more information. Click “read more”.

**The Ellsworth Burn site** is *only* to be used for the residents of the City of Ellsworth. It is to be used *only* for trees, leaves, brush, branches, or garden debris. The City of Ellsworth employees are *only* to start a fire at the dump site. The gates will be left open daily unless it is misused. Regulations will be posted on the gate and the fine thereof. Please use common sense when it is wet. ABSOLUTELY NO GARBAGE OR PAINTED/VARNISHED WOOOD ACCEPTABLE or any wood with nails in it. There are piles for each kind of debris and the piles are marked. Please adhere to putting your debris in the correct piles. The MN Department of Natural Resource checks our tree dump periodically. Absolutely no garbage bags full of leaves or garden debris. Empty out debris on the correct pile **and dispose of your own garbage bags**. The city will be fined by the MN DNR and possible closure of the dump if the rules are NOT followed. This last year, a burn site at a different city in Minnesota was closed down… let this NOT happen to Ellsworth!!!

If you see a street light that is out, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at: 507-967-2373 or send an email to: **cityofellsworthmn@gmail.com**

Watch the Ellsworth Facebook page (Like us on Facebook: City of Ellsworth, Minnesota) and, the City website [www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org](http://www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org) for updated information.

Continue to social distance, stay safe, and healthy! Enjoy what we have left of this beautiful fall!

 ~ The Ellsworth City Council