



THIS IS EL DORADO



From the Desk of the City Manager

The City of El Dorado relies on a committee appointed by the City Commission each year to review projects and make a recommendation for projects to be completed. As we have written before, the sales tax is voted on every five years by the citizens of El Dorado. The sales tax offers funds for property tax reduction, street rehabilitation and economic development. After those funds are removed from the collections, the remainder goes to capital projects. Funds are collected each year, the following year they are allocated and they are then available for expenditures in the third year. This allows the City to properly plan expenditures based on actual collections instead of estimates.

The collections in 2019 resulted in \$382,447 available for capital projects. The Excess Sales Tax Committee reviewed the projects presented to them and have made the following recommendations to the City Commission for projects to be completed in 2021.

PROJECT	PRICE
Riverview Playground	\$60,000
McDonald Stadium Project Bank	\$50,000
Civic Center Parking Lot	\$141,402
Spray Park Pump Equipment Replacements	\$20,000
Senior Center Painting	\$7,400
Central/East Bleachers	\$25,845
Park Maintenance Shop Painting	\$4,800
Graham Park Playground North	\$50,000
East Park Batting Cage	\$15,000
McDonald Stadium Electrical Project	\$8,000

The Excess Sales Tax Committee has begun placing funds in an account for McDonald Stadium projects over the last two years. Their hope is that these funds can be used to assist in the cost of replacing the infield turf in a few years as well as some other projects that are in need of completion at McDonald Stadium. The funds for the electrical project are to complete a project from a previous year.

The sales tax collections in 2020 are currently trending 2.5% above the previous year, should they continue, 2020 will be a record collection year. In order to continue doing projects like the ones listed above or projects like the bike path and spray parks, it is important that citizens continue shopping local. If you have questions about these projects, contact the City Clerk at 316-321-9100 or tsharp@eldoks.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN EL DORADO

FIND MORE EVENTS AT WWW.ELDOKS.COM

- October 12 - Columbus Day - **City Offices OPEN** - Trash Routes to remain the same.
- October 19 - City Commission Meeting
- October 31 - Halloween
- November 2 - City Commission Meeting
- November 7 - Celebration of Freedom Parade
- November 11 - Veteran's Day - **City Offices CLOSED** - Trash Routes will remain the same.
- November 16 - City Commission Meeting

Check out one of the sites below for daily updates!



@cityofeldorado



@EldoCityMgr



@whats.happening.in.eldoks



City of El Dorado, KS

Countdown to the 150th Celebration: Happy 200th Birthday Alfred W. Ellet!



General Alfred W. Ellet, Civil War hero, was born October 11, 1820 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. When he was 16, he moved from his family home to a farm in Bunker Hill, Illinois. Ellet owned a dry goods store and was a civil engineer. He married Miss Sarah Jane Robarts in 1843 where they had five children, two who died in infancy.

He was commissioned by the Union Army as captain in 1861 and in 1862 he became a Lieutenant Colonel, serving under his brother, Charles Ellet. After his brother's passing, he was appointed brigadier general of the Mississippi Marine Brigade, Commissioned as Colonel in command of a ram fleet, he led his troops to victory in the battles at Memphis and Vicksburg in 1862. This was one of the most effective forces in cleaning the Mississippi river and played an important part in winning the war for the Union. It was said that Ellet and his accomplishments to his success was the fact that he was "heart and soul in the cause against slavery and for the preservation of the Union." His unit was disestablished in 1864 and that is when he resigned his commission and returned to civil engineering.



story continued on back...



If you have a non-emergency issue in the evening or on a weekend such as: a dog running at large, a problem with a traffic signal or maybe a splash park isn't running correctly, call 316-322-4398.



Ellet (cont.)

In 1869, Ellet left Illinois and moved to El Dorado. He immediately rose into leadership in business and in civic affairs. He illustrated the cause of Prohibition with the same passion with which he had opposed slavery. He was an important part in making Kansas a prohibition state.

Ellet, his son Edward C. Ellet and his close friend Nathan F. Frazier formed the old Bank of El Dorado which later merged with the Exchange Bank and became the Merchants Bank and finally the Farmers & Merchants Bank.

Mr. Ellet was first to realize there was a transportation issue in El Dorado. It was through his efforts that the Florence, El Dorado & Walnut Valley Railroad, now part of the Santa Fe system, were built through town in 1883.

Ellet also had a farm at the south side of town which featured a deer park which popular with the public, especially the children of El Dorado.



Most citizens have heard of the Ellet Opera house, located in the 100 block of west Central. It was because of Alfred Ellet, that this building was erected. After years of requests from citizens for a building to house: meetings, church services, prominent speakers, musicals and dramas, the building had their grand opening in December of 1884. The Ellet Opera house had Kansas senator John James Ingalls, most famously known for coining the phrase “Ad astra per aspera”, present at the grand opening. The first floor was occupied by a “Carriage repository” and clothing store. By 1899, the west half had been converted to a newspaper office and post office. The businesses on the first floor changed often ranging from a pool hall to millinery to a hardware store. Over the years, the building hosted numerous productions and community events. One of the most notable was an 1897 production of “Six Cups of Chocolate” which raised money for the construction of the Carnegie Library. It was fully renovated in 2014 through a Department of Housing and Urban Development Grant called the HOPE VI grant, intended for Main Street District buildings. These funds helped the owners restore the building to its original historic look. The interior now houses apartments and commercial space.



Alfred Washington Ellet died on January 9, 1895 and is buried at Belle Vista Cemetery, here in El Dorado. General Alfred Ellet was an integral part to the growth of El Dorado. October 11th will be his 200th birthday. Let us remember this influential civic leader for his ingenuity and leadership to the beginning of success for our town. Happy Birthday Alfred!

Mooney, P. (1916) *History of Butler County Kansas; Family files located at Butler County Kansas Oil Museum*; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_W._Ellet; <https://eldoradomainstreet.org/ellets-opera-house>

220 E. First | El Dorado, KS 67042

What's Crackin'?

Many of us enjoy a nice walk around our neighborhood with kids or pets, but often we run into unsightly sidewalk problems such as weeds or cracks. Whose responsibility is it to clean this up? The City? The homeowner?



It is actually the homeowner's responsibility to maintain their sidewalk. As a matter of fact, there is a section in Municipal Code (located at www.eldoks.com) that covers, in depth all the ins and outs about sidewalks.

What about the ice/snow on the sidewalks? According to municipal Code 12.16.010, “It is the duty of the owner and of the occupant of any lots abutting upon any sidewalks either in front or at the side or both, in the city, to cause to be removed from such sidewalks all snow and ice ... in such a manner as to make such sidewalk reasonably safe for pedestrian travel shall be deemed a sufficient compliance with the provisions of this chapter until the said ice or snow can be removed.” It also states that the removal of ice or snow from sidewalks must be moved within six hours after the storm passes. And yes, there is a penalty that can be assessed for failure to comply.

Cracks and uneven areas occurring? Once the sidewalk becomes inadequate or unsafe for travel, you can contact the Engineering department for possibility of repair or new construction. Need a sidewalk? Discuss with at least 10 of your neighbors and have them sign a petition. You can then bring it to the City Clerk who will then present it to the City Commission for consideration.



FACTS



- It is unlawful to burn leaves, trash or other combustible material on sidewalks. (12.08.060)
- It is unlawful for any person to cut sidewalks or remove for excavation in the streets, alleys or public ways of the city without first applying for and receiving a permit from the building inspector. (12.12.010)
- It is unlawful for any person to drive, ride or cross with either vehicles or livestock over a curb or a sidewalk without a permit. (12.08.030)
- It is unlawful to leave tools, boxes, trash cans, popcorn roasters or advertising on any sidewalk without permission from City Manager. (12.08.040)

So, next time you see a large weed in the cracks of a sidewalk or see one in need of repair, please contact the City at 316-321-9100, and the operator will direct you to the appropriate department.