

Elk Point & Jefferson

Elk Point - a progressive community

Elk Point, population 1,963, is a community of rich history. The earliest recorded history of Elk Point dates back to the Lewis & Clark Expedition of 1804. Captain William Clark recorded in his journal a "Great deal of Elk Sign" at this campsite along the Missouri River. In spite of that significant journal entry, no one today can pinpoint the origin of Elk Point's name. Whatever the origin, the community was officially incorporated as Elk Point on Jan. 10, 1873.

Elk Point is located about 60 miles south of Sioux Falls and 15 miles northwest of Sioux City. The city's location is particularly favorable to business. Elk Point is on Interstate 29, with two exits; and on a railroad with a rail and switching system, which provides services in three directions.

Elk Point is the county seat of Union County, and the ninth fastest growing of 4,000 communities in the United States in terms of family income.

Leading the city are Mayor Isabel Trobaugh and City Council members.

Following are some achievements accomplished in 2010.

April 5, 2010, construction began on one of the biggest projects in Elk Point history. New water and sewer lines were installed on 14 blocks and the entire Main Street was resurfaced. Main Street reopened Oct. 21 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Community organizations in Elk Point got together to host a haunted house in the old auditorium. Members of the community, from high school age on up helped with this very successful project. More than 500 people came through the haunted house. Now that most of the props have been purchased, the city is looking for an organization to donate the proceeds next year.

For 2011, the City of Elk Point is working on plans to build a Community Center. Plans are being drawn up and a vote will be taken by the residents to approve the project.

The community is known for the Annual Lewis & Clark Heritage Days – the summer of 1999 marked the first of an annual August festival organized by many of the civic groups in Elk Point. Dozens of tents and tepees dotted the Elk Point City Park as pioneer re-enactors perform for visitors and display their crafts.

If you visit Elk Point, you can have ice cream at Edgars – people drive hundreds of miles for one of the sodas or phosphates, just like they used to get when they were growing up. Elk Point has a beautiful 9-hole golf course, a swimming pool, and a well-maintained baseball field, where teams come from all over the tri-state area to play. Elk Point-Jefferson School offers a wide variety of both core and specialized classes.

Residents enjoy living in Elk Point because it has a small town atmosphere with a great school district and nice affordable housing.

Jefferson - A place to come home to

Jefferson, S.D., population 547, is located just east of mile marker 9 off Interstate 29.

Three families, Michael Ryan Sr., A. Christie and Matthews, were the very first white settlers that established their homes in Jefferson in the spring of 1859. The town was first known as Alascat, Willow and then Jefferson.

Last names of prominent people in the community's early days were Allard, Authier, Beaubien, Bernard, Bertrand, Bosse, Chicoine, Connors, Crevier, Curran, LaBreche, LaBrune, LaFleur, Lambert, Montagne and Ryan.

In 2009, the city celebrated its 150th anniversary and annexed ground between Jefferson and I-29. The annexation was the city's first step toward growth and expansion. The annexation was involuntary, so an election was held, and it was approved.

The city has an Aldermanic government with Joe Bogenreif as mayor, Tony Roark and Mike Stokely in Ward 1, Jeff Monahan and Gary Schaeffer in Ward 2, and Molly Lokhorst and Larry Whitlock in Ward 3.

Jefferson is known for its annual Days of '59 celebration. Held the second full weekend in July, the event includes a social in the park, a widely known local pyrotechnic show by Jim Smith, and an annual chicken dinner by the firemen in conjunction with the Days of '59. There is always something to do. This year's event will be July 8-10.

What sets Jefferson apart from other communities is its 34-member volunteer fire department with 13 of those members being state certified EMTs.

A small, close-knit community, Jefferson offers small town safety and friendship while being close to metro areas such as Sioux City. Some people live in Jefferson if they want neighbors and don't want to be isolated or anonymous. Other people live in the community so they can go to work and then come home to enjoy the peace and quiet.

Ollies Drive Inn



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