

# FERTILE REMINDER

OCTOBER 2017



**The Henry Ouverson Family:** Top row L. to R. **Lawrence, Clarence, Edwin, Melvin, Virgil.** Front row: **Harley, Mary, Henry and Emery.** Okay, here is an assignment (homework) for all the heirs of the above Ouverson's. Please write some "history" or memories of any of the above but especially Henry and Mary and send them to [bettyw@wctatel.net](mailto:bettyw@wctatel.net). Include pictures and send up to a full page, if you so desire. Or send to Betty Waddington, 554 Hwy 9, Harlontown, IA. Let's fill the Reminder with good stories next year.

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 2 Firemen meet
- 10 Garden Club
- 11 Reminder Deadline
- 12 & 26 Recycle
- 16 Library Board meets
- 17 Fertile Girls
- 17 City Council
- 18 Mail Reminder



## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 14<sup>th</sup> 2 – 6 PM

Food, Fire Demonstrations, & Giveaways

Shirts available for \$25.00

Fertile Fire Dept., Fertile, IA

## City of Fertile

### City Council Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2017 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

#### Call to Order & Roll Call:

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Tad Miller, Holly Lovik-Hanna, Nick Bailey and Ron Rachut; City Clerk Wendy Lunning. Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts. Absent: Cindy Peters
- Tad motioned, Nick 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the minutes of the August meeting.** Unanimous
- Ron motioned, Tad 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept agenda with the addition of Richard Smith with Kim Smith.** Unanimous. Agendas are posted at City Hall, at the Library, and at the Post Office, 24 hours in advance of each Council Meeting. If you wish to be on the Agenda, please contact City Hall two days before the meeting.

#### Building Permits/Variances:

- Andrew & Brittny Hall will be submitting a Special Building Permit to convert garage into a home business. Ron motioned, Nick 2<sup>nd</sup> to continue with Building Variance. Roll Call Vote: Holly – yes; Ron – yes; Nick – yes; Tad – yes. Unanimous
- Richard & Kim Smith would like to build a garage that will encroach on the setbacks of the side yard. Letter received from Richard & Joely Bruns giving permission to do so. Richard & Kim Smith will follow up with regular building permit. Holly motioned, Nick 2<sup>nd</sup> to approved this permit. Roll Call Vote: Holly – yes; Ron – yes; Nick – yes; Tad – yes. Unanimous.

#### City Maintenance Report:

- Sewer plant has high numbers. The capacitor & switches have been replaced and are now running efficiently.
- DNR would like the sewer testing to include Nitrogen. The sewer testing should include E.coli and Ammonia in the spring. DNR had also mentioned testing the ph balance on weekly basis.
- Steve sprayed & maintain weeds.
- Main Street project has been completed.
- Steve is planning to get the snow truck prepared for winter within the next month.
- Holly motioned, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve maintenance report.**

Unanimous

#### Mayor's Report:

- Joyce met with the ICAP insurance in regard to the wind damage. MC Roofing will be repairing damage to the shingles at the Community Center.
- Danko Siren has been repaired at no charge as it is under warranty.
- Joyce received 2 estimates to blacktop City Hall & Community Center. She will be presenting the estimates to Kelly Hansen at POET.
- Joyce received letter from citizen inquiring about BMC tours on Fertile Days 2018. The Fertile Days Committee has already been working on this.

- Joyce & Wendy went to FSB to take loan for \$70,000 as approved by city council in November 2016 meeting.
- Joyce ordered Barco sign to 'Stop Ahead'.
- Joyce has completed Rental Screening Application for incubator including Rental Agreement.
- Wendy organized receipts from Fertile Café and took to WCDA.
- Nathaniel Fredricks has received ruling and license for beer and wine.
- Wendy applied for 5Star Cooperative credit card for gas due to Pronto Closing.
- Joyce attended NIACOG meeting in Clear Lake.
- Joyce sent copy of building permits from 07/01/2016 to current date to the Worth County Assessor's office.
- Ron motioned, Tad 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

#### City Clerk's Report

- Fire Department & Library current through 06/30/2017.
- Garden Club current through 07/31/2017.
- Fiscal Year End reports do not include the year-end adjustments. A full set of reports will be submitted to the City Council when completed.

7/1/2017 8/31/2017	General	WCDA	Roads	EE Benefits	Utilities	Total
Income	38,317.17	53,975.00	9,222.57	31.59	29,147.08	130,693.41
Expense	50,091.30	46,153.68	3,073.32	223.93	21,931.61	121,473.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>-11,774.13</b>	<b>7,821.32</b>	<b>6,149.25</b>	<b>-192.34</b>	<b>7,215.47</b>	<b>9,219.57</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>57,277.87</b>	<b>21.32</b>	<b>52,792.65</b>	<b>676.17</b>	<b>135,854.71</b>	<b>246,622.72</b>

- Ron motioned, Holly 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous
- Nick motioned, Tad 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve August Bills.** Unanimous
- Liens presented to the council were as follows:

115 W Main \$312.06

**Ron motioned, Tad 2<sup>nd</sup> to process liens with the County Treasurer.**

Unanimous

- Election papers are due to City Clerk by Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. City Clerk will be available at the Hanlontown City Hall on that date.
- Holly motioned, Nick 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the SFR (Street Financing Report) Resolution.** Unanimous

#### Committee Report:

- Ron Rachut suggested adding another flag pole to include Veteran flag, Police flag and MIA POW flag for Community Beautification. The council agreed that this is a good idea and will be checking into several avenues for funding.
- Holly asked about suggest adding more power sources in the park, along with walking trail and benches. This would be a possibility for the WCDA spring grant.
- Holly also asked about painting fire hydrants.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, at Fertile City Hall.
- Holly motioned, Nick 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous

#### Summary of Resolutions & Ordinances:

- Building Permit for Richard & Kim Smith.**
- Resolution 17-09-19-1 State SFR.**

## City of Fertile Bills Paid

As of August 31, 2017

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
<b>Operating Accounts</b>					
<b>Checking</b>					
Check	08/01/2017	TRANSFER	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Payment	0.00
Paycheck	08/02/2017	8201	Bruns, Warren		-301.39
Paycheck	08/02/2017	8203	Russell, Grant		-395.74
Paycheck	08/02/2017	8202	Lunning, Wendy S		-393.83
Paycheck	08/02/2017	8204	Russell, Joyce	City Administrator - Donated 42 hours	-1,317.99
Bill Pmt -Check	08/02/2017	8205	BMC Aggregates L.C.		-1,907.68
Bill Pmt -Check	08/02/2017	8206	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Annual Fee NPDES	-210.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/02/2017	8207	Johansen Welding Construction		-26,665.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/02/2017	8208	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-20.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/02/2017	8209	Star Granite	Grant Statue	-7,800.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/02/2017	8210	Waste Management	Container Services - Overage service yards incident #10184166	-118.11
Bill Pmt -Check	08/02/2017	8211	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-207.76
Bill Pmt -Check	08/02/2017	8212	Wendy Lunning - v		-11.18
Bill Pmt -Check	08/02/2017	8213	OverDrive Inc	Books & DVD	-288.87
Bill Pmt -Check	08/02/2017	8214	State Library of Iowa		-106.43
Bill Pmt -Check	08/02/2017	8215	Country Sampler	Periodical	-29.98
Check	08/02/2017	8216	Roberts, Steve & Sandy	Refund of Utility Deposit	-150.00
Paycheck	08/09/2017	8217	Roberts, Stephen J		-1,046.08
Bill Pmt -Check	08/09/2017	8218	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-13.50
Bill Pmt -Check	08/09/2017	8219	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/09/2017	8220	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	Meter at Andrew Hall residence	-82.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/09/2017	8221	Menards	Playground Equipment, Paper Towels and Toilet Paper	-3.85
Bill Pmt -Check	08/09/2017	8222	Midwest Pipe Supply	Hydrant	-2,395.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/09/2017	8223	Superior Lumber, Inc		-20.17
Bill Pmt -Check	08/09/2017	8224	Waste Management	Garbage & Recycling Service	-2,179.92
Liability Check	08/14/2017	EFT	IPERS		-902.66
Liability Check	08/14/2017	8163	IPERS	Library Payroll	-135.11
Liability Check	08/15/2017	EFTPS	United States Treasury	42-1028074	-1,261.18
Check	08/16/2017	8226	Brandt, John	Refundable Utility Deposit	-72.56
Check	08/16/2017	8227	Heit, Dustin & Ceison	Refundable Deposit.	-150.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/16/2017	8228	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-1,640.14
Bill Pmt -Check	08/16/2017	8229	Aukes Lawn & Pest LC	Mosquito Spray - August 8th & 10th.	-950.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/16/2017	8230	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-130.21
Bill Pmt -Check	08/16/2017	8231	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-56.54
Bill Pmt -Check	08/16/2017	8232	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-79.94
Paycheck	08/23/2017	8233	Roberts, Stephen J		-1,046.09
Paycheck	08/23/2017	8234	Arndt, Linda J		-147.07
Paycheck	08/23/2017	8235	Knudson, Loni		-72.95
Paycheck	08/23/2017	8236	Thompson, Angela M		-1,084.16
Bill Pmt -Check	08/23/2017	8237	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-103.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/23/2017	8238	Baker & Taylor		-327.25
Bill Pmt -Check	08/23/2017	8239	Black Hills Energy		-95.93
Bill Pmt -Check	08/23/2017	8240	Citibusiness Card		-413.31
Bill Pmt -Check	08/23/2017	8241	Fertile Pronto	Gas for Mower, Truck, Golf Cart and Chainsaw	-292.41
Bill Pmt -Check	08/23/2017	8242	Junior Library Guild		-25.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/23/2017	8243	Menards	Rope Flag Pole, Drillbit	-20.96
Bill Pmt -Check	08/23/2017	8244	MicroMarketing	Books & DVDs	-27.50
Bill Pmt -Check	08/23/2017	8245	Staples		-61.32
Check	08/24/2017	DEBIT	WCTA		-66.46
Bill Pmt -Check	08/30/2017	8246	Clapper Tree Service	Storm Damage - Cleaned up down tree debris and removed 3 trees from river.	-3,187.50
Bill Pmt -Check	08/30/2017	8247	Green Canopy, Inc.	AUGUST - N end of Tennis Court	-75.00
Check	08/31/2017	TRANSFER	Petty Cash	Petty Cash Reimbursement	-63.56
Check	08/31/2017	CORR	City of Fertile	EOM Corrections	0.00

Bill Pmt -Check	08/31/2017	ClerkBooks A/P Adjust	QuickBooks generated zero amount transaction for bill payment stub	
Total Checking				-58,162.29
<b>Petty Cash</b>				
Check	08/31/2017	TRANSFER	Petty Cash	
Total Petty Cash			Petty Cash Reimbursement	63.56
Total Operating Accounts				63.56
Roads Revenue Accounts				-58,098.73
Savings				
Total Savings				
Total Roads Revenue Accounts				
<b>TOTAL</b>				<u>-58,098.73</u>

### City of Fertile Deposits

Date	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
08/01/2017	Utility Deposit	0.00
08/02/2017	Playground & Bronze Statue Deposit	53,975.00
08/02/2017	Utility Deposit	96.80
08/02/2017	Utility Deposit	553.36
08/03/2017	Property Taxes	7.91
08/03/2017	Casino Funds Deposit	2,702.09
08/09/2017	Utility Deposit	2,962.15
08/09/2017	Utility Deposit	69.13
08/15/2017	Road Use Tax	2,624.33
08/16/2017	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
08/16/2017	Utility Deposit	241.30
08/16/2017	Utility Deposit	3,467.37
08/17/2017	Book & Bake Sale Deposit	476.31
08/23/2017	Utility Deposit	2,236.30
08/23/2017	Farm to Market Deposit	2,254.37
08/23/2017	Utility Deposit	258.20
08/23/2017	Library Fees Deposit	25.00
08/23/2017	Library Book Sales Deposit	87.00
08/29/2017	Local Option Sales Tax	2,643.04
08/30/2017	Building Permit Deposit	70.00
08/30/2017	Utility Deposit	2,821.30
08/30/2017	Utility Deposit	85.17
08/31/2017	Interest	15.28
		77,671.41

Total Checking	
Petty Cash	
Total Petty Cash	
Total Operating Accounts	77,671.41
Roads Revenue Accounts	
Savings	
Deposit 08/31/2017 Interest	0.58
Total Savings	0.58
Total Roads Revenue Accounts	0.58
Water Revenue Accounts	
Savings	
Deposit 08/31/2017 Interest	2.87
Total Savings	2.87
Total Water Revenue Accounts	2.87
Sewer Revenue Accounts	
Savings	
Deposit 08/31/2017 Interest	2.51
Total Savings	2.51
CD	
Total CD	
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts	2.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>77,677.37</u>





**Leon W. Suby**, 88, of Mason City, died Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at Mercy Medical Center North Iowa. Memorial services will be held 1:30 PM Saturday, September 2, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 213 N. Pennsylvania Avenue with Rev. Dan Gerrietts

officiating. Per Leon's request, his body will be cremated. Inurnment will take place at a later date in Elmwood St. Joseph Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Leon Suby Memorial Fund or donor's choice.

Leon was born October 14, 1928 in rural Fertile, Iowa the son of Henry and Iva (Kirk) Suby. He attended country school near Fertile and finished his education in Fertile. Leon married Shirley Bartusek January 1, 1948 at the Little Brown Church in Nashua.

Leon worked as a heavy equipment operator at the lime quarry in Fertile. In 1954, he started working at Interstate Power Company in their Gas Department. After 32 years of service, he retired. Leon was a long time member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, becoming a member in 1956. A few of his interests included spending time outside on the deck, putting together puzzles, fixing things in his workshop, traveling and spending time in Mesa, AZ during the winter.

Leon is survived by his wife, Shirley of Mason City; 1 daughter, Christy (Ed Peele) Wass of Norfolk, Virginia and 1 son, Scott (Kathie) Suby of Schaumburg, Illinois; 3 grandchildren, Jordan, Kaitlin and Ryan; 1 brother, Allen (Nadine) Suby. of Ankeny; 2 sisters, Phyllis Clausen of Mason City and Linda (Tom) Price of Mesa, Arizona; many nieces and nephews.

Leon was preceded in death by his parents, 3 brothers, Robert, Roger and Boyd and 1 sister, Helen "Dolly" Sparby.

***Our sympathy to the Suby family. Leon was one of our avid readers.***



**Carol Jean Keough**, 79, of Fertile, died Thursday (September 14, 2017) at the Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

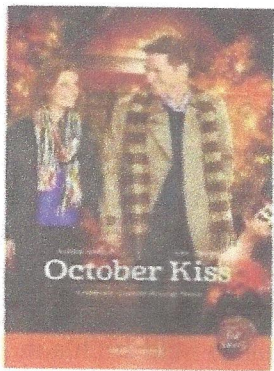
A funeral service for Carol will be held 10:30a.m Saturday (September 23, 2017) at Hogan-Bremer-Moore Colonial Chapel, 126 3rd St. Ne, Mason City with Pastor Art Zewert officiating.

Carol Jean Kloster was born to George Kloster Sr. and Marcella (Monson) Dwire on February 26, 1938 in Iowa City, Iowa. Carol married William Keough on February 14, 1954 and from this marriage seven children were conceived. Carol loved playing cards, playing bingo with her sisters, and attending grandchildren's activities and events. She was very proud of all her grandchildren. Carol also enjoyed making doilies, and spending time with her dogs and cats, especially her dog Shorty.

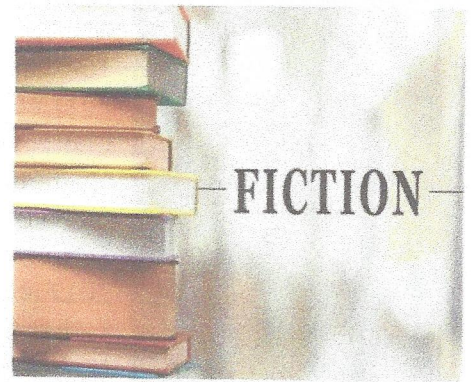
Carol is survived by her children, William Jr. (Cindy) Keough of Mendon, Michigan, Linda (Paul) Heyden of Manly, Iowa, David Keough of Mendon, Michigan, Robert Keough of Fertile, Iowa, Roy Keough of Fertile, Iowa, Cheryl (Robert) Thompson of Mason City, Iowa and Mark Keough of Fertile, Iowa; her grandchildren, Kelly and Tyson, Melissa and Doug, Chris, Jacob, and Jenny, Alysha, Dan, Fallon, Samantha, and Eric, Tyler, Danielle, David Michael, Bobbie Jo, and Kathy Jo; her great-grandchildren, Rindy, Dana, Kalina, Shelby, Alexis, Willow, Mason, Elijah, Christiana, Rikoy, and Jessie; her siblings, George (Marlys) Kloster Jr. of Des Moines, Iowa, Jack (Sharon) Kloster of Mason City, Iowa and Shirley Portis of Mason City, Iowa; as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband William Keough Sr., parents, George Kloster Sr. and Marcella Dwire, her sisters, Mary Ann Kurash of Mason City and Margaret (Ed) Despenas of Kensett, her brother Joey, a step-brother, Arnold (Patty) Dwire of Ashton, Iowa, and her step-father, Bill Dwire.

***Our sympathy to the Keough family!***



**FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
[www.youseemore.com/NILC/FertilePL](http://www.youseemore.com/NILC/FertilePL)  
**204 West Main Street/Box 198**  
**Fertile, IA 50434**  
**641-797-2787 Phone/Fax**  
**Monday & Wednesday-1-6 P.M.**  
**Thursday 3-6 P.M.**  
**Friday 9- Noon & 2-6 P.M.**  
**Saturday - 9 - Noon**



## Library Events

### Antiques Road Show!

October 15th @ 1pm

AN ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES  
 APPRAISAL EVENT FEATURING  
 AUTHOR AND ANTIQUES EXPERT  
 MARK F. MORAN!

THE LIBRARY IS NOW TAKING  
 RESERVATIONS TO HAVE YOUR ITEM  
 APPRAISED. SPACE IS LIMITED, SO  
 CALL THE LIBRARY @ 797-2787 TO  
 REGISTER AND FOR MORE DETAILS.

### Adult Coloring Night

October 5th @ 7pm

This program is for adults to come  
 and color at the library. We will  
 enjoy beverages and the calm of  
 coloring. The library will provide  
 all supplies.

## New Releases

### *Fiction*

The darkest winter - William W. Johnstone  
 Map of the heart - Susan Wiggs  
 Summer Days - Lisa Jackson  
 The right time- Danielle Steel  
 Y is for yesterday - Sue Grafton  
 The story of beautiful girl - Rachel Simon  
 Haunted - James Patterson  
 Enigma - Catherine Coulter

### *Movies*

#### CHIPS

The Fate of the furious  
 The lovers  
 Guardians of the galaxy, Vol.2  
 Woodlawn

## Hallmark Movie

### Mondays

*The library is going to be  
 hosting a movie afternoon just  
 for adults. Once a month we  
 will watch a Hallmark movie,  
 and enjoy refreshments. These  
 will be on Monday afternoons,  
 and are open to everyone over  
 18.*

*Our first event will be October  
 9th @1:30pm.*

## REMEMBERING MARIAN MIDTGAARD



For those of you that didn't know Marian Midtgaard, I will tell you this. You missed out big time.

Marian Midtgaard was an institution in the Mason City school system, admired by former students and their parents and her fellow co-workers. Harding Elementary school was a second home to Marian for a huge chunk of her life. She was a kindergarten teacher who left each child with a smile and a hug. But more than that, she left them with a zest for school and learning that many of them still had when they graduated from college.

I can no longer picture the old brick schoolhouse with the kindergarten teacher. The memories of Marian, the school, and the times have melded together now as one. It seems like a long time ago and it was a long time ago. Not everything has changed but neither is anything the same. The old elementary school has been replaced with a shiny new building that I'm not familiar with. I remember a stately old school that all of our

children attended from kindergarten through sixth grade. And I remember a teacher who launched each student into a world of education with great joy. Now they are both gone but the memory will live on forever.

Marian was just a little bit of a thing. I don't know if she was even 5 feet tall. She was short enough that eye-to-eye contact with her young students wasn't a problem. Actually, I don't think much of anything was a problem for Marian. She had an attitude and an outlook that was second to none. She was bubbly and bright and remembered absolutely everything she ever knew about a student and family.

My memories of the time our children were privileged to have Marian for a teacher are in bits and pieces. I remember a teacher who much younger then, not yet 30....a smile that was always there and bright laughing eyes filled with the joy of doing what she loved the most.

I remember a schoolroom at the end of the building filled with drawings made by little boy and girls hands. And little tables and little chairs that Marian fit into beautifully. It was like it was all made to spec for her. And maybe that is how God does things.

I remember a woman who walked her class to the school bus despite the heat, rain, or the snow. She was always holding more than one hand for they all wanted to hold her hand. School was half days then and it wasn't surprising that our children whined about having to "come home at noon" for they loved her and she taught them to love learning.

Marian never forgot a child's name and she never forgot the last conversation she had with a parent about where the adult child was now and how they were doing. She never failed to send her best wishes.

The last time I saw Marian was in a coffee shop where we ran into each other. Marian looked the same to me as she had always looked for I never saw her aging. To me she was always the bubbly happy young teacher I had known and admired for more than 40 years.

She asked that day about everyone or our children as she always did. She professed to being well and happy and enjoying retirement. I think she was lying, I think she would rather have been in that room at the end of the hallway filled with memories of so many adoring students and the time on earth she loved so much.

Marian Midtgaard deserved to live far longer than she did. The impact of her attitude and her personality could change a person's outlook, their mood, and their day in a five minute conversation on a street corner.

She is a woman who deserved to live to be 100, free of pain and disabilities. She deserved to hear the tributes and the praise that are reserved for the dead and that are seldom spoken in life. She deserved every wonderful thing that ever happened to her and everyone who loved her and admired her. Her influence on our children was tremendous and her impact on us will remain forever. There will never be another Marian Midtgaard.


Marian's words in the Fertile School book: "Being an advocate for young children is a quality which has helped me develop into the person I am today. Teaching kindergarten children for 39 years was my dream since my senior year in high school. I feel very fortunate to have been involved in a profession which offered so much satisfaction and joy in my life".

**From the editor:** Marian died suddenly at the age of 70 in 2008. She was the daughter of Melvin and Martha Midtgaard and grew up on a farm west of Fertile. She attended all her school years at Fertile and graduated in 1956. She taught school in Lake Mills and Minneapolis, MN before going to Harding in Mason City, where she taught for 39 years.

Marian was a classmate and a good friend. As the article said, she was always smiling and her laughter was contagious. I recall a short and well-remembered encounter with Marian shortly after I moved to Fertile in 1947 (I came from a small country school). I asked her why she was so much smaller than the rest of our class .....well, she was small, but mighty as she cleaned my clock!!! I never asked her anything like that again and we were good friends after the wounds healed!!



# Letters to the Editor



Ladies, thank you for all the stories, news and pictures in the Reminder. Enjoy them very much.

**Mary Homerding**

I have missed your little paper! I'd like a subscription to the great Fertile Reminder. :) I would so appreciate the last one that had the article of the fire It is my family!!!! My dad Stanley Ouverson - Thank you so much. **Mavis (Ouverson) Whelan**

It is always such a treat to get the reminder. I enjoy it every time. Keep up the good work. **Floyd Zobel**

**COMING SOON: History from the Ben Miller family; Ardelle Osnes is writing on the Broshdahl family; Allen Suby on the Suby family; and Cleo McKim and Bob Humphrey on the Humphrey family. And hopefully we will have the Henry Ouverson family!! Stay tuned....**  
**If you would like your family's history in the Reminder, please send an email to [bettyw@wctatel.net](mailto:bettyw@wctatel.net). Don't be bashful; our readers enjoy these "stories".**

## Garden Club

Garden Club met at the Community Center on Sept. 12 with 12 members present. Roll call was answered by "What words or things encouraged you most?"

Fall city decorations were planned and the work should be done by now.

Names were submitted for new members and they will get an invitation to our next meeting, which will be potluck.

Sara Tweeten did a presentation on her trip to Ghana where she taught agriculture for 18 months. She is also the new Worth County Extension director.

Hostesses were Sue Lee and Cindy Peters.



## THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON

Welcome to the peat farmer's letter.

I should explain what the acre of different vegetables that I am raising for North Iowa Fresh means. It is a food hub and it is just what it sounds like. By Thursday of a week, I call in what I will have available the following week. Andrea gets this information from all of the different producers. She then sends this list to the various buyers on Friday. They, in turn, look at the list and decide what local foods they want the next week and what quantity and submit this list by early Monday morning. She then makes up the list for each grower and e-mails it by 11:00 a.m. Monday. Each grower then gets his list ready to deliver to Opportunity Village in Clear Lake by 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday so they can go out to their various buyers. An example is that Hy-Vee may order onions and potatoes from me, tomatoes and peppers from a second grower and leafy greens from a third, however, there is just one delivery. This avoids several producers coming to Hy-Vee. The price is set before the season starts so both the grower and the buyer knows what they will get paid or what they will get charged. North Iowa Fresh charges a percentage for their part and each grower pays a \$100.00 fee at the beginning of the season. Payment is made about thirty days after delivery. Some products like onions and potatoes can be harvested ahead because they will keep if I harvest more than is sold that week. Products like carrots and turnips are harvested as needed each week. It is working out to be better than wholesale, but not as good as a Farmer's Market. The fact that I can do things on my schedule and I only harvest what is sold makes up for it and is what I like during the summer months. I can offer more and then cut back when we get into onion harvest. They also have the right to reject produce if it does not meet the buyer's specs. In that case, the grower, if possible, needs to improve the product or not get paid. Will I do this again next year? Yes, with my busy schedule, it works better than Farmer's Markets. Next month I will tell you my impression of the new café. Until next time, thank a farmer for the food on your plate, thank a vet for the freedoms we enjoy, and above all, thank God for your daily blessings.

Ron Rachut



**Spruce Ave Flowers**

**Kristina Hand**

**Do you love flowers?? I do!  
Hi there! I'm Kristina Hand,  
an organic and sustainable  
flower farmer just south of  
Fertile. My farm is tucked**

**behind the winding Winnebago river where I  
grow flowers in Fertile soil, literally. The  
locals often refer to me as "The Flower  
Whisperer".** 🌸🌿❤️

**I decided to take my long time hobby of**

gardening flowers to the next level and start a business so I can share my blooms throughout the North Iowa area. Three years ago I started farming flowers for market as there were no local fresh flower vendors in the area and I wanted to change that!

**Why does it matter where flowers are grown locally?** Flowers that are locally grown are more much more unique (many flowers I grow are too fragile or can't be shipped in from another country and aren't available at your local florist), they smell better because they are fresher and chemical free (safe to sniff), and they help our local ecosystem (more bee's and butterflies please)! I am proud to offer these local and sustainably grown flowers at markets, for your special occasion, or "just because flowers".

I grow all my flowers from seed, root or bulb, and then I hand cut the blooms right before arranging whatever creation I am working on. My flowers change every week as they are seasonal and might only bloom for certain times of the year, however I have so many flowers growing you will be certain to find an amazing variety blooming you will love.

Learn more about my business online!

Instagram: [spruceaveflowers](#),

Facebook: [@spruceaveflowers](#),

website: [www.spruceaveflowers.com](http://www.spruceaveflowers.com)

Thank you for supporting local, chemical-free, sustainable flower farming!

Kristina



Please feel free to email for inquiries on special orders or for any other flower questions:

[spruceaveflowers@gmail.com](mailto:spruceaveflowers@gmail.com)

## **From FERTILE CENTENNIEL BOOK (1956)**

In 1902 the first weekly Fertile News was published by M. A. Aasgard with news supplied by M. A. Booth and E. E. Brown. Later Oliver Sanderson supplied the items for a Fertile Advertiser. At the present time the Luther boys are printing a Fertile Reminder. (I have the printing machine that they used.)

Does anyone know who took over after the Luther boys as editor? I know for several years a group printed the Fertile Reminder but who was in charge? Delores Sandifer was the editor for 18 years before she asked me to take her place which was in 2011. Can we bring this history up to date?



## **Garden Diary**

This will be the last entry in the Waddington garden diary as the season is coming to an end. This is the bounty we preserved from the garden.

**Amanda:** 26 quarts. Spaghetti sauce

9 quarts tomato juice

19 pints tomato sauce

11 pints salsa

36 half pints pizza sauce 9 pints pizza sauce

6 pints Bloody Mary Mix

Habanero gold jelly 9 1/2 pints

Froze 14 pint bags of zucchini

**Betty :** 21 half pints green beans

**Penny:** 14 pints of spaghetti sauce

13 pints of tomato sauce

13 pints of green beans

14 pints of beets

23 1/2 pints of pizza sauce

13 pints of diced tomatoes

12 1/2 – 1/2 pint bags of frozen parsley

1/2 gal jar of dried parsley

10 pints rotel tomatoes

9 quarts beef vegetable soup

3 families enjoyed fresh veggies all summer long and buttercup squash and app. 40 pumpkins and celery are still waiting to be harvested All in all it was a very good year! God was good!



## PUMPKIN CREAM CHEESE SWIRL MUFFINS

**YIELD: 18 MUFFINS**

- 1 3/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin spice
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 (15 oz) can pumpkin (pure pumpkin puree)
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract

- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg yolk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 375°F. Place paper baking cups into muffin pan. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk flour, pumpkin spice, baking soda and salt until well combined. Set aside.

In large bowl, whisk together pumpkin, sugar and brown sugar.

Beat in eggs, vegetable oil and vanilla extract.

Slowly whisk in the flour mixture, until there are no lumps. Fill muffin tins 3/4 full.

In a medium bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Add in sugar, egg yolk and vanilla extract and beat until well combined.

Top each muffin with about 1 tablespoon of cream cheese mixture and use a toothpick to swirl it into the batter. This will not look smooth, but it will bake up much prettier.

Bake muffins for 18-20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

These are best at room temperature or even slightly chilled! Store in an airtight container in the fridge.

Two guys are driving down 5th Avenue in Manhattan when they come up to a red light. The guy driving slams the gas pedal and they go zooming past the red light. His friend looks at him and says, "Hey, you just went through a red light." The guy driving says, "Don't worry about it. My brother does it all the time." So they keep driving and they come to a second red light. The guy driving slams on the gas pedal and zooms past another red light. His friend is pretty mad, looks at him and says, "Hey man, you just went through another red light. What the heck are you doing?" The guy driving tells his friend, "Don't worry about it. My brother does this all the time." They come to a third red light and the guy driving slams on the gas, zooming past the red light. His friend starts screaming at him, "What the heck? You're going to get us killed! Pull over and let me out." The guy driving screams back at him, "I'm telling you: don't worry about it. My brother, he does it all the time." So they keep driving and they come to a green light. The guy driving slams on the brakes. His friend looks at him and says, "Are you out of your mind? What the heck is wrong with you? You go flying past three red lights, almost getting us killed, and then you slam on the brakes when you have a green light?" The guy driving looks at his friend and says, "I had to stop; my brother might have been coming."

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## DON'T ASSUME

**A couple went for a cruise tour to enjoy their private honeymoon while leaving their children at home. Unfortunately, the cruise ship was sinking due to catastrophic weather condition. The couple finally made their way to the lifeboat area but there was only space for one person left. The man jumped onto the lifeboat, leaving his wife on the sinking ship...**

**The wife stood on the sinking ship and shouted to her husband saying...**

The teacher paused the above story and asked her students in the classroom, "Let us guess. What do you think she shouted to her husband?"

Most students answered altogether: "I hate you! I was blinded by love!"

The teacher noticed that there was a student who sat quietly and asked him. The student answered, "Teacher, I believe she would have shouted – Take care of our children!"

The teacher was shocked and asked: "Have you heard this story before?"

The student shook his head and said, "Nope, but before my mother passed away to disease, she told my father the exact same words!"

The teacher was amazed and praised: "Your answer is excellent!"

The cruise sunk and the man returned home and brought up their children single-handedly.

Many years later after the death of the man, their daughter who had been accusing her father found her father's diary while tidying his belongings, and she found out the truth. It turns out that when her parent went onto the cruise ship, the mother was already diagnosed with an incurable disease. During the crucial moment on the sinking ship, her father rushed to the only space left on the lifeboat. He wrote in his diary, "I wanted to sink with you together on the sinking cruise. But for our children, I could only let you sink alone into the deep cold ocean bed."

The daughter burst into tears after reading this diary.

The teacher finished the story and the whole class went silent.

The teacher knew that her students had understood the moral of the story that she wanted to pass on to them.

In this world there are good and evil. Sometimes the situation could be very complicated and indistinguishable of good and bad. So, we must not jump to conclusion easily and look at the surface only. We must not make hasty decision or assumption without any attempt of investigation or using our critical thinking.

We must not judge others without understanding them first. We shouldn't judge a book by its cover.

For those who usually pay the dinner bill, it is not because they are rich but they treasure friendship more than money.

For your colleagues who take the initiative at work, do so not because they are stupid but they understand the concept of responsibility.

Those who apologize first after a fight, do so not because they are wrong but because they value the people around them.

Those who are willing to help you, do so not because they owe you anything but because they see you as a true friend.

Those who text you frequently does not mean he or she has nothing better to do but because he or she was missing you terribly.

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So two Irishmen are traveling to Australia. Before they leave home, one of their dads gives them both a bit of advice: "You watch them Aussie cab drivers. They'll rob you blind. Don't you go paying them what they ask. You haggle." At the Sydney airport, the Irishmen catch a cab to their hotel. When they reach their destination, the cabbie says, "That'll be twenty dollars, lads." "Oh no you don't! My dad warned me about you. You'll only be getting fifteen dollars from me," says one of the men. "And you'll only be getting fifteen from me too," adds the other.

---

A completely inebriated man was stumbling down the street with one foot on the curb and one foot in the gutter. A cop pulled up and said, "I've got to take you in pal. You're obviously drunk." The wasted man asked, "Officer, are ya absolutely sure I'm drunk?" "Yeah buddy, I'm sure," said the cop, "Let's go." Breathing a sigh of relief, the wino said, "Thank goodness. I thought I was crippled."

At the doctor's office, Tom was getting a check up. "I have good news and bad news," says the doctor. "The good news is you have 24 hours left to live." Tom replies, "That's the good news?!" Then the doctor says, "The bad news is I should have told you that yesterday."

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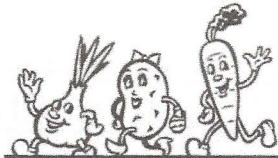
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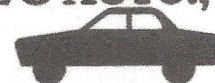
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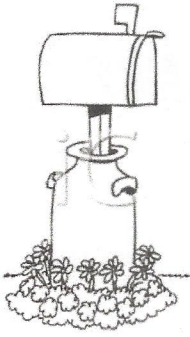
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