

# FERTILE REMINDER

February 2014

## CALENDAR

- 3 Firemen meet
- 5 Recycle
- 8 FIRE DEPARTMENT SOUP SUPPER
- 15 Deadline for Reminder  
[fertilermd@wctatel.net](mailto:fertilermd@wctatel.net)
- 17 Library Board Meets
- 18 City Council
- 19 Recycle
- 25 Reminder Mailed

### Fertile Day's Spaghetti supper and concert

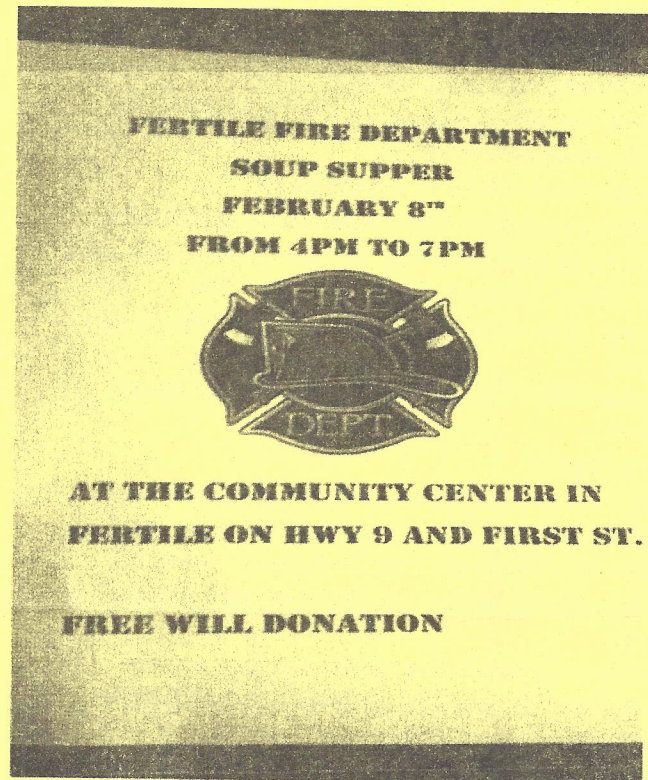
What a fabulous night! 115 people came to enjoy spaghetti meal and a concert. The Arthur and Angie Jones family from Plymouth entertained us with Blue grass gospel and hymns. Thank you Jones family! The Fertile Day's committee would also like to thank everyone who donated food and money for the meal. This was a huge help in keeping our expenses down. Thank you to our volunteers who helped prepare, work and clean up. And most of all, thank you for coming and supporting our fundraiser and silent auction! We brought in \$781.72 for the spaghetti supper and \$258.50 for the silent auction. The cost to put on Fertile Day's is around \$5,500.00. This will help in our Fertile Day's celebration on

**August 9 and 10"**

Thanks again!

FertileDay's Committee:

Cindy Peters, Penny Miller,  
Holly Hanna, Ron Rachut,  
Kevin and Cindy Bidne



The proceeds from the Soup Supper will be used for a new pump on their grass truck aka the swamp monster. Keep in mind the Fire Department is volunteers. Not only do the men respond to a call night or day, BUT they will also be preparing and serving the supper.

**PLEASE GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT!**

  
Happy  
Valentine's Day



**Tad motioned, Julie 2nd to approve the minutes of December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Unanimous.

- **Jeff motioned, Tad 2nd to accept agenda.** 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.

- Ray Huftalin, Emergency Management Coordinator, and gave a summary of the drill taken place in Fertile last fall.
- Tadd attended the WCDA meeting as mayor pro tem and gave a summary of the meeting.
- **City Maintenance Report**
- New meters were installed at a few locations for easier access during winter weather.
- Seasonal displays have been taken down.
- All the supplies in the library have been removed and is currently closed for business. Any books can be returned at a the Kinney Memorial Library in Hanlontown.
- Warren, Steve and Joyce completed on the Water Quality Report.

**Tad moved, Holly 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the maintenance report.** Unanimous.

**Mayor's Report**

- Joyce received letter from City Attorney in regards to property at 207 E Main. The council has asked Joyce to follow up with City Attorney for alternative solutions.
- Trim and siding has been picked out for the exterior of the library.
- Wendy has been added as signature on bank accounts along with Joyce and Jeff. Debit card received for Wendy and will need to be activated.
- Attendance sheets will be used to monitor presence of council members at each meeting for annual pay.
- The city has a maintenance agreement with Interstate Motor Trucks for any maintenance that may be needed on the new snow plow.
- Joyce will be meeting with ICap Insurance next week with updated copy of city vehicles and budget review for city Insurance for the next fiscal year.
- We are pleased to have owners of the Amish Pantry in downtown Fertile.
- Joyce presented a summary of the WCDA funds that were received for the calendar year of 2013 with grants and monthly checks, Fertile received a total of \$320,583.14.
- Joyce completed the Tax Exempt status for each sub-contractor working on the library and sent to the Iowa Department of Revenue.
- Christmas display has been taken down at the City Hall and Community Center.
- **Julie motioned, and Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

**City Clerk's Report**

- Wendy presented the December Financials. A complete set of financials are available at City Hall upon request. The

following is a summary of the year-to-date income, expenses & fund balances.

7/1 - 12/31	General	WCDA	Roads	Utilities	Total
Income	97,038.29	79,670.00	18,152.64	63,631.96	258,492.89
Expense	111,592.75	79,670.00	37,025.42	75,072.74	303,360.91
Total	-14,554.46	0.00	-18,872.78	-11440.78	-44,868.02
Fund Balance	37,729.88	0.00	30,451.70	85,052.67	153,234.25

- **Tad motioned, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous

- **Julie motioned, Nick 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve December Bills** Unanimous

**Committee Reports**

- Julie is resigning from Chairperson of the Fertile Little League due to other commitments. Thank you Julie for your service in this position. Please contact City Hall if you are interested in participating in this or coaching this spring.

**Additional Topics**

- Julie gave summary of events taken place with the old snow plow.
- **Upcoming Meetings**
- The Fertile City Council will meet in regular session at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at Fertile City Hall. **Jeff moved and Julie 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous

**FERTILE VALLEY GARDENS**  
**RON & BECKY RACHUT**  
**P.O. BOX 121**  
**641-797-2811 FERTILE, IA**



**OUPERSON INSURANCE**  
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## City of Fertile

### City Council Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2013 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

#### Call to Order & Roll Call

Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Jeff Berg, Julie Jessen, Penny Miller, Tad Miller and Pat Renchin; City Clerk, Wendy Lunning & Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts.

*Julie motioned, Pat 2nd to approve the minutes of December 2nd special meeting.* Unanimous.

*Penny motioned, Pat 2nd to approve the minutes of the December 12th special meeting with the following corrections:*

Penny Miller and Tad Miller emailed approval votes to purchase 1997 International snow plow truck with sander for the City of Fertile to Joyce Russell, Mayor. Unanimous

*Jeff motioned, Pat 2nd to approve the minutes of the November 19th regular council meeting.* Unanimous

• *Jeff motioned, Penny 2nd to accept agenda.* 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.

• Sara Innes with Worth County Beautification updated the progress that is being made on the statue to be erected at the Worth County Fair Grounds.

• Library Board choose sterling gray with white trim for the siding for the Library. *Jeff motioned an Julie 2nd to accept the color choices.* Unanimous. The Library is actively working on their Capital Campaign and has asked the City of Fertile to waive repayment of the Architect fees to date. No decision made by council and will review in the future.

#### City Maintenance Report

• The lagoon was drained and a new valve replaced due to DNR regulations.

• 1997 International snow plow has been purchase and the decals have been added to the truck.

• Thank you to Steve Roberts for the beautiful Christmas decorations that were made on Main Street.

*Penny moved, Pat 2nd to approve the maintenance report.*

Unanimous.

#### Mayor's Report

• Joyce decorated the Community Center and City Hall for Christmas.

• Hare Electric has put up the Christmas decorations on Main Street.

• Cindy Peters has turned in her resignation as City Clerk due to health issues. The city council approved her resignation.

*Penny motioned and 2nd by Pat to accept Cindy's resignation.* Unanimous. Thank you Cindy for your service.

• *Pat motioned, and Tad 2nd to purchase 20 hours of support from Advantage Business Solutions prior to rate increase on January 1, 2014.*

• Wendy Lunning was offered position as City Clerk of Fertile and accepted with council approval. *Julie motioned, and Pat 2nd to accept Wendy Lunning as City Clerk of Fertile and as signature of bank accounts.* Unanimous

• Joyce has sent out some Christmas cards to our vendors.

• John Greeves, City Attorney, is working with Chris Diggins at NIACOG to update the Municipal Code of Ordinances for the City of Fertile.

• Special 'Thank you' to Penny Miller and Pat Renchin for their years of service on City Council.

• *Pat moved, Tad 2nd to approve the mayor's report.*

Unanimous

#### City Clerk's Report

• Wendy presented the November Financials. A complete set of financials are available at City Hall upon request. The following is a summary of the year-to-date income, expenses & fund balances.

#### City Clerk's Report

• Wendy presented the November Financials. A complete set of financials are available at City Hall upon request. The following is a summary of the year-to-date income, expenses & fund balances.

	7/1 - 11/30	General	WCDA	Roads	Utilities	Total
Income		87,680.98	79,670.00	16,600.20	54,571.50	238,522.68
Expense		105,171.07	79,670.00	19,884.18	59,562.77	264,288.02
<b>Total</b>		<b>-17,490.09</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-3,283.98</b>	<b>-4,991.27</b>	<b>-25,765.34</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>		<b>34,794.25</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>46,040.50</b>	<b>91,502.18</b>	<b>172,336.93</b>

• *Penny motioned, Pat 2nd to approve Financial Report.*

Unanimous

• *Penny motioned, Pat 2nd to approve November Bills with the exception that Wendy will follow up on expenses to Advantage Business Solutions.* Unanimous

#### Additional Topics

• Tad attended the Winn-Worth Betco Advisory Board and suggest that the City Council be thinking of long term goals to develop the Community.

#### Upcoming Meetings

• The Fertile City Council will meet in regular session at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, January 21st, 2013, at Fertile City Hall.

• *Pat moved and Penny 2nd to adjourn the meeting.*

Unanimous

## City of Fertile

### City Council Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2014 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

#### Call to Order & Roll Call

Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Jeff Berg, Julie Jessen, Holly Lovik-Hanna, Tad Miller and Nick Bailey; City Clerk, Wendy Lunning & Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts.

• The new and re-elected council members were sworn into office along with re-elected Mayor Joyce Russell.

City of Fertile Bills paid

Nov. 30, 2013

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Paycheck	11/06/2013	6703	Lunning, Wendy S		-115.93
Paycheck	11/06/2013	6704	Bruns, Warren		-301.39
Paycheck	11/06/2013	6706	Russell, Joyce		-1,154.03
Paycheck	11/06/2013	6705	Roberts, Stephen J		-899.34
Bill Pmt -Check	11/06/2013	6707	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-120.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6708	AgSource Laboratories	Water & Sewer Testing	-56.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6709	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-266.34
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6710	CarQuest	Hydrfluid Snow Plow	-85.98
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6711	Clapper Tree Service	Tree Trimming	-1,200.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6712	CRW Architecture + Design Group	Preliminary Design, Construction Documents and Bidding Phase	-29,400.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6713	Fertile Garden Club	Beautification of Fertile 2013	-400.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6714	Fertile Public Library V	Enrich Iowa	-1,159.94
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6715	Hare Electric	outlets-park vandalism/water plt genrtr/water plt-pump/pull west pump-sewer/wtr plt	-898.83
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6716	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6717	Iowa Finance Authority	Sewer Loan	-2,025.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6718	Iowa Rural Water Association	2014 Membership Dues	-200.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6719	Miller's Diesel and Automotive	Maintenance Snow Plow	-681.72
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6720	North Iowa Media Group	2013 City Election	-318.16
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6721	Northwood Anchor, Inc.	2013 City Election	-289.90
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6722	Pronto	gas for golf cart, weed trimmer and mower	-170.95
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6723	UPS	Sewer testing	-11.40
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6724	Waste Management	Landfill/Garbage	-2,035.68
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6725	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-156.70
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2013	6726	Worth County Auditor	2013 City Elections	-710.53
Bill Pmt -Check	11/14/2013	6727	M & D Sound	Projector and screen	-2,370.29
Check	11/14/2013		Standard Bearings	Couplerfor water plant motor	-38.83
Liability Check	11/15/2013	EFTPS	United States Treasury		-960.32
Liability Check	11/15/2013	I-Que	IPERS		-658.72
Paycheck	11/20/2013	6728	Lunning, Wendy S		-141.59
Paycheck	11/20/2013	6729	Roberts, Stephen J		-899.35
Bill Pmt -Check	11/20/2013	6730	Elin Miner	Face Paint for Fertile Days	-34.95
Bill Pmt -Check	11/26/2013	6731	Steve Roberts-v	Solar Lights and work gloves	-22.97
Bill Pmt -Check	11/26/2013	6732	Wendy Lunning - v	Clerkbook Training	-49.50
Bill Pmt -Check	11/26/2013	6733	Advantage Business Solutions, Inc.	Professional Accounting Services Pre-pay for future 20 hr contract	-600.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/26/2013	6734	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-1,503.90
Bill Pmt -Check	11/26/2013	6735	Green Canopy, Inc.	October 2013 - 1 Fishing Point, 1 Park	-140.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/26/2013	6736	Menards	Christmas Decorations for Community Center	-161.70
Bill Pmt -Check	11/26/2013	6737	Staples	Office Supplies - paper, folders, clips	-42.06
Bill Pmt -Check	11/26/2013	6738	UPS	Water & Sewer testing	-33.66
Bill Pmt -Check	11/26/2013	6739	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-43.65
Bill Pmt -Check	11/29/2013	6740	Advantage Business Solutions, Inc.	Full Service Payrol (Oct & Nov) & Paychecks	-168.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/29/2013	6741	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine	-10.00

Petty Cash  
Total Petty  
Cash

Savings  
Total

-50,547.31

+50,647.31



Type	Date	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
<b>Operating Accounts</b>			
<b>Checking</b>			
Deposit	11/03/2013	Casino Funds Deposit	3,111.49
Deposit	11/04/2013	Property Taxes	2,980.07
Deposit	11/05/2013	Local Option Sales Tax	2,306.78
Deposit	11/08/2013	Utility Deposit	1,218.60
Deposit	11/13/2013	Local Option Sales Tax	1,387.39
Deposit	11/14/2013	Utility Deposit	2,217.04
Deposit	11/14/2013	Building Rental Deposit	225.00
Deposit	11/14/2013	Donation Deposit	2,370.29
Deposit	11/15/2013	Road Use Tax	1,482.03
Deposit	11/22/2013	Utility Deposit	4,228.34
Deposit	11/22/2013	Utility Deposit	225.75
Deposit	11/25/2013	Building Permit	25.00
Deposit	11/25/2013	Utility Set Up Deposit	150.00
Deposit	11/29/2013	Utility Deposit	116.22
Deposit	11/30/2013	Interest	2.66
Total Checking			<u>22,046.66</u>
<b>Petty Cash</b>			
Total Petty Cash			
Total Operating Accounts			<u>22,046.66</u>
<b>Roads Revenue Accounts</b>			
<b>Savings</b>			
Deposit	11/30/2013	Interest	8.90
Total Savings			<u>8.90</u>
Total Roads Revenue Accounts			<u>8.90</u>
<b>Water Revenue Accounts</b>			
<b>Savings</b>			
Deposit	11/30/2013	Interest	2.77
Total Savings			<u>2.77</u>
Total Water Revenue Accounts			<u>2.77</u>
<b>Sewer Revenue Accounts</b>			
<b>Savings</b>			
Deposit	11/30/2013	Interest	2.42
Total Savings			<u>2.42</u>
<b>CD</b>			
Total CD			
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts			<u>2.42</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<u><u>22,060.75</u></u>

## Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who remembered us with cards and gifts on my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party. It was very much appreciated.

Virgil Ouverson and family



# City of Fertile Deposits

As of December 31, 2013

				Accrual Basis
				Amount
Operating Accounts	Type	Date	Memo	
<b>Operating Accounts</b>				
<b>Checking</b>	Deposit	12/02/2013	Utility Deposit	3,054.12
	Deposit	12/02/2013	Community Center Rental Deposit	400.00
	Deposit	12/02/2013	Incubator Rental Deposit	200.00
	Deposit	12/02/2013	Local Option Sales Tax	2,386.58
	Deposit	12/03/2013	Property Taxes	1,147.87
	Deposit	12/03/2013	Casino Funds Deposit	2,485.12
	Deposit	12/09/2013	Inter Library Loan and Open Access	751.55
	Deposit	12/12/2013	Community Center Rental Deposit	300.00
	Deposit	12/12/2013	Utility Deposit	77.38
	Deposit	12/12/2013	Utility Deposit	2,704.01
	Deposit	12/12/2013	RUT Deposit	1,841.66
	Deposit	12/17/2013	Road Use Tax	1,544.47
	Deposit	12/19/2013	Utility Deposit	3,081.77
	Deposit	12/27/2013	Special Assessment Deposit	756.10
	Deposit	12/27/2013	Initial Utility Deposit	150.00
	Deposit	12/30/2013	Utility Deposit	5,366.70
	Deposit	12/31/2013	Utility Deposit	193.87
	Deposit	12/31/2013	Interest	2.00
<b>Total Checking</b>				26,443.20
<b>Petty Cash</b>				
<b>Total Petty Cash</b>				
<b>Total Operating Accounts</b>				26,443.20
<b>Roads Revenue Accounts</b>				
<b>Savings</b>	Deposit	12/31/2013	Interest	7.97
<b>Total Savings</b>				7.97
<b>Total Roads Revenue Accounts</b>				7.97
<b>Water Revenue Accounts</b>				
<b>Savings</b>	Deposit	12/31/2013	Interest	2.86
<b>Total Savings</b>				2.86
<b>Total Water Revenue Accounts</b>				2.86
<b>Sewer Revenue Accounts</b>				
<b>Savings</b>	Deposit	12/31/2013	Interest	2.50
<b>Total Savings</b>				2.50
<b>CD</b>				
<b>Total CD</b>				
<b>Total Sewer Revenue Accounts</b>				2.50
<b>TOTAL</b>				26,456.53



Operating Accounts		Bill Paid			As of December 31, 2013	Accrual Basis
Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	
Paycheck	12/04/2013	6744	Russell, Joyce		-1,256.58	
Paycheck	12/04/2013	6742	Bruns, Warren		-301.39	
Paycheck	12/04/2013	6745	Lunning, Wendy S		-201.47	
Paycheck	12/04/2013	6743	Roberts, Stephen J		-899.34	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/04/2013	6746	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-80.00	
Liability Check	12/04/2013	I-Que	IPERS		-680.75	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2013	6747	US Post Office	Three rolls of postcard stamps	-99.00	
Check	12/06/2013	6748	Jennings, Steve & Mary K.	Utility Deposit Refunded	-150.00	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2013	6749	AgSource Laboratories	Water & Sewer Testing	-144.00	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2013	6750	Kramer Ace Hardware	Lighter fluid and Light Bulbs	-29.94	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2013	6751	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	Install Water Meters and Winterize Building	-217.93	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2013	6752	Menards	Cleaning Supplies and Christmas Lights	-184.32	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2013	6753	Pronto	Gas for golf cart, mower, truck and chainsaw.	-132.03	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2013	6754	Waste Management	Landfill/Garbage	-2,035.68	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2013	6755	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-146.59	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2013	6756	CRW Architecture + Design Group	Preliminary Design, Construction Documents and Bidding Phase	-180.00	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/09/2013	6757	Greve Law Office	City Attorney	-1,000.00	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/09/2013	6758	UPS	Water & Sewer testing	-11.40	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/12/2013	6759	Interstate Motor Trucks Inc.	1997 International Snow Plow Truck with Sander	-14,500.00	
Liability Check	12/13/2013	EFTPS	United States Treasury	42-1028074	-906.94	
Check	12/17/2013		Target	Christmas Decorations	-35.31	
Paycheck	12/18/2013	6760	Lunning, Wendy S		-163.45	
Paycheck	12/18/2013	6761	Roberts, Stephen J		-899.34	
Paycheck	12/23/2013	6762	Miller, Penny		-554.10	
Paycheck	12/23/2013	6764	Jessen, Julie		-554.10	
Paycheck	12/23/2013	6765	Renchin, Pat		-554.10	
Paycheck	12/23/2013	6763	Berg, Jeffrey		-517.16	
Paycheck	12/23/2013	6766	Russell, Joyce		-873.50	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/23/2013	6767	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-522.53	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/23/2013	6768	Brian Nettleton Excavating, Inc.	Install 10" valve on discharge line	-3,800.00	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/23/2013	6769	Fertile Reminder	Advertisement Costs	-220.00	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/23/2013	6770	Menards	Paper Towels and Tissue	-14.97	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/23/2013	6771	Miller's Diesel and Automotive	Maintenance Snow Plow	-794.67	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/23/2013	6772	UPS	Water testing	-21.42	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/23/2013	6773	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-43.65	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/23/2013	6774	Visu-Sewer	Clean Out Fall at Lagoon	-950.00	
Check	12/27/2013			Transferring funds for Architec Fees	0.00	
Check	12/27/2013	2		1997 International Snow Plow Truck	14,500.00	
<b>Roads Revenue Accounts</b>					<b>-19,175.66</b>	
Savings	Check	12/27/2013	2	1997 International Snow Plow Truck	-14,500.00	
<b>Total Savings</b>					<b>-14,500.00</b>	
<b>Total Roads Revenue Accounts</b>					<b>-14,500.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>-33,675.66</b>	





Max De Vere "Charlie" Nye, 92, of Fertile died Thursday, January 2, 2014, at the Muse-Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City. Memorials may be directed to Hospice of North Iowa or the Pilot Knob Lutheran Church.

Charlie, the son of Verne Charles and Aimee Bell

(McEnelly) Nye, was born March 27, 1921, in Fertile. He graduated from Fertile High School in 1939. He enlisted in the United States Navy in June of 1942, where he served in World War II.

He married Florence V. Larson on July 28, 1945.

Charlie worked as a butter maker in the Fertile and Clear Lake creameries, a mechanic at the Chevrolet dealer in Fertile, owned grocery stores in Fertile and Hanlontown, and retired in 1983 from the Iowa DOT.

After the war, Charlie played baseball in the borderline baseball league for 12 years and after retiring he played hockey with the Mason City Novice Hockey League until he was 80 years old.

Charlie was involved in a number of community activities including Lions Club, summer youth baseball, fire department, and town government to name a few. He was instrumental in sponsoring and building the town's first lighted baseball field. Charlie was fortunate to attend an Honor Flight trip to Washington, DC, in April 2010 which he thoroughly enjoyed.

He is survived by sons, Roger (Johanna) Nye of Graham, WA, Jerry Nye of Fertile and Brian (Cynthia) Nye of Longmont, CO; niece, Mary Ann Stram of Bloomington, MN, and her family. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Florence in 2012; brother, Charles Norman Nye; and sister, Doris (in infancy).

**OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILY**

## Letters to the Editor

Glad you have time to continue to publish the Fertile news. **Phyllis Pederson, Lake Mills**  
Please renew our subscription to the Reminder for another year. Thank you. **Nelda Halverson Urbandale**

Thanks for a job well done. When I find the Reminder in the mail box, it's time to curl up in the rocking chair and enjoy. **Rose Suby, Mason City**  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. You all do a great job. **Al and Neta Severson, Fertile**

To all the wonderful Fertile Reminder Ladies—you are amazing! This is the #1 newspaper- so informative, interesting, fun and well written, Congratulations!! I have a folder just for all the Fertile Reminders. I have kept all of them in a "growing file". Yes, all of them—thanks. What a super history you have written for those of us who love Fertile. Keep up the outstanding work and networking. **Marcie Oakland Osmundson**

Thanks to all who make the Reminder. **Bonnie Kuns**

We enjoy the Reminder very much and look forward to it each month. You people do a great job. Thank you so much **Dennis and Sharon Jenkins, Longmont, CO**

You have done a very good job of keeping us informed of what is of interest to us away from the area. Please keep up the good work. **Lyle Knudson**

### the "Mill Pond"

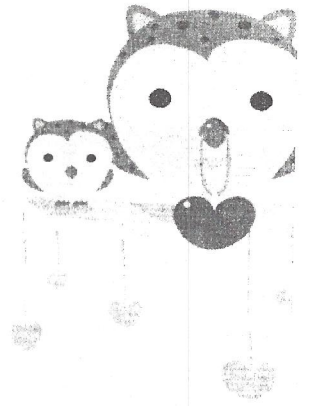
'Twas the night we friends had nothing  
to do  
a drive on the "Mill Pond" would be  
something new  
We were very scared as we crept slowly  
along  
seeing the others spinning and sliding  
around  
When all of a sudden two headlights  
appeared  
coming straight at us it filled us with  
fear  
The other car swerved as it drove out of  
sight  
that put an end to our ice driving  
night  
Many more drives were made around  
town  
but we never again drove on  
the "Mill Pond"

**Phyllis (Suby) Clausen**





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#### NEW BOOKS

White Fire—Preston & Child  
Takedown Twenty—Janet Evanovich  
Wonderland—Ace Atkins /Robert B. Parker  
Butchery of the Mountain Man—William W. Johnstone  
Morning Glory—Sarah Jio  
Tucker's Reckoning—Ralph Compton  
The Gods of Guilt—Michael Connelly  
The Night is Forever—Heather Graham  
Hunted—Karen Robards  
Preacher's Blood Hunt—William Johnstone  
The Bone bed—Patricia Cornwell  
The Tattered Quilt—Wanda Brunstetter  
River Road—Jane Ann Krentz

#### DVD'S

Wolverine — Hugh Jackman  
Elysium—Matt Damon  
Percy Jackson—Sea of Monsters  
White House Down—Channing Tatum  
Red 2—Bruce Willis  
Fire with Fire—Bruce Willis  
Man of Steel — Henry Cavill  
2 Guns—Denzel Washington  
We're the Millers—Jason Sudeikis  
Les Miserables — Hugh Jackman  
Vehicle 19—Paul Walker  
Disney Super Buddies  
Parental Guidance—Billy Crystal  
After Earth—Will & Jaden Smith  
Dark Skies—Josh Hamilton  
Hangover III—Bradley Cooper

#### Library News

Santa visited the library on December 14 and gave fun gifts to 38 believers. We served Christmas punch and goodies. Cheryl Kapka won the \$100 Walmart gift card but returned it to the library to use for whatever we needed. Thank you **Cheryl** for the gift card and your continuing support of the library. Thank you **Hare Electric & Larsen Plumbing & Heating** for supporting the Santa Fund. Santa couldn't do it without you. And of course thank you **Santa** for taking time to visit us.

Thank you to these generous people and business's for donating prizes for our drawing: Advantage Business Solutions, Classically Cakes, Mike Cunningham, Forest City Subway, Forest City Pizza Hut, Humble Beginnings, Manufacturers Bank & Trust, Mason City YMCA, Carolyn & Clete Nedved, Pronto, John & Eileen Schissel, Titonka Savings Bank, Tammy Waddington, Walmart & Winnebago Industries.

#### Audio Books

White Fire—Preston & Child  
Takedown Twenty—Janet Evanovich  
King & Maxwell—David Baldacci  
Crossing My Heart—James Patterson

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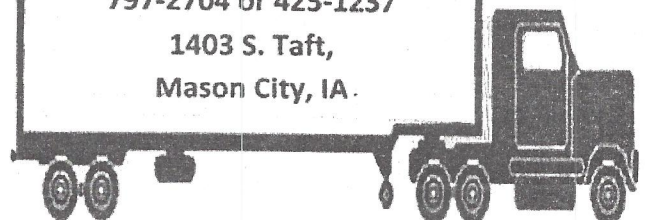
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Praise and Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Youth Group: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Adult Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FERTILE CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Pastor Robb Perry**

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Fellowship Time - 9:55 AM

Worship - 10:15 AM

Wed.- Youth & Teen Groups 7:00 PM

\*\*\*\*\*

**Fertile Lutheran Church**

**Pastor David Halverson**

641-797-2767

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**Sunday School at 10:40**

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Bob Kuhn's story continues.....

The first year in North Dakota one morning it rained a little so we could not thrash right away and I told the boss that I needed a haircut, he said "Take my Ford and go to Baker, a town about 10 miles away, about the size of Fertile. I stopped at a filling station to ask where the barber shop was. He told me how to get there and that the barber was deaf and dumb. I went in the shop and motioned that I wanted a haircut. He was about half done cutting my hair when the station man walked in and asked how soon the barber could go and golf with him. The barber said "Just as soon as I finish cutting this deaf and dumb guy's hair." We all had a laugh at that. Even tho the joke was on me I still laugh every time I think of it. I bet those men pull that on a lot of people.

A man asked me to help him overhaul Model-T motors. I didn't know anything about them, but he told me to take them apart and clean them and he would replace the worn parts and put them back together. We got all the motors done late in March and decided to go to Omaha for a few days.

While there we stayed in a hotel and one evening we were sitting in the lobby, a man walked past a little ways and came back and asked where we were from. We told him and he said he needed help the first of April in Fertile, Iowa. We told him we would think it over. He said "You be in Fertile the first of April and you'll have a job."

We decided to go to Fertile, so on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March we started out early in the morning and got to LeMars for breakfast. They said, "eggs and style," and then it dawned on us that it was Easter.

We were going again and made good time, then something needed to be fixed on the Model -T so we had it fixed at a garage. We drove about 40 miles and my buddy Charley Johnson saw a wrench between the fender and the hood of the car so we decided that fellow that left it there might need it before we got back, so we went back there and gave it to him. He was delighted to get it back.

We made good time until we got to Sanderson's hill west of Fertile and couldn't make it up the hill going forward, so we backed down, turned around and backed up the hill and made it into Fertile and asked a fellow where the hotel was. He told us that we had to go to Hanlontown as they were a railroad town. We later found out that young fellow was Mort Haugen.

We got food and lodging at the hotel and we learned that the grading company couldn't come from Alma because of the soft roads.

We were eating breakfast the next morning and a man opened the door and asked if anyone would like a job. Charley asked what the job was and he said "Blacksmith, right behind the bank."

A little later another man asked the same, and I asked "What is your trade?" He said "Carpentry right behind the bank. Both of their names were Brattrud.

We worked for them for 8 days as the grading outfit was on the way over and would arrive on Wednesday and would camp in the field just west of the Free Church and cemetery.

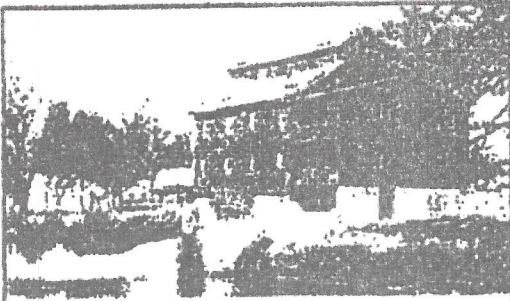
We stood by the fence as they went by and Charley saw a 3 mule team go by. He said "If I drive the dump wagon that's the team I'd like to drive."

The next team stopped to rest and when the driver wanted to start they balked and I said "I would like to drive that team and they wouldn't balk." We didn't know the boss was standing behind us so those were the teams we got. We helped put up the bunk houses, the kitchen and the feed bunks for the horses and the tent over the feed bunks.

We started at the county live west of Fertile and when we got about half way we moved across south of the mill and a little west. At that time Highway 9 came down through town and back north. Highway 9 was put through in the early 40's where it is now.

We finished the job up to where Highway 9 is now and then moved to Lake Mills and graded the road from Scarville, and finished the Fall of 1923. We moved to Buffalo Center to grade the road from there to Rake the next spring. **TO BE CONTINUED**





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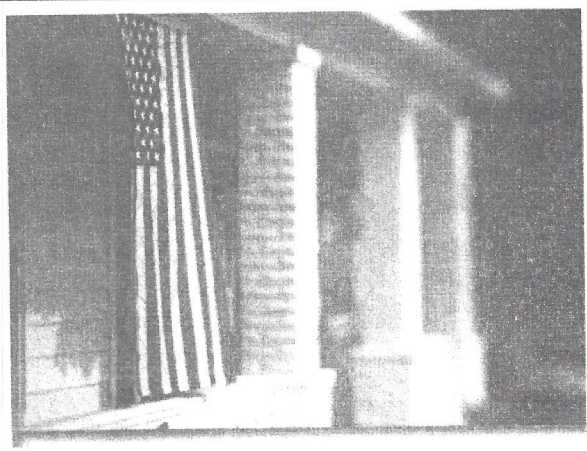
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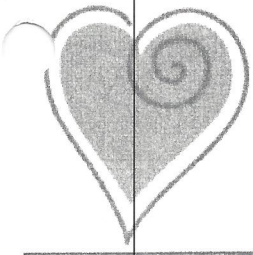
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Cheer someone up by sending them a Valentine. Remember when we exchanged them in school?

The Amish Pantry is new in Fertile, located in the Downtown Café building. We are pleased that once again we have a café in town. Stop in and say hello to the new owners.

Changes, changes, changes, Fertile is changing. The library has been closed until the new addition is done. We will surely miss not getting books weekly but we can't stand in the way of progress.

Winter is the time when the organizations have their suppers. It is a great time to get out and see your fellow neighbors and enjoy a great meal. Mark your calendars so you won't be saying "I forgot when it was to be." People just don't visit in the homes like they use to so we need these events to get together and see what is happening.

We are missing Pat's page with recipes, puzzles, etc. this month. Due to having 2 months of Council notes which have taken so many pages, she was willing to wait a month. Then there were more council notes so we had to add an extra sheet which makes two pages. Watch for it next month.



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If everything seems to be going well,  
 You have obviously overlooked something.

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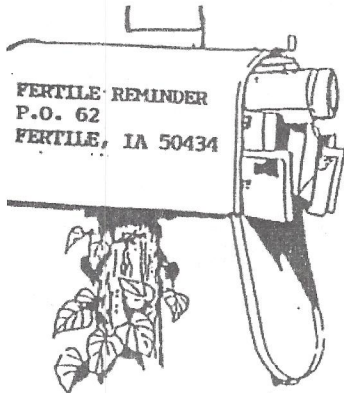
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