

JULY 2007

FERTILE REMINDER



COMING EVENTS

July 2	Fire Department Meeting	7 p.m.
July 3	Senior Citizens Dinner	12 Noon
July 5	Re-cycle Day	
July 10	Garden Club	
July 14	Bridal Shower for Nicole Meyer	9:30 - 11 a.m.
July 16	Library Board Meeting	7 p.m.
July 17	Senior Citizens Dinner City Council Meeting	12 Noon 7 p.m.
July 19	Re-cycle Day	
July 21	Boys & Girls 4-H	

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

May, 24 2007, 7:00 PM, City Hall

1.) Call to Order

The Council Meeting scheduled for May 16, 2007 was postponed due to schedule conflicts.

The Fertile City Council met at 7:00 PM in regular session, May 24, 2007, at Fertile City Hall.

2.) Roll Call

Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell, Council Members: Jeff Berg, Loren Hoffman, Patrick Renchin, and City Clerk Eddie May.

Absent were Council Members: Tad Miller, Gail Shropshire, and City Maintenance Manager Warren Bruns.

3.) Minutes Approval.

- *Renchin motioned and Hoffmann 2nd to approve the April minutes.* Motion Carried.

4.) Roads Proposal

- Mayor Russell proposed the blacktopping of the three remaining gravel alleyways within the city limits.
- *Hoffmann motioned and Renchin 2nd to approve the paving of 3 alleys. Berg disapproved.* Motion Carried.

5.) Mayor's Report

- The Sheriff has dealt with the canines that have been killing local chicken and sheep.
- The city has obtained a map showing the lot lines for the properties east of the water treatment plant. Trees will be thinned and/or removed in order to allow access to the north side of the affected properties.
- Mayor Russell presented an updated Emergency Operations Plan for the NIMS program. This is an Emergency Management program. Without the approval of this program, the city cannot receive Federal Funding.
- Mayor Russell would like to remind the residents to consider their neighbors by keeping properties free from noxious weeds, garbage and other hazards. The Worth County Weed Inspector is investigating several complaints within the City.
- The City has a contract which provides a new lawn mower every two years. Fertile received a new Country Clipper as part of this contract this spring.
- Mayor Russell has researched the cost of creating a skating park for area skateboarders. The cost for new equipment would be over \$34,000.00. The council suggested looking for used equipment. Our insurance has also notified us that they will not cover anything related to a skate park.
- The City would like to remind parents and youth that it is illegal to skateboard on any public road within the State of Iowa. Skateboards can be confiscated and fines can be given. The tennis courts have been designated as a skateboarding area.
- A teenager was recently found climbing the water tower. Please realize that this is a Federal offense.
- The ball diamond project is nearing completion. The picnic tables should be installed this weekend, and the playground should arrive on June 6 or 7.
- The City has installed a new volleyball net near the ball diamonds. Please feel free to use the court at your leisure.
- Alliant Energy has added a new street light to cover the playground equipment.

- Several houses within City limits will be foreclosed within the month of June. Information about each foreclosure is posted on each home affected.

- The City is applying for a \$5,000 grant for street signs and posts.

- Kids have been seen vandalizing postal boxes again this spring. Please report any vandalism to the Post Office and the Sheriff's Office. We need everyone's help to stop the vandalism. Remember, this also is a Federal offense.

- The vandalism continued as the bridge lights were destroyed again. (THANK YOU DICK WORSLEY for replacing the lights!!!). Graffiti has also been found at City Hall and at the ball diamonds.

- It was asked if residents with pools would have to pay sewer usage on the portion of water used for filling their pools. The response was yes, they have to pay, even though the water does not go into the sewers. This is because it is currently impossible to measure the amount of water used for filling pools, watering lawns, washing cars, etc.

- Mayor Russell would like to thank Advantage Business Solutions for creating a website for the City of Fertile. (www.fertileiowa.us) The site looks great, check it out today.

6.) City Clerk's Report

- May presented the April financials.
- A lien was presented for overdue utility bills against the property at 205 East Main Street.
- *Renchin moved, Berg 2nd to approve the lien.* Motion Carried.
- May suggested to offer an option for City Utility bills to be emailed rather than mailed. He also suggested the use of PayPal for City utility payments on the website. The council agreed, as long as each option is purely voluntary for residents
- *Hoffmann moved, Renchin 2nd to approve the set-up of a PayPal account. Berg abstained.* Motion Carried.
- *Hoffman moved, Renchin 2nd to approve the expenditures.* Motion Carried.

7.) City Maintenance Report

- Bruns was absent due to conflicting City schedules. Mayor Russell presented his notes.
- A valve at the water plant is being repaired. Warren has had to manually fill the water tower in the interim.
- A damaged grinder pump for the lagoon is being replaced and we are re-building the damaged pump. We will then have 3 reliable grinder pumps.
- Both phases of the sewer project are now complete. Because we are under budget, we will be replacing 3-4 more manholes than planned. Heartland Asphalt will be black-topping the roads once they are finished with the highway 18 project in Clear Lake.

8.) Other Business

- The Fire Department will be straightening out the flag poles on the fire hydrants within the City. They will also be adding reflectors to make them more visible at night.
- Residents have been complaining about dog barking. Please respect your neighbors and follow the noise ordinances.
- Tom Kirshbaum voiced his opinion that City needs to dig out the culverts along the roadside. This will allow the storm water to flow to the river.
- Tom also voiced his opinion that the City should not lower the water and sewer usage minimum. He is concerned that the current rates will discourage people from living in Fertile. The

- The DNR has approved the proposal to decrease the slope of the dike in the park. This will allow easier maintenance of the dike.
- Mayor Russell visited with the Humane Society about abandoned pets. The Humane Society cannot intervene unless the pets have noticeable signs of physical neglect. Mayor Russell confirmed with the Sheriff's Department that any liens placed on the property must be paid before the new owners can get clear title, no matter how the house is sold.
- The playground equipment, picnic tables and benches have been installed up at the ball fields.
- A BIG THANK YOU to Haugen Lawn Service for donating the time and materials for spraying the ball fields.
- The city will be sprayed for Mosquitoes three times this summer.
- Todd and Larry will receive a Governor's Award from Governor Chet Culver at the Iowa State Fair for pulling the boys from the river this winter.
- Fertile has put a bid in for the picnic tables from Hanlontown. If the City wins the bid, the tables will be place in the park.
- Three gravel alleys have been blacktopped. One more section of road remains to be done.
- The Worth County Development Authority has granted \$2000 to the FB&I committee for Fertile Days. Fertile Days will be August 4th and 5th.

) City Clerk's Report

- May presented the May financials.
 - May suggested that the council consider placing a Franchise Fee on the utility contracts the City has with Alliant. The Fee would allow the City to continue to progressively handle City issues such as the ailing city sewer system and prepare for future expansion of services such as the Community Center.
- Hoffman moved, Miller 2nd to approve the expenditures.*
Motion Carried.

) Committee Reports

- Weeds & Garbage – solutions were suggested for the continual upkeep of the parks and recreational areas. Busy summer schedules, coupled with weather issues, have delayed trimming in several areas.
- Community Center – the committee has visited several area libraries, fire departments and community centers for ideas and suggestions. The committee is in the process of assembling an informational survey to be mailed to the residents of Fertile and the surrounding areas.

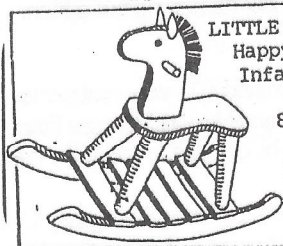
1.) Other Business

- Tom Kirshbaum re-voiced his opinion that City needs to dig out the culverts along the roadside and repair the storm water system. He has placed new tile in his culvert and re-covered it.

0.) Next Meeting

- The Fertile City Council will meet at 7:00PM in regular session, July 17, 2007, at Fertile City Hall.

- 1.) Adjourn - *Ronchin moved, Berg 2nd to adjourn.* Meeting adjourned.



LITTLE TYKES CHILD DAYCARE
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Phone 797-2699

City of Fertile Expenditures and Revenues As of May 31, 2007

Type	Name	Paid Amount
General Fund Checking		
Bill Pmt -Check	Advantage Business Solutions	-880.00
Bill Pmt -Check	Alliant Energy	-863.32
Bill Pmt -Check	Farmers Lumber Company	-234.63
Bill Pmt -Check	Frank's Repair	-10.05
Bill Pmt -Check	Hare Electric	-1,854.10
Bill Pmt -Check	LGI	-83.30
Bill Pmt -Check	North Central Sales & Service	-1,825.00
Bill Pmt -Check	UPS	-10.88
Bill Pmt -Check	WCTA	-118.47
Bill Pmt -Check	Advantage Business Solutions	-239.40
Bill Pmt -Check	Aquila	-261.43
Bill Pmt -Check	Brian Nettleton Excavating, Inc.	-380.00
Bill Pmt -Check	Crescent Moon	-153.00
Bill Pmt -Check	Hare Electric	-304.24
Bill Pmt -Check	Hawkins, Inc.	-5.00
Bill Pmt -Check	Pronto	-182.14
Bill Pmt -Check	Waste Management	-1,802.10
Check	Fertile Little League	-600.00
Deposit		2,012.16
Deposit		3,763.98
Deposit		5,405.52
Deposit		3,347.44
Deposit		3,088.20
Deposit	Diamond Joe Casino	2,102.72
Deposit		41.51
Deposit	Treasurer - Worth County	907.00
Paycheck	Bruns, Warren	-1,332.64
Paycheck	Ganz, Dennis	-53.07
Paycheck	Low, David	-300.73
Paycheck	May III, Edgar F	-642.37
Paycheck	Russell, Grant	-259.92
Total General Fund Checking		8,272.74
Roads Revenue Fund Savings		
Deposit		61.33
Total Roads Revenue Fund Savings		61.33
Water Revenue Fund Checking		
Deposit		2.14
Total Water Revenue Fund Checking		2.14
Sewage Revenue Fund Checking		
Deposit		3.17
Total Sewage Revenue Fund Checking		3.17
TOTAL		8,339.38

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City responded that the cost increases only cover the actual costs associated with providing utilities to the residents of Fertile as well as the costs of complying with the DNR and other regulatory agencies. May suggested that if anyone can find another more equitable way to divide the higher costs, he is more than willing to discuss their suggestions and to present them to the Council for approval.

- May presented an initial rough draft of the community center plans. A survey will be mailed to residents within the next 60 days giving information and requesting opinions.

9.) **Next Meeting**

- The Fertile City Council will meet at 7:00PM in regular session, June 19, 2007, at Fertile City Hall.

10.) **Adjourn - Renchin moved, Hoffmann 2nd to adjourn.** Meeting adjourned.

**City of Fertile
Expenditures and Revenues
As of April 30, 2007**

Type	Name	Paid
General Fund Checking		
Bill Pmt -Check	ICAP	-12,038.07
Bill Pmt -Check	Iowa Jetting	-1,240.70
Bill Pmt -Check	Larry Elwood Construction	-21.46
Bill Pmt -Check	LGI	-9.80
Bill Pmt -Check	North Iowa Media Group	-99.63
Bill Pmt -Check	Pronto	-154.00
Bill Pmt -Check	UPS	-10.75
Bill Pmt -Check	Waste Management	-1,802.10
Bill Pmt -Check	WCTA	-127.70
Bill Pmt -Check	Northwood Anchor, Inc.	-34.00
Bill Pmt -Check	Aquila	-424.23
Bill Pmt -Check	Barco Municipal Products, Inc.	-291.03
Bill Pmt -Check	Bruns, Warren V	-59.10
Bill Pmt -Check	Menards	-42.03
Bill Pmt -Check	Thompson's Garage	-191.69
Bill Pmt -Check	UPS	-18.52
Check	Fertile Fire Department V	-1,625.00
Check	Fertile Public Library V	-3,375.00
Check	Berg, Jeffrey V	215.00
Check	US Post Office	-72.00
Check	mydiscountdomains.com	-8.88
Check	Cherry Tree Builders	-3,274.00
Check	Fertile Garden Club	-500.00
Check	First State Bank	-10.00
Deposit		3,802.12
Deposit		3,822.47
Deposit		2,747.51
Deposit		5,870.36
Deposit	Diamond Joe Casino	1,971.40
Deposit		41.75
Deposit	Treasurer - Worth County	3,921.40
Paycheck	Bruns, Warren	-1,403.26
Paycheck	Ganz, Dennis	-53.07
Paycheck	Low, David	-300.73
Paycheck	May III, Edgar F	-642.37
Total General Fund Checking		-5,867.11
Roads Revenue Fund Savings		
Deposit		61.70
Total Roads Revenue Fund Savings		61.70
Water Revenue Fund Checking		
Deposit		2.25
Total Water Revenue Fund Checking		2.25
Sewage Revenue Fund Checking		
Deposit		3.32
Total Sewage Revenue Fund Checking		3.32
TOTAL		-5,799.84

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2007, 7:00 PM, City Hall

1.) **Call to Order**

The Fertile City Council met at 7:00 PM in regular session, June 19, 2007, at Fertile City Hall.

2.) **Roll Call**

Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell, Council Members: Jeff Berg, Loren Hoffman, Tad Miller, Patrick Renchin, Gail Shropshire, and City Clerk Eddie May. Absent was City Maintenance Manager Warren Bruns.

3.) **Minutes Approval.**

- *Berg motioned and Renchin 2nd to approve the May minutes.* Motion Carried.

4.) **Sewer Project Update by Yaggy Colby**

- Terry McCarthy presented an update on the sewer project. Nettleton has completed phase I and phase II of the project, other than the patching of the roads. Because of cost saving efforts of Nettleton, Yaggy Colby and the City, we will be able to repair 4 more manholes than what was originally in the plan. Nettleton will make the extra repairs within the next 2-3 weeks. Heartland Asphalt will then patch the roads. The project should be completed by July 31.

5.) **Curfew Ordinance and Juvenile Delinquency**

- A group of concerned citizens asked Mayor Russell to invite Sherriff Ganz to attend the meeting to discuss the issues we had over the last few years regarding curfew and delinquency. Sherriff Ganz reviewed the city ordinance pertaining to the curfew and found it to be enforceable.
- The curfew applies to anyone under the age of 17 between the hours of 10:01 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. The complete ordinance can be reviewed at City Hall.
- Ganz encouraged the idea to initiate a Neighborhood Watch Program. He also stated that any citizen can perform a citizen's arrest.
- If a citizen witnesses any questionable behavior they are encouraged to call the Sherriff's office at 800-458-1234. Fertile has 2 Reserve Officers living in city limits. Under normal circumstances a Deputy or a Reserve Officer can be on site within 10 minutes.
- Sherriff Ganz encourages the use of video cameras, cell phone cameras or audio tape to capture the behavior. He also stated that if those are not available, eye witness testimony does still stand-up in court.
- Ganz also encouraged the idea of placing municipal video surveillance systems in all public areas. The video feed could be recorded at City Hall and/or piped directly to the Sherriff's Office. The Council is still discussing this option.

6.) **Mayor's Report**

- Alliant Energy has submitted a 25 year contract to the City for franchise rights. The council is considering a Franchise Fee option. The Fee would be charged to the utility customer and paid to the City.
- Mayor Russell presented the Fertile Emergency Operation Plan which provides a plan of action and evacuation in case of disaster.



FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY

204 West Main/ Box 198

Fertile, IA 50434

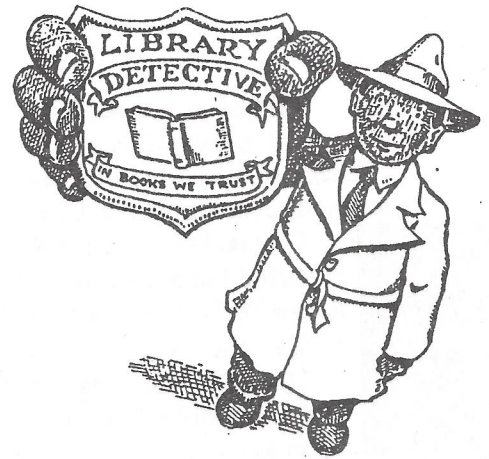
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Thursday - 3 - 6 P.M.

Friday - 9:00 A.M. - Noon & 2:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Saturday - 9:00 am - Noon



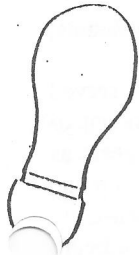
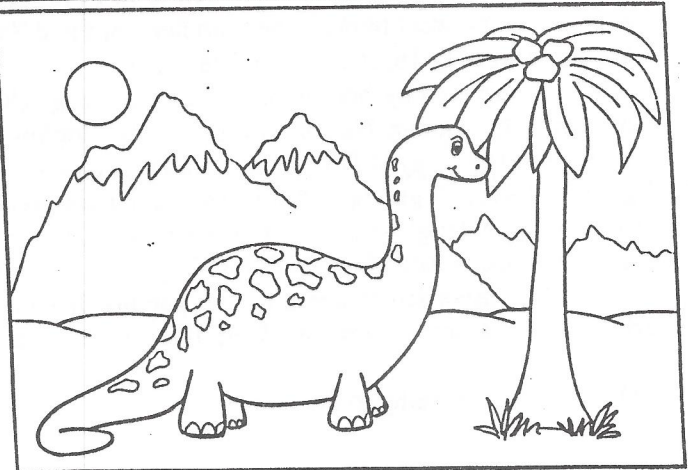
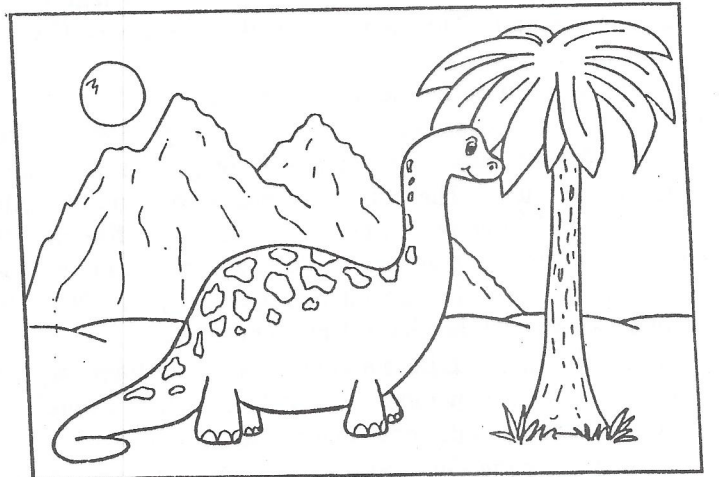
NEW BOOKS

- Owl Island – Randy Sue Coburn
- Lover Revealed – J. R. Ward
- The Final Move Beyond Iraq – Mike Evans
- Seizure – Erica Wagner
- Abandon – Carla Neggers
- Cut and Run - “
- Wolf River – Jill Gregory
- See No Evil – Allison Brennan
- Speak No Evil – “
- Fear No Evil - “
- Spare Change – Robert B. Parker
- Double Take – Catherine Coulter
- A Lady of High Regard – Tracie Peterson
- One Step Over the Border – Stephen Bly
- As I have Loved You – Niki Arana
- Woman in Red – Eileen Goudge
- Whitewash – Alex Kava
- Cooking for Kids/ Kids Party Food – Taste of Home
- Birds & Blooms Ultimate Gardening Guide
- Dreams From My Father – Barack Obama
- Children’s Night Sky Atlas – Robin Seagell
- The Beverly Lewis Amish Heritage Cookbook
- Large Print**
- Texas Cooking - Lisa Wingate
- The Shop on Blossom Street – Debbie Macomber
- A Good Yarn - “
- Back on Blossom Street - “
- The Wyoming Kid - “

DVD’s

- Ghost Rider – Nicolas Cage
- Windtalkers - “
- The Wild – Disney
- The Pursuit of Happyness – Will Smith
- Freedom Writers – Hilary Swank
- Children of Men – Clive Owen
- The Return - Sarah Michelle Gellar

There are a least five differences in these two pictures.
How many can you find?



BOOKS ON CD

Coming Out – Danielle Steel



OUR FARM HORSES

From George Kisner's Book "Childhood on the Farm"

Even though our farm was small, it required a minimum of four and sometimes five workhorses to properly till it. The disc harrow needed four horses, the one bottom sulky plow took three horses, the corn planter two, the one-row cultivators took two each and even though these operations did not take place all at once, it seemed we were always short of horse power.

My earliest recollections were of two mares named Florie and Bess and a giant of a horse called Old Sam. Our father would make do by borrowing horses from a friendly neighbor, Irwin Owens. Mr Owens had vast acres, numerous horses and did not seem to mind our father's borrowing.

When I was 11 years old, I was allowed to drive three horses on a drag-harrow while my father drove two horses on the corn planter. I worked ahead of the corn planter, so we were only a few rods apart. I was extremely proud of being part of this important farming operation, though my legs ached every night from walking in the loose ground all day. I was determined to do a man's work and would harness the horses by standing on a box in order to get the harness up over their backs.

Sometimes, when my father was working in a different field, my mother would go with me to see that I got in no trouble. Mostly though, the horses knew their jobs far better than I did and would patiently walk back and forth across the fields, obediently turning at the end of each row. Some farmers had special horses for each job, but my father was just lucky if he could get enough horses in the fields.

We children frequently rode the workhorses when they were not in use. We would lead them under a tree and one of us would hold the horse while the other mounted from a tree branch. We knew how to put a bridle on, and that was the only equipment needed for horseback riding. One time, when my sister Frances and I were riding double in the pasture, a pheasant flew directly in front of our horse, Wanda. We both fell off and Wanda went running back to the safety of her barn stall. I was not hurt but Frances' arm was broken and she had to wear a cast for several weeks. All the children were extremely envious! The two mares, Florie and Bess, had colts each year so soon we had Amos and Andy, and the next year, Belle and Wanda.

Amos and Andy and Belle all had untimely deaths with sleeping sickness, fence cuts and various illnesses. Wanda, with her placid disposition lived to the ripe old age of 20. Her only partner at the end in 1952 was a horse name Blackie, which my father had bought from a neighbor for one hundred dollars. By that time everything was done with tractors and we no longer relied on horsepower.,

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Hantontown, IA 50444
ouverins@cs.com

The time has come to start typing the book. Not all questionnaires have been returned and need to be at this time. The classes beyond 1962 are not as interested as the classes before 1962; therefore, there are few for each of the classes.

If you have a class composite (one page) graduation picture that I can scan and copy, I would appreciate using it. I do have several of the class pictures but they are copies and do not copy as well the second and third time. I would like to start each year with one, BUT do not have all of them.

Many pictures have been printed in the Fertile Reminder the past several years that would be an asset to the book, but again a copy would be from a copy which would not print clearly. If you have any originals, please let me know. The number of pictures will be limited due to space.

Betty Waddington, 641-896-2445
email fhsbook@wctatel.net. Thanks for all the help, it is much appreciated.

FERTILE GARDEN CLUB

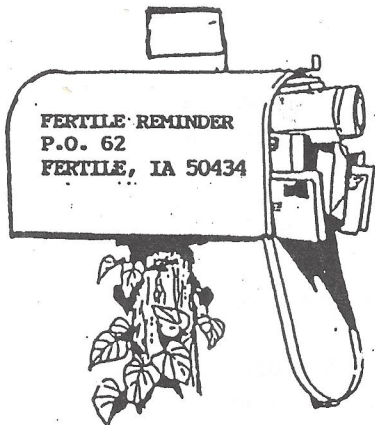
JUNE 11, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

The Fertile Garden Club met for their monthly meeting at the Wm. Rhodes Park with 11 members present. A delicious supper was served by the officers - Ginny Lovik, Evelyn Elthon, & Lois Low and an absent Betty Theilen. We sang Happy Birthday to Elaine Patton who celebrated on June 2nd.

President Ginny Lovik called the meeting to order. Since there was no lesson scheduled or Thought of the Day, Ginny told about the club from the time it began in 1953, by going over the old scrap books which are stored in the Fertile Public Library. The 'Thought' came from the old books.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were given. Old Business was discussed on a permanent banner for the "Fertile Garden Club Annual Plant Sale" and plaques for the flower gardens. Penny will take care of this and also take care of getting the bags of mulch to be spread at the Fertile Sign flowers and where ever needed. Ginny announced that Mary Ann Wellik will be hosting the Annual Christmas Dinner at her home in December. She also announced there is a tour for those who can make it, at the Lime Creek Nature Center on June 26.

We closed the meeting with a delicious cake being served. Next meeting will July 10th. at the home of Penny Miller.



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THE "X" IN THE MAIL BOX REMINDS YOU THAT IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION. A DONATION OF \$6.00 IS SUGGESTED. WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED "THE REMINDER" THIS PAST YEAR AND WILL WANT TO KEEP IT COMING. YOU MAY SEND YOUR DONATION TO THE ADDRESS IN THE MAIL BOX.

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