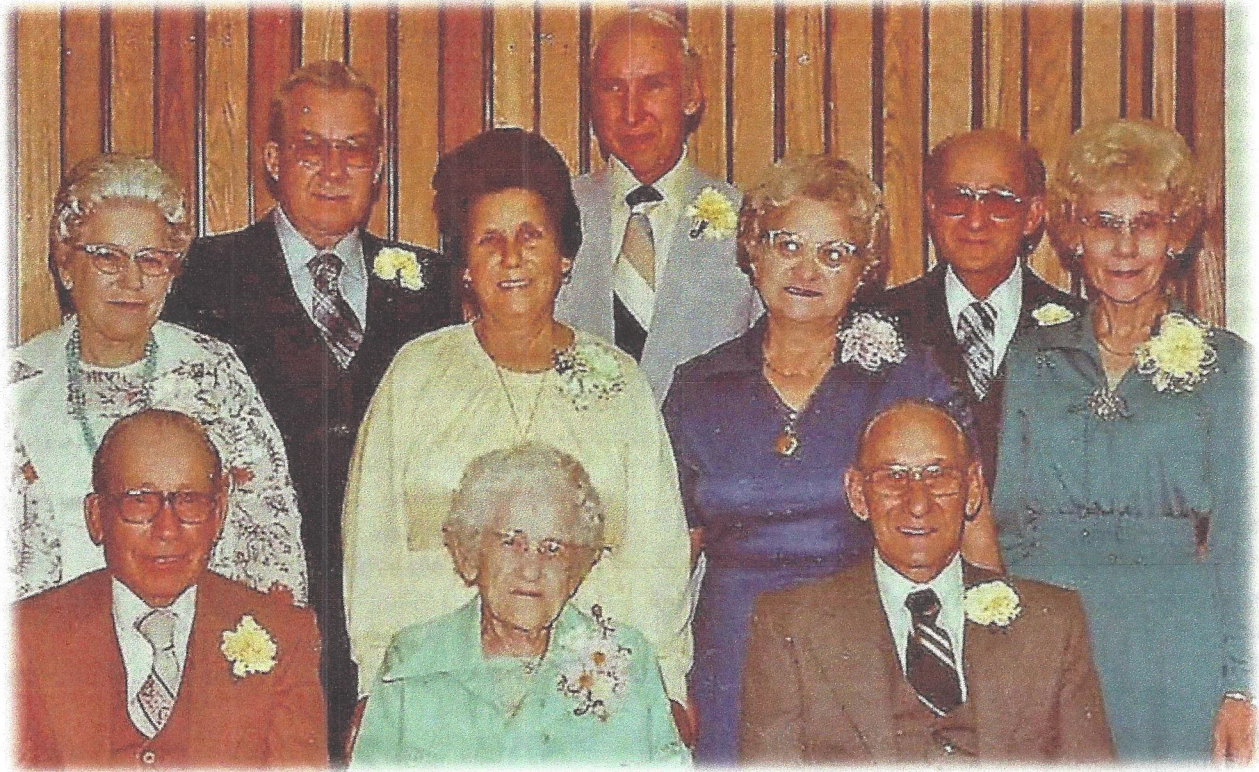


# FERTILE REMINDER

FEBURARY 2018



Ben and Ellen Miller family taken June 1979. Front row L to R: Verle, Ellen, Alvin. 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Leona, Viola, Verna, Iva. 3<sup>rd</sup> row: Glen, Amos and Orland.

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

4 Firemen

8 & 22 Recycle

14 Deadline for Reminder

19 Library Board meets

20 Fertile Girls Meet

20 City Council

21 Reminder E-mailed

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

# City of Fertile

## City Council Meeting Minutes

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

### Call to Order & Roll Call:

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Tad Miller, Cindy Peters, Nick Bailey, Ron Rachut and Holly Lovik-Hanna; City Clerk Wendy Lunning. Absent: Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts.
- Ron motioned, Nick 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the minutes of the November meeting.** Unanimous
- Cindy motioned, Tad 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### Library Board:

- Proposed Eman Khan as member of the Library Board. **Ron motioned, Nick 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve Eman Khan.** Unanimous.

### Autoworks:

- Not present.

### City Maintenance Report:

- Our condolences to Steve on the passing of his father.

### Mayor's Report:

- Joyce mentioned that Steve had the snow plow repaired and is ready for our first snowfall.
- Oath of Office was given by Joyce, Tad, Nick & Holly.
- It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Joyce decorated City Hall and the Community Center for Christmas. Steve put Christmas lights on pillars in front of City Hall. Thank you, Twyla Keigal & Garden Club, for outdoor decorations at City Hall, Community Center and Downtown pots. Thanks also for the 2 – 7' trees for memorial lights.
- Joyce met with electricians for bids on upgrading wiring at Fertile Park. This will be submitted for Spring Grant cycle with WCDA.

## City of Fertile

### Deposits

Date	Memo	Amount
11/01/2017	Utility Deposit	96.80
11/01/2017	Utility Deposit	2,034.42
11/01/2017	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
11/01/2017	Property Taxes	4,215.91
11/01/2017	Lien Interest Deposit	3.00
11/01/2017	Utility Deposit	443.21
11/03/2017	Casino Funds Deposit	3,195.54
11/08/2017	Local Option Sales Tax	2,814.71
11/09/2017	Utility Deposit	69.67
11/09/2017	Building Permit Deposit	70.00
11/09/2017	Utility Deposit	3,082.50
11/15/2017	Utility Deposit	2,497.57
11/15/2017	Utility Deposit	154.68
11/16/2017	Road Use Tax	2,263.83

had written for barricades and security light at the south side of the Community Center.

- Green Canopy picked up the portable potties at the park, fishing point, and ball diamond. They will be returned in the spring.
- Celebrate the New Year happy and safe. The City of Fertile has a permit that needs to be filed prior to lighting fireworks within city limits. Permits are available at City Hall. Fireworks are permitted December 24, 2017 – January 3, 2018 (9:00am to 10:00pm).
- Tad motioned, Nick 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

### City Clerk's Report

- Fertile Days, Fire Department, Garden Club & Library current through 10/31/2017.
- Holly motioned, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous
- Cindy motioned, Tad 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve November Bills.** Unanimous
- No Liens.

7/1/2017 11/31/2017	General	WCDA	Roads	EE Benefits	Utilities	Total
Income	208,742.27	53,975.00	90,340.15	3,752.93	61,342.50	418,152.85
Expense	184,854.29	46,153.68	85,413.63	686.16	55,166.29	372,274.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,887.98</b>	<b>7,821.32</b>	<b>4,926.52</b>	<b>3,066.77</b>	<b>6,176.21</b>	<b>45,878.80</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>93,680.54</b>	<b>21.32</b>	<b>51,569.92</b>	<b>3,935.28</b>	<b>134,815.45</b>	<b>284,022.51</b>

### Committee Report:

- Ron is planning on ordering 3 flag poles to surround the bronze statue at city hall.

### Upcoming Meetings:

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, at Fertile City Hall.
- Nick motioned, Holly 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous

### Summary of Resolutions & Ordinances:

- Eman Khan approved on Library Board.**

Wendy Lunning, City Clerk

11/22/2017	Utility Deposit	3,726.32
11/22/2017	Refundable Utility Deposit	150.00
11/22/2017	Farm to Market Deposit	2,274.98
11/22/2017	Lien Payments Deposit	1,020.60
11/27/2017	Local Option Sales Tax	2,715.67
11/29/2017	Utility Deposit	2,103.47
11/30/2017	Deposit to VOID Check 8142	174.20
11/30/2017	Interest	18.80
		<b>33,125.88</b>

**BIllS PAID**

**Operating Accounts**

**Checking**

Paycheck	11/01/2017	8335	Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-401.84
Paycheck	11/01/2017	8336	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,046.07
Paycheck	11/01/2017	8337	Russell, Grant	City Maintenance	-207.79
Paycheck	11/01/2017	8338	Russell, Joyce	City Administrator - Donated 18 hours	-1,002.92
Paycheck	11/01/2017	8339	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor	-301.39
Bill Pmt -Check	11/01/2017	8340	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-48.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/01/2017	8341	Brian Nettleton Excavating, Inc.	Lagoon	-1,480.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/01/2017	8342	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-20.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/01/2017	8343	Menards	Lighter Fluid, Light Bulbs & Thread Lock	-24.12
Bill Pmt -Check	11/01/2017	8344	Visu-Sewer	Jet Truck	-1,840.00
Liability Check	11/01/2017	EFT	IPERS	Library IPERS	-255.93
Liability Check	11/01/2017	EFT	IPERS		-775.26
Check	11/01/2017	ACH	Staples	Envelopes	-39.48
Check	11/06/2017	TRANSFER	Petty Cash	Petty Cash Reimbursement	-66.21
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8345	CarQuest	Tools - Floor Jack & Winter Fuel Additive	-225.82
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8346	Five Star CO-OP		-101.36
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8347	Floyd & Leonard Auto Electric, Inc.	Leaf Blowing Attachment	-105.56
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8348	Hare Electric	Lagoon, Street Lights & Outlets in Shop.	-2,921.78
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8349	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8350	Iowa Finance Authority	Sewer Loan	-866.25
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8351	Iowa Rural Water Association	IRWA Membership Dues	-225.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8352	Kramer Ace Hardware	Salt	-27.96
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8353	Menards	Mop Head	-12.61
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8354	Mills Fleet Farm	Gas Can for City	-99.99
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8355	North Iowa Media Group	Annual Financial Report	-175.89
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8356	Waste Management		-2,261.17
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2017	8357	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-206.42
Check	11/09/2017	ACH	Staples	Tape	-16.99
Liability Check	11/15/2017	EFT	United States Treasury		-1,095.14
Paycheck	11/15/2017	8358	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,046.09
Bill Pmt -Check	11/15/2017	8359	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-13.50
Bill Pmt -Check	11/15/2017	8360	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-1,536.09
Bill Pmt -Check	11/15/2017	8361	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-340.93
Bill Pmt -Check	11/15/2017	8362	Interstate Motor Trucks Inc.	Snow Plow - Maintenance	-1,279.11
Bill Pmt -Check	11/15/2017	8363	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-56.54
Bill Pmt -Check	11/15/2017	8364	North Iowa Media Group	Election	-142.91
Bill Pmt -Check	11/15/2017	8365	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-79.97
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8366	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-120.50
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8367	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-122.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8368	Baker & Taylor	Books & CDs	-248.38
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8369	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-65.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8370	Citibusiness Card	Books & CDs, Supplies, Programs, DVDs	-304.48
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8371	Forest City Summit	Annual Renewal	-45.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8372	Iowa League of Citites	Municipal Leadership Academy	-190.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8373	Menards		-72.49
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8374	USA Blue Book	Sewer PH Buffer Samples	-48.87
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8376	Worth County Auditor	Election	-1,100.16
Check	11/22/2017	ACH	WCTA		-19.74
Paycheck	11/22/2017	8377	Arndt, Linda J	Assistant Director	-216.19
Paycheck	11/22/2017	8379	Thompson, Angela M	Librarian	-1,084.16
Paycheck	11/22/2017	8378	Knudson, Loni	Clerk	-72.95
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8380	Angie Thompson	Mileage (74 miles @ .535 per mile)	-39.59
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8382	Goodwin Tucker	Termocouple	-118.24
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8383	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder & EPA Regulator	-412.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2017	8384	Menards	Christmas Lights and gloves	-210.73
Paycheck	11/29/2017	8381	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,046.08

**Total Checking**

**-25,892.65**

**City Council Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2017 - 7:00 PM, City Hall**

**Call to Order & Roll Call:**

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Cindy Peters, Nick Bailey, Ron Rachut and Holly Lovik-Hanna; City Clerk Wendy Lunning and Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts. Absent: Tad Miller.
- *Cindy motioned, Ron 2nd to approve the minutes of the December meeting with the correction of the spelling of Twylah Kragel's name.* Unanimous
- *Cindy motioned, Nick 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.

**Fire Department:**

- Dylan Knoff presented WCDA grant proposal for new pumper truck in the amount of \$176,000.

**City Maintenance Report:**

- New sewer pump installed will need 2 fog rod level controllers. Joyce is in the process of submitting a grant to POET for these and LP Heater for the sewer plant.
- The City of Fertile received bookcase from Fertile Lutheran Church. Steve spruced it up a bit and is currently in Electrical Room of the Community Center for office supplies.
- Steve installed new lock on the electric room at the Community Center.
- Plow Truck is currently working, but will probably need some more work done in spring.
- Christmas lights are down.
- *Ron motioned, Nick 2nd to approve the City Maintenance report.* Unanimous

**Mayor's Report:**

- Joyce ordered 4 new A-Frame barricades from Barco. Joyce wrote and received ICAP grant for these.
- Larson plumbing and heating installed new thermostat in the incubator.

**Deposits**

Type	Date	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
Deposit	12/01/2017	Property Taxes	6,250.67
Deposit	12/04/2017	Casino Funds Deposit	2,429.54
Deposit	12/06/2017	Sale of Property Deposit	51.45
Deposit	12/06/2017	Utility Deposit	1,021.46
Deposit	12/06/2017	Farm to Market Deposit	1,495.68
Deposit	12/06/2017	Utility Deposit	68.07
Deposit	12/12/2017	Refund Debit Deposit	0.60
Deposit	12/12/2017	Refund Debit Deposit	253.73
Deposit	12/13/2017	Utility Deposit	3,361.64
Deposit	12/13/2017	Utility Deposit	301.63
Deposit	12/19/2017	Road Use Tax	1,963.04
Deposit	12/20/2017	Lien Interest Deposit	32.00
Deposit	12/20/2017	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00

**EMIS.**

- Joyce has updated the Fertile Emergency Operation Plan for 2018.
- mentioned that Steve had the snow plow repaired and is ready for our first snowfall.
- Joyce submitted grants to WCDA for paving parking lot at Community Center and upgrading electricity in the park.
- To prevent pipes from freezing, Joyce has been running water & flushing toilets in City Hall, Community Center and Incubator.
- Worth County Board of Supervisors reappointed Joyce for NIACOG board. This is a 1-year term.
- *Cindy motioned, Holly 2nd to approve the mayor's report.* Unanimous.

**City Clerk's Report**

- Fertile Days current through 11/30/2017
- Fire Department, Garden Club & Library current through 10/31/2017.

7/1/2017 12/31/2017	General	WCDA	Roads	EE Benefits	Utilities	Total
Income	225,460.15	53,975.00	95,809.29	4,363.56	72,186.61	451,794.61
Expense	204,204.89	46,153.68	88,650.18	918.98	64,407.89	404,335.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,255.26</b>	<b>7,821.32</b>	<b>7,159.11</b>	<b>3,444.58</b>	<b>7,778.72</b>	<b>47,458.99</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>90,804.58</b>	<b>21.32</b>	<b>53,802.51</b>	<b>4,313.09</b>	<b>136,417.96</b>	<b>285,359.46</b>

- *Ron motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve Financial Report.* Unanimous
- *Holly motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve December Bills.* Unanimous
- Liens presented to council were as follows:  
210 East Washington Street \$309.29  
108 West Washington Street \$467.05  
101 East Main Street \$362.75  
115 West Main Street \$317.12

*Ron motioned, Nick 2nd to process liens with the County Treasurer.* Unanimous

**Committee Report:**

- Fertile Days Spaghetti Supper & Bake Sale January 20, 2018 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Fertile Community Center.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, at Fertile City Hall.
- *Holly motioned, Nick 2nd to adjourn the meeting.* Unanimous

Deposit	12/20/2017	Farm to Market Deposit	2,009.84
Deposit	12/20/2017	Facility Rental Deposit	200.00
Deposit	12/20/2017	Utility Deposit	3,967.36
Deposit	12/20/2017	Utility Deposit	176.27
Deposit	12/20/2017	Assessment Deposit	1,075.10
Deposit	12/20/2017	Library Donations Deposit	380.00
Deposit	12/28/2017	ICAP Grant Deposit	1,000.00
Deposit	12/28/2017	Utility Deposit	239.14
Deposit	12/28/2017	Utility Deposit	3,621.29
Deposit	12/28/2017	Facility Rental Deposit	200.00
Deposit	12/29/2017	Local Option Sales Tax	2,715.67
Deposit	12/31/2017	Interest	20.11
<b>Total Savings</b>			<b>32,834.29</b>
<b>Total Water Revenue Accounts</b>			<b>0.58</b>
12/31/2017	Interest		2.87
<b>Interest</b>			<b>2.51</b>
<b>Total Sewer Revenue Accounts</b>			<b>110.85</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>32,948.59</b>

# Bills Paid

As of December 31, 2017

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
<b>Operating Accounts</b>					
<b>Checking</b>					
Check	12/01/2017	CORR	WCTA	Correction to Class - Original entry 11-09-2017.	0.00
Paycheck	12/06/2017	8385	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor	-301.39
Paycheck	12/06/2017	8386	Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-385.82
Paycheck	12/06/2017	8387	Russell, Joyce	City Administrator - Donated 27 hours	-1,317.99
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2017	8388	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-143.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2017	8389	CarQuest	Chain Lube for Snow Plow	-18.24
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2017	8390	Five Star CO-OP	Gas for Truck	-182.99
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2017	8391	Forest City Ambulance	2017 Donation	-500.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2017	8392	John Greve Attny Trust Acct	Annual Contribution	-1,000.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2017	8393	Kramer Ace Hardware	Repair Plow Truck	-5.98
				Thermocouple, Water Softener & Concession Stand	-123.66
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2017	8394	Larsen Plumbing & Heating		-456.06
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2017	8395	Plunkett's	Pest Control	-2,261.17
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2017	8396	Waste Management	Garbage, Recycling & Container Services	-197.09
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2017	8397	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-7.49
Bill Pmt -Check	12/06/2017	8398	Wendy Lunning - v	Dry Erase Markers & Mileage	-150.00
Check	12/06/2017	8399	Arnold, Melissa & Scott	Utility Deposit Refund	-608.66
Check	12/08/2017	DEBIT	Central Service and Supply	Snow Plow Parts	-1,046.07
Paycheck	12/13/2017	8400	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-108.50
Bill Pmt -Check	12/13/2017	8401	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-1,707.11
Bill Pmt -Check	12/13/2017	8402	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-79.97
Bill Pmt -Check	12/13/2017	8403	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-480.22
Paycheck	12/13/2017	8404	Bailey, Nick	City Council	-481.52
Paycheck	12/13/2017	8405	Lovik-Hanna, Holly	City Council	-518.56
Paycheck	12/13/2017	8407	Rachut, Ron	City Council	-819.00
Paycheck	12/13/2017	8408	Russell, Joyce	Mayor	-481.52
Paycheck	12/13/2017	8406	Peters, Cynthia	City Council	-266.64
Liability Check	12/13/2017	EFT	IPERS	Library IPERS	-975.51
Liability Check	12/13/2017	EFT	IPERS	City IPERS	-1,392.08
Liability Check	12/13/2017	EFT	United States Treasury	City Federal Withholding	-1,046.07
Paycheck	12/20/2017	8409	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-133.24
Paycheck	12/21/2017	8410	Arndt, Linda J	Assistant Director	-45.29
Paycheck	12/21/2017	8411	Knudson, Loni	Clerk	-1,084.16
Paycheck	12/21/2017	8412	Thompson, Angela M	Librarian	-122.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/21/2017	8413	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-494.79
Bill Pmt -Check	12/21/2017	8414	Baker & Taylor	Books & CDs	-578.06
Bill Pmt -Check	12/21/2017	8415	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-815.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/21/2017	8416	Green Canopy, Inc.	SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER Fishing Dock, Park, Baseball Diamond	-269.12
Bill Pmt -Check	12/21/2017	8417	Hare Electric	Labor to change flashing bulb at 4-way.	-1,420.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/21/2017	8418	Haugen Lawn Service	Spraying for Weeds	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/21/2017	8419	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-19.90
Bill Pmt -Check	12/21/2017	8420	Iowa One Call	Water locates	-74.77
Bill Pmt -Check	12/21/2017	8421	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-56.48
Bill Pmt -Check	12/21/2017	8422	MicroMarketing	Books & CDs	-42.76
Bill Pmt -Check	12/21/2017	EFT	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-65.35
Check	12/21/2017	TRANSFER	Petty Cash	Petty Cash Reimbursement	-194.66
Bill Pmt -Check	12/28/2017	8423	BMC Aggregates L.C.	Sand for Main Street	-633.62
Bill Pmt -Check	12/28/2017	8424	Citibusiness Card	Books & CDs, Supplies, Programs, DVDs, Building, Meals & Travel, Magazines	-919.52
Bill Pmt -Check	12/28/2017	8425	Hussey & Company	Snowplow	-18.87
Bill Pmt -Check	12/28/2017	8426	Wendy Lunning - v	Storage Boxes	-960.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/28/2017	8427	Mason City Roofing	Storm Damage - Community Center Roofing	-200.00
Check	12/31/2017	DEBIT	US Post Office	Postage	-59.50
Paycheck	12/31/2017	8439	Russell, Joyce	Mayor Pay a/c IPERS deducted in error.	-25,279.40
<b>Total Checking</b>					<b>-25,279.40</b>

**TOTAL**

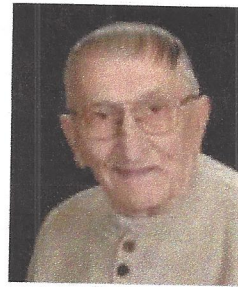


Sandra J. Thompson Young, 79, of Garner died Thursday, December 14, 2017 at the Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City. Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 P.M., Friday at St. Boniface Catholic

Church in Garner with a Scriptural wake service at 3 P.M. followed by a rosary.

Memorials may be directed to Hospice of North Iowa.

Sandra Jean Young, the daughter of Truman and Alma (Helgeson) Thompson, was born February 19, 1938 at the Forest City Hospital in Winnebago County. She was baptized at Winnebago Lutheran Church near Lake Mills and confirmed at Fertile Lutheran Church. Sandy graduated from Fertile High School in 1956. After high school, she worked for the telephone company in Mason City. She attended Airline School in Omaha, NE and from there she worked at the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis, MN. She then returned to Iowa and was employed at the Clear Lake Bakery. On February 23, 1964, she was married to Richard "Dick" Young at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Garner. To this union two sons were born, Craig Allen and Alan Paul. They made their home in Garner all of their married life. She enjoyed bowling, golf, bridge, shopping, reading, her four grandchildren, family and friends. She was a member of St. Boniface Catholic Church. Sandy is survived by her husband, Richard "Dick" of Garner; two sons, Craig (Connie) Young of Cedar Falls and Dr. Alan (Jody) Young of Waverly; four grandchildren, Abby, Mitch, Kelsey and Britney Young; a sister, Janet (Larry) Burtness of Fertile; and four nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; and sister, Norma Thompson.



Howard Drevs, 86, of Kanawha, passed away Sunday, December 24, 2017. Howard Duane Drevs, the son of Christian and Beulah (Harmes) Drevs, was born October 1, 1931 on the family farm in rural Moville, Iowa. He graduated from Moville High School in 1949. He continued his education at Iowa State University, while he helped the Mewes family farm. Howard was united in marriage with Beverly Mewes in 1953 at the Collegiate United Methodist Church in Ames, Iowa. Howard **began his teaching career in Fertile, Iowa**. The couple then moved to the Mewes family farm in rural Kanawha and Howard taught Agriculture at Kanawha School for 20 years. As the FFA Leader, Howard and his students built the Kanawha swimming pool shelter house. Howard is survived by his wife **Beverly**; children **Ann** (Stan) Waters of Shawnee, Kansas, **Lori** (Rex) Pepper of Northwood, Iowa, **Brian** Drevs of Des Moines, Iowa, **Jerry** Drevs of Kanawha, Iowa and **Kaye** (Cathy) Drevs of Ames, Iowa; grandchildren Andrew Waters, Ian Waters, Sarah Springer, Sam Pepper, Katie Pepper and Lucas Pepper, siblings Everett Drevs, and Myrtis Kuhlman; also Jeannie Fuchtenicht and Jon Dickerson Jr. along with many nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Wilber, Kenneth, Bob and grandson Ben Pepper.

**Mike McCauley** passed away since the first of the year but I cannot find his obit anywhere. If it comes out before the next issue of the Reminder, I will put it in.

**Our sympathy to all the families!**

## BEN AND ELLEN MILLER

Written by Ellen Miller

Ben and I were married February 10, 1907. We moved on what was then the Frank Clark farm NW of Goodell. Mr. Clark was a bachelor and boarded with us that year. Our first little boy, Verle, was born there Nov. 25, 1909.



The first of March 1910 we moved on the WR Boom farm east of Klemme. The first of March 1911 we moved on the Dutcher farm (south of the Lindon Ranch) where we farmed with my folks and lived in part of the same house and here is where our second little boy, Alvin, was born April 7, 1911.

In the fall of that year we moved to Canton SD. Ben fixed a cover over the wagon and took our stoves and some of the other stuff in the wagon. He drove all the way out there. We shipped the rest of the furniture by train. The two children and I went on the train.

When we all got there we rented an apartment in Canton for one winter and Ben worked by the hour at whatever he could find to do. It sure was a cold winter 40 below zero part of the time, frost  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick on the windows and the curtains froze in it some, but we were warm.

In the spring of 1912 we rented a house by ourselves and Ben worked in the Molten Engine Factory in Canton pouring the hot iron. We lived in Canton until the spring of 1913 when we moved to the country and Ben worked for Bill Brown on the farm and this is where our little girl, Leona, was born April 15, 1913. We lived there until fall corn picking and moved to Clondike down by the river, not many miles from where we had lived. Ben picked corn for different farmers and was only home over Sunday. Our 3 children and I stayed alone with our Collie dog, Flossie.

Well, Ben moved a year to Ohio to visit his folks who he had not seen since he came to Iowa when he was 17, so the first of the year 1914 we locked up the house and he went to visit and folks for 3 or 4 weeks while the children and I stayed with my folks, on what was then the Prestholt place, then the Loveless place (south of Fertile).

That spring my folks moved to the place west of Fertile what is now the Gilner place & the children and I moved with them. Ben went back to SD when he got back from Ohio and worked for a road gang who took charge of our house and everything. Of course, Ben was with them & our little girl, Viola, was born at my folks on May 31, 1914.

Ben had made plans with his Dad (while he was in Ohio) that we were to move to Ohio and live on his father's farm, so Ben packed our furniture and everything & sent it out to Ohio. We could not go yet as Viola was not old enough to go that far, so while we waited for her to be old enough to travel, Ben's father passed away and that changed the plans. Ben went to the funeral and while out there he shipped the furniture back here and we moved on the place west of Fertile that was then owned by Sondergaard and later Leo Elthon owned it. Ben worked by the day for Johnny Ouverson's Dad and other places.

Then in the spring of 1915 we moved south of Fertile on the Prestholt place north of Ted Back's old farm that was then where Ouver Ouverson lived and Amos Ouverson was a baby. Ben tiled most of the time we lived there, Joe lived with us and worked with Ben.

In the spring of 1916 we moved to the Overgard farm NW of Ventura. Ben used the money he got from his share of his Father's estate and bought some horses and a few things so we could farm & we had a big crop of

sugar beets. We lived there 2 years and that is where our little girl, Verna, was born on March 15, 1916 & that year was the last time we saw Joe as he went to Canada.

Then in the spring of 1918 we moved to the Stone farm south of Ventura and that is where our little girl, Iva, was born on May 26, 1918. We farmed there two years, we had a sale and moved to Wisconsin in October 1920, lived in the old log house and in April 6, 1921, our boy, Glenis, was born (but not in that log house) but in Bayfield at my folks house, as they had moved to Wisconsin the same time we did. My father died in May 1921.

Ben drove school bus while we lived in Wisconsin and he and the boys cut wood. We raised strawberries, string beans, potatoes, vegetables besides the apples. Ben went to N. Dakota three different years to work at thrashing, Alvin drove school bus and Verle went with him for one year. Well, we lived in Wisc. eight years.

Our little boy, Amos, was born in the old log house April 22, 1924 and our little boy, Orland, was born in the old log house Feb. 10, 1927. In June 1928 we packed our stuff (or at least the best of it) and moved back to Fertile, shipped part and brought part back in the old school bus Ben had made on the truck (it has a little stove in it for the school use.) Well, Ben used the school bus to haul children here for Fertile school for a while and he worked at anything he could get to do. We moved in with my mother and stayed there until March 1, 1929. (Mother went to Washington to visit her sister) We moved on this place (the one where she was writing this history) March 1929. Ben worked at anything he could get to do, then he started carpentering and working for the Lumber Yard.

**The story is now written by someone in the Miller family to bring it up to date.**

Ben and Ellen purchased the house East and South of the old Church of Christ and lived there until Ellen entered the Good Samaritan home in Forest City. Tracy and Tammy Hall bought the home and completely remodeled it.

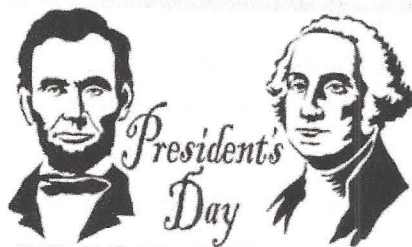
Ben was very active in the Church of Christ and even became ordained. He traveled many Sundays to preach in Clarksville. Ben continued to work out of the Fertile Lumber Co. building many chicken and hog houses for farmers in the area.

Ellen continued making a home for their nine children and was known to make the best applesauce cake and homemade bread.

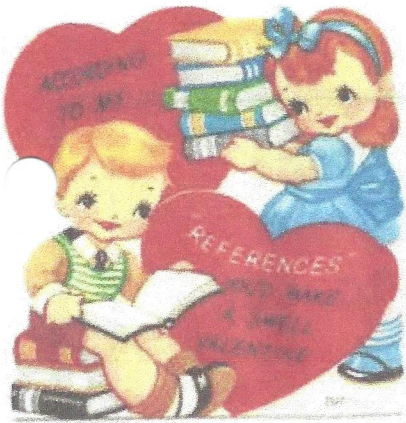
Ben passed away in August, 1962 and Ellen continued to live in Fertile until she moved to the Good Samaritan Home where she passed away in October 1984

Ben and Ellen had nine children and twenty-seven grandchildren. Of the nine children, two are still living. Viola Roberts will be 103 and still lives in her own home in Fertile and Orland who is 90 lives in his own home in Hot Springs, SD.

**This article was written by Ellen and I tried to write it exactly as she did so that you can almost hear her telling the story.**







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## Library Events

### Hallmark Movie afternoon

**February 12th @ 1:30 pm**

Treats and coffee will be served while we enjoy a hallmark movie

### Valentine's Day!

**February 14th @ 1-6 pm**

Stop up at the library for a treat and a coffee/tea/cocoa!

### Family Movie Night

**February 16th @ 7:00 pm**

Join us for a good time watching a movie and enjoying popcorn! Bring a covered, non-red beverage and curl up.

### Adult Coloring Night

**February 22nd @ 7:00 pm**

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

## New Releases

### *Fiction*

Past perfect - Danielle Steel  
What unites us - Dan Rather  
Promise not to tell - Jayne Ann Krentz  
Count to ten- James Patterson  
Deep Freeze - John Sandford  
Nora Roberts - Year One  
The honest spy - Andreas Kollender  
Denny's Law - Elizabeth Gunn

### *Movies*

Atomic Blonde  
Despicable me 3  
Everything, Everything  
Kingsman: the golden circle

## Library classes

The library will begin offering classes for adults. Some of the things we would like to offer include classes on streaming tv and other technology. We are also looking into some health programs, including yoga and some fun activities. Please call me at the library if you have something you would like to learn about!



**The Fertile Fire Dept  
invites everyone to our  
Annual Soup Supper  
Saturday, February 10,  
4-7pm.**

**Fertile Community Center!**

**We will be serving chili, chicken noodle, and  
cheeseburger soups**



**We hope to see everyone there!**

**FREE WILL DONATION**

**Born** in the 1930s and early 40s, we exist as a very special age group. We are the Silent Generation. **We** are the smallest number of children born since the early 1900s. We are the "last ones."  
**We** are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war which rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.

**We** are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves.  
**We** saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans.

**We** saw cars up on blocks because tires weren't available.

**We** can remember milk being delivered to our house early in the morning and placed in the milk box on the porch.

**We** are the last to see the gold stars in the front windows of our grieving neighbors whose sons died in the War.

**We** saw the 'boys' home from the war, build their little houses.

**We** are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead, we imagined what we heard on the radio. **As** we all like to brag, with no TV, we spent our childhood "playing outside.

**We** did play outside, and we did play on our own. **There** was no little league.

**The** lack of television in our early years meant, for most of us, that we had little real understanding of what the world was like.

**On** Saturday afternoons, the movies, gave us newsreels of the war sandwiched in between westerns and cartoons.

**Telephones** were one to a house, often shared (party lines) and hung on the wall.

**Computers** were called calculators, they only added and were hand cranked; typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon.

**The** internet and GOOGLE were words that did not exist.

**Newspapers** and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on our table radio in the evening by Gabriel Theater.

**We** are the last group who had to find out for ourselves.

**As** we grew up, the country was exploding with growth.

**The** G.I. Bill gave returning veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow.

**VA** loans fanned a housing boom.

**Pent up** demand coupled with new installment payment plans put factories to work.

**New** highways would bring jobs and mobility.

**The** veterans joined civic clubs and became active in politics.

**The** radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands of stations.

**Our** parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined.

**We** weren't neglected, but we weren't today's all-consuming family focus.

**They** were glad we played by ourselves until the street lights came on.

**They** were busy discovering the post war world.

**We** entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where we were welcomed.

**We** enjoyed a luxury; we felt secure in our future.

**Depression** poverty was deep rooted.

**Polio** was still acripler.

**Russia** built the Iron Curtain **China** became Red China.

**Eisenhower** sent the first 'advisers' to Vietnam.

**Castro** set up camp in Cuba and **Khrushchev** came to power.

**We** are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland.

**We** grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better, not worse. **We**

**are the Silent Generation - "The Last Ones**

" More than 99 % of us are either retired, and most of us feel privileged to have *lived in the best of times*"!



The holidays are over and the cold winter weather is setting in for many people. It is soup time!!

### Tater Tot Soup – Made in slow cooker

- 1 16 oz. Package Frozen Tater Tots
- 1 ½ cup cubed Ham
- 2 ½ c shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup Sour Cream
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups milk

Spray crock-pot with nonstick cooking spray. Pour in all ingredients. Cook on low for **6 – 8 hours**. If you feel the end product is too thick, add warm milk to desired consistency,

### HOMEMADE ICE MELT

- 1/2 gallon of warm water
- 6 drops of dish soap
- 2 oz. rubbing alcohol

#### Instructions

Add all three ingredients into a container. Pour the mixture onto your icy patches and watch the hazard melt away. I have not tried this as I do not go where there is ice. Let me know if it works as well as they say it will

A New York attorney representing a wealthy art collector called his client.

"Saul, I have some good news, and I have some bad news."

The art collector replied, "I've had an awful day. Give me the good news first."

The lawyer said, "Well, I met with your wife today, and she informed me that she just invested \$5,000 in two pictures that she thinks will bring a minimum of \$15 million to \$20 million, and I think she could be right."

Saul replied enthusiastically, "Well done! My wife is a brilliant businesswoman! You've just made my day. Now I know I can handle the bad news, what is it?"

The lawyer replied, "The pictures are of you and your secretary."

## Letters to the Editor

Thanks for all that you do for us Fertilites, Kathy Cyiacks

: Please renew the Reminder for another year. I enjoy it very much. Sharon Jenkins

You girls are wonderful to do what you do!!... Betty Theilen

### Fertile Garden Club

The Fertile Garden Club held their Christmas party at the Rhodes Mill Retreat. Our supper was catered and served by Bread and Butter, Clear Lake. After a delicious meal we went upstairs for a party. Penny Miller led Christmas carols and Betty Waddington read the Christmas story. Gifts from secret pals were exchanged.

**Thank you Anne for the use of the mill, it was decorated beautifully and set to go.**

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## THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON

Welcome to 2018 from Mr. Councilman (our distinguished citizen's words.)

and yes, I do eat there.

First I have taken some flak for my words about the MIR CAFÉ, I stand by my words. The more I read about what is happening nationwide, the more it is right for a MIR CAFÉ and not a Jane's café in Fertile. I was reading an article about a farm couple near Decorah that serve pizza like our café on Friday nights. They serve up to 151 pizzas on a given night. Many of their customers are local, but they have some from Des Moines, Iowa City and Minneapolis. What Nate and Josh are doing is right

We had our North Iowa Fresh meeting on January 9 with last year's growers. They are expanding and adding a C.S.A (Community Supported Agriculture) this year. This is a box of vegetables each week of what is in season. All of the items going into the box are grown by North Iowa Fresh growers. My part will be many of the items I already grow with a few additions, As we go forward, the comment was made that we will need more new growers. Healthy Harvest of North Iowa will be holding informational meetings on what to expect, how much work is involved, and what are the returns. There will be a meeting on the evening of January 23 for new growers and how they might fit in. There will also be a food safety meeting on January 31 in Clear Lake from 1-4. The cost is \$25.00 and is a must for new growers, if you are interested in any of these, let me know so I can give you more details.

A note to our young families in Fertile. As I told Ms. Holly, you are the future of Fertile. At our March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, Nate Frederick will talk to the council and guests about what he sees are some positive changes to our community. Part of these are what he sees and part what his guests see about our community. Part of this we will like to hear and part we may not but it is what we need to hear. This should be fascinating and informative and I encourage our young people to attend. It is like I told Ms. Holly, my generation, the Vietnam generation and older are rapidly going into the twilight. It is time for the next generation to step forward.

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.

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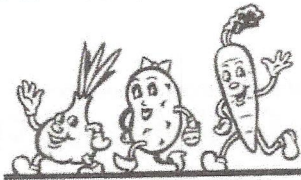
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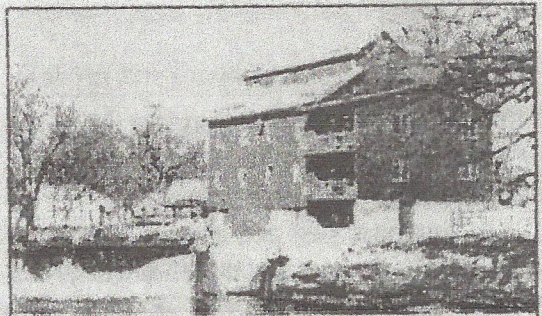
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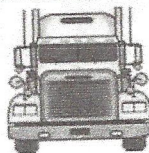
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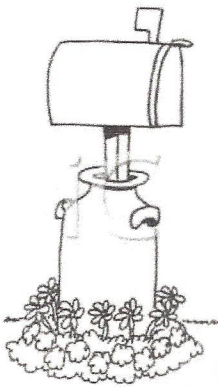
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