

FERTILE REMINDER

OCTOBER 2018



These lovely ladies dressed in Centennial dresses in the year 1956 are from left to right: Ethel Tuttle, Violet Hall, Arlene Lee and Edna Pederson

OCTOBER CALENDAR

1 Firemen Meet

9 Garden Club

10 Deadline for Reminder

11 & 25 Recycle

15 Library Board meets

16 Fertile Girls Meet

16 City Council

17 Reminder Emailed

20 Fall Craft Fair

23 Fertile Reminder mailed

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2018 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call:

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Cindy Peters, Nick Bailey (arrived at 7:30), Ron Rachut and Holly Lovik-Hanna; City Clerk Wendy Lunning and Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts. Absent: Tad Miller
- Ron motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve the minutes of the August meeting.** Unanimous
- Holly motioned, Ron 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.

Public Hearing: There were no public comments. **Ron motioned, Cindy 2nd to amend ordinance for Salaries of Municipal Officers.** Unanimous **Cindy motioned, Holly 2nd to waive the 2nd & 3rd reading.** Unanimous

Top of Iowa Trail: Tom Reed, Chairman indicated goal for bike trails in Worth county to connect existing communities and neighboring counties. Community support is crucial in getting this accomplished. Trails cost approximately \$500,000 per mile and will be owned and maintained by the County Conservation office.

Nuisance Property: Sara Innes notified Mayor and Council of nuisance property. Based on the fact that this is located on the river, DNR will be notified and the city will proceed as needed.

City Maintenance Report:

- Steve mentioned that the city needs to be thinking about trading the mower in the next year or two. It currently has lots of hours, but is running well.
- Steve maintained and graded the gravel roads north of Fertile Lutheran Church and south ball diamonds
- Steve has repaired and replaced several water meters that weren't working correctly.
- Steve has been cleaning the park and filling ruts with dirt and dragging.
- Joyce received a grant for \$1,000.00 to extend the parking lot with additional gravel parking 20' X 80'. Steve mentioned that the plastic would hold water and would be better to have a netting that drains water. Additional cost of approximately \$300.00 to \$400.00. **Holly motioned, Ron 2nd to approve the additional cost to roads.** Unanimous He also mentioned that it would be beneficial for drainage to take of the top 3 inches of soil. Joyce and Steve will be working with Nettleton Excavating on this.
- Steve took test to LGI to open the lagoon early due to rain.
- Ron motioned, Holly 2nd to approve the City Maintenance report.** Unanimous

Mayor's Report:

- Shingling has been completed at Community Center, Library and Water Plant.
- Joyce has been monitoring the river flooding and has reported to Worth County Emergency Management.

- The City Council and Mayor are invited to the unveiling of the Freedom Rock of Worth County in Kensett.
- Joyce & Wendy will be meeting with IMWCA to review Workman Compensation policy.
- Joyce will be contacting Heartland Asphalt in regards to repairing street at south of 212 Main Street.
- Nick motioned, Holly 2nd to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

City Clerk's Report

- Street Financing Report submitted to the council for approval and review. **Cindy motioned, Ron 2nd to approve resolution 18-09-18-1 for City Street Financial Report. Roll call Votes: Holly - yes; Nick - yes; Ron - yes; Cindy - yes** Unanimous
- Clerkbooks support hours are running low. Wendy proposed purchasing 20 hours at \$1400.00. **Cindy motioned, Ron 2nd to purchase 20 hours.** Unanimous.
- Iowa Government Finance Initiative workshop is designed as a "tool-based training" for local elected, appointed officials (finance, planning and economic development). Registration fee is \$65.00 at several locations around Iowa.
- Reports for Fire Department are current through 06/30/2018. Reports for Garden Club are current through 07/31/2018.

7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018	General	WCDA	Roads	EE Benefits	LOST	Utilities	Total
Income	354,158.21	56,975.00	117668.46	8,012.47	0	131490.05	668,304.19
Expense	369,121.80	49,153.68	103,993.37	7,667.56	0	105,061.83	634,998.24
Total	-14,963.59	7,821.32	13,675.09	344.91	0	26,428.22	33,305.95
Fund Balance	54,828.97	21.32	60,318.49	1,213.42	0	155,067.46	271,449

7/1/2018 to 8/31/2018	General	WCDA	Roads	EE Benefits	LOST	Utilities	Total
Income	74,818.62	61,792.98	8,203.21	126.94	5,432.14	43,211.21	193,585.10
Expense	53,766.22	61,792.98	1,855.52	1,542.04	0	17,937.02	136,893.78
Total	21,052.40	0	6,347.69	-1,415.10	5,432.14	25,274.19	56,691.32
Fund Balance	75,881.37	21.32	66,666.18	-201.68	5,432.14	180,341.65	328,140.98

- Nick motioned, Holly 2nd to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous
- Cindy motioned, Ron 2nd to approve July Bills.** Unanimous
- Liens presented to the council were as follows:
115 W Main Street \$320.57

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

Committee Report:

- Ron would like to get two (2) trees for the park from Alliant Energy at \$25.00 each. Council agreed.
- Ron went to Extension meeting with Iowa State University reviewing challenges within the community and how to make it better.
- Flags have been marked out are ready to install weather permitting.
- Cindy has located a company that will move the log cabin to a different section of the park for preservation.

Upcoming Meetings:

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

Summary:

- Resolution for Mayor salary
 - Resolution for Street Financing Report
 - Resolution for Liens
- 2017 – 2018 Year End Financials

Wendy Lunning, City Clerk

**City of Fertile
Deposits**

As of August 31, 2018

				Accrual Basis
Type	Date	Memo	Amount	
Operating Accounts				
Checking				
Deposit	08/01/2018	Donation Deposit - Lights for Footbridge	54.94	
Deposit	08/01/2018	Utility Deposit	81.90	
Deposit	08/01/2018	Utility Deposit	1,768.26	
Deposit	08/01/2018	Building Permits Deposit	385.00	
Deposit	08/01/2018	Clerkbbooks Deposit	0.00	
Deposit	08/03/2018	Casino Funds Deposit	3,381.87	
Deposit	08/08/2018	Insurance Settlement Deposit	43,656.57	
Deposit	08/08/2018	Utility Deposit	3,718.80	
Deposit	08/08/2018	Utility Deposit	164.84	
Deposit	08/15/2018	WCDA Grant Deposit - Parking Lot	55,302.48	
Deposit	08/15/2018	WCDA Grant Deposit - Park Electrical Update	6,490.50	
Deposit	08/15/2018	Utility Deposit	174.86	
Deposit	08/15/2018	Utility Deposit	3,314.91	
Deposit	08/15/2018	Building Permit Deposit	35.00	
Deposit	08/21/2018	Road Use Tax	2,963.48	
Deposit	08/22/2018	Utility Deposit	246.14	
Deposit	08/22/2018	Utility Deposit	2,568.65	
Deposit	08/22/2018	Building Permit Deposit	175.00	
Deposit	08/22/2018	Dividend Deposit	46.00	
Deposit	08/22/2018	Fundraising Deposit	597.00	
Deposit	08/24/2018	Local Option Sales Tax	2,745.13	
Deposit	08/24/2018	Farm to Market Deposit	1,659.45	
Deposit	08/29/2018	Utility Deposit	2,473.19	
Deposit	08/31/2018	Interest	22.27	
Total Checking			132,026.24	
Petty Cash				
Total Petty Cash			0.00	
Total Operating Accounts			132,026.24	
Roads Revenue Accounts				
Savings				
Deposit	08/31/2018	Interest	0.58	
Total Savings			0.58	
Total Water Revenue Accounts			2.87	
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts			2.51	
TOTAL			132,032.20	

Bills Paid

As of August 31, 2018

						Accrual Basis
Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	
Operating Accounts						
Checking						
Paycheck	08/01/2018	8725	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor	-300.20	
Paycheck	08/01/2018	8726	Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-391.96	
Paycheck	08/01/2018	8727	Russell, Grant	City Maintenance	-405.35	
Paycheck	08/01/2018	8728	Russell, Joyce	City Administrator - Donated 23 hours	-1,289.22	

Bill Pmt -Check	08/01/2018	8731	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-74.77
Bill Pmt -Check	08/01/2018	8732	Menards	Tools for Maintenance Shed & Lights for Footbridge	-121.57
Bill Pmt -Check	08/01/2018	8733	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-200.90
Bill Pmt -Check	08/01/2018	8734	Wendy Lunning - v	Milage (20 miles @.545 per mile)	-10.90
Paycheck	08/08/2018	8735	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,098.21
Bill Pmt -Check	08/08/2018	8736	Alliant Energy	Electric	-620.45
Bill Pmt -Check	08/08/2018	8737	Five Star CO-OP	Gas for Truck	-126.45
Bill Pmt -Check	08/08/2018	8738	Hare Electric	Labor for power to ice cream machine.	-594.71
Bill Pmt -Check	08/08/2018	8739	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/08/2018	8740	Kramer Ace Hardware Larsen Plumbing & Heating	Cleaning Supplies, Cable Ties, Padalock, Lights for Footbridge	-89.94
Bill Pmt -Check	08/08/2018	8741	Superior Lumber, Inc	Softener & Water Line	-196.17
Bill Pmt -Check	08/08/2018	8742	Waste Management	Install Bike Rack at Library	-4.39
Bill Pmt -Check	08/08/2018	8743	Justin Benjergerdes	Garbage, Recycling & Container Services	-2,338.17
Bill Pmt -Check	08/08/2018	8744	TRANS	(L) Parade DJ	-75.00
Check	08/10/2018	8745	Petty Cash	Petty Cash Reimbursement	-65.93
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8746	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-13.50
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8746	Alliant Energy	Electric	-1,199.44
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8747	Aukes Lawn & Pest LC	Mosquito Spray	-1,425.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8748	Clapper Tree Service	Trimming Trees in Park	-1,125.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8749	Hare Electric	Replace Electric Box at Pump House & Update Electricity at the park.	-6,674.85
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8750	Jaci Miller	Grant Writing	-225.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8751	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-74.77
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8752	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-80.91
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8753	Heartland Asphalt	Parking Lot @ Community Center	-34,880.79
Check	08/15/2018	8754	Gildner Poperties	Refund of overpayment	-59.82
Liability Check	08/15/2018	EFT	IPERS	Adjustment due to IPERS rate change	-937.95
Liability Check	08/15/2018	EFT	IPERS	(L) Payroll Liabilities	-336.94
Liability Check	08/15/2018	EFTPS	United States Treasury		-1,253.34
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8759	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-173.50
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8760	Alliant Energy	(L) Electric	-106.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8761	Baker & Taylor	(L) Books & CDs	-345.31
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8762	Black Hills Energy Larsen Plumbing & Heating	(L) Natural Gas	-82.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8763	WCTA	(L) Service furnace and AC	-178.50
Bill Pmt -Check	08/15/2018	8764	WCTA	(L) Telephone/Internet	-64.18
Check	08/20/2018	ACH	WCTA	(L) Telephone	-64.18
Paycheck	08/22/2018	8755	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,067.71
Paycheck	08/22/2018	8756	Arndt, Linda J	(L) Assistant Director	-188.84
Paycheck	08/22/2018	8757	Knudson, Loni	(L) Clerk	-260.66
Paycheck	08/22/2018	8758	Thompson, Angela M	(L) Librarian	-1,156.71
Check	08/24/2018	GS	Staples	Pens, Binders & Binder Clips	0.00
Check	08/29/2018	EFT	Citibusiness Card	(L) Books & CDs, Supplies, Programs, DVDs, Magazines	-569.30
Bill Pmt -Check	08/29/2018	8765	Menards	Lights for Maintenance Garage	-40.25
Check	08/29/2018	EFT	First Security Bank & Trust	Main Street Loan	-848.27
Check	08/29/2018	EFT	First Security Bank & Trust	Main Street Loan	-2,607.47
Check	08/29/2018	DEBIT	Kum & Go	Gas for Mower	-125.00
Check	08/30/2018	DEBIT	USPS	Postage	-205.00
Total Checking					-64,424.52

Petty Cash

Check	08/08/2018	TRANS	Fertile Public Library V		-54.41
Check	08/10/2018	TRANS	Petty Cash	Petty Cash Reimbursement	65.93
Check	08/15/2018	TRANS	Fertile Public Library V		-65.93

Total Petty
Cash

-54.41

Total Operating Accounts

-64,478.93

Roads Revenue Accounts

Savings

Total Savings

Total Roads Revenue Accounts

TOTAL

-64,478.93



CLEAR LAKE -- Christine G. Johnson, 94, of Maple Grove, MN, formerly of Clear Lake, died Saturday, July 28, 2018, at her home. Christine Geraldine Wilson was born in Pipestone, MN on March 15, 1924, the sixth child of Erick and Kristina (Kluge) Wilson. Her mother passed away when Christine was nine

days old. She grew up on her family's dairy farm in Ihlen, MN where her siblings and Grammy helped her father raise her. She graduated from Pipestone High School in 1942, and married Milo Johnson in 1943. They had a daughter, Sandra, in 1945, and moved to Minneapolis in 1953, where Christine worked as a bookkeeper for Schaefer Incorporated. In 1956, they moved to Clear Lake, where Christine worked as a bookkeeper for Kimball & White Seed Company and then DeBryun & Pugh John Deere Implement. Her first marriage ended in 1958.

In 1960, Christine married Joseph G. Johnson and moved to Fertile, IA. They had a daughter, Lisa, in 1962. They moved back to Clear Lake Iowa in 1967, where Christine worked at Woodford Wheeler before going to work at Wilcox Furniture, where she worked for 19 years as a member of the Wilcox family.

In 2004, Christine met Orlin Kelling, another wonderful man that shared her love for Christ and gardening. They spent twelve years together taking care of each other and eventually moving to Apple Valley Assisted Living in Clear Lake. Orlin passed away in 2016.

Christine is survived by her two daughters, Sandra Millard of Wauwautosa, WI and Lisa (Doug) Hansmeier of Maple Grove, MN; and one AFS daughter Hildur Bjarnadottir, Iceland; four grandchildren Ryan Millard, Eric Millard, Abby Hansmeier and John Hansmeier, and three great-grandchildren, Hailey Grace Millard, Addison Elizabeth Millard and Ava Mae Mullaney. She was preceded in death by her husband Joe; her special friend, Orlin Kelling, a son-in-law Gerald Millard, and her siblings, Anne Osberg, Florence Wilson, James Wilson, Mae Brockberg and Ruby Kallsen.



James Orlando Lovick, 99, of Fertile, died Sunday, September 2, 2018 at the Good Samaritan Center in Forest City.

Burial of cremains will be held in Brush Point Cemetery in rural Fertile.

Jim was born February 13, 1919, the son of Henry and Ida (Hanson) Lovick, in Mount Valley Township. He married Alvera Hanna on May 25, 1941, at North Prairie Lutheran Church, Scarville. She preceded him in death on September 29, 2014.

Jim attended country school and worked out as a hired boy before graduating from Forest City High School in 1936. Jim and Alvera rented a farm northwest of Forest City before purchasing the "home place" in 1945, where they farmed until moving to Fertile in 1988. Jim reminisced that he had his dream job – farming with his Dad and brothers. After retiring, he continued working as a hired man for his brother Larry, mowed his lawn with a John Deere tractor, and had morning coffee at the Downtown Café liars table. Jim had served as a Sunday School teacher, Church Council, Creamery Board, Rural Electric Board, Fertile Seniors Board, Fertile celebration committees.

He is survived by five daughters and one daughter-in-law: Gloria Kirschbaum of Fertile, Patricia (Purcell) Lovick of Mankato MN, Mary Rye of Robbinsdale MN, Janice Folkers of Minneapolis, MN, Clara (Kurt) West of Rochester MN, Martha (William) Cavanaugh of Charles City IA; grandchildren: Eric (Brenda) Kirschbaum, Kristen Kirschbaum, John (Kathy) Kirschbaum, Karl (Teasha) Kirschbaum, Sarah (Dan) Boswell, Michael (Kathy) Lovick, Hannah (Christopher) Wilkowske, Ellen (Rafael) Echenique, Rachel (Jason) Dahl, William (Jill) Folkers, Kevin West, Lisa (Bryan) Brophy, James (Dani) Cavanaugh; great grandchildren: Megan, Madison, Jeffrey, Anna, Blaze, Otto, Amos, Holli, Katie, David, Elizabeth, Sophie, Celeste, Magdalena, Ingeborg, Franco, Joaquin, Juan, Kezia, Beatrix, Felix, Freya, Caden, Aidan, Elliott, Tegan, Jace, Xavier, Jasper; great great grandchildren: Jacob, Andrew, Dani Mae. Survived by one brother Leo (Marlys) Lovick, and sister Doris Bonnstetter, and sister-in-law Diane (Larry) Lovick; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

James was preceded in death by his wife Alvera, parents, infant daughter Betty Ann, son David, three sons-in-law: Edward Kirschbaum, Ralph Rye, and Doug Folkers; and siblings and spouses: Murlette and Gilman Hagen, Amy and Don Brakke, Paul and Gladys Lovick, Irene and Harvey Brakke, Pearl and Raymond Hanna, Ardie and Juanita Lovick, Alice and Gordon Toresdahl, Grace Elaine and Robert Ollenber, Frank Bonnstetter, and Larry Lovick.

This is the story of Norwegian immigrants Amund L. Midtgaard and Martha (Madson) Midtgaard.

Written by grandsons Maynard and Kenneth Midtgaard

Our grandfather Amund was born on an island on the west coast of Norway on the small sparsely occupied island of Maloy. Amund's birthday was April 1, 1872. Fishing in the North Sea was the main occupation for the men of this area of Norway. Amund's unpleasant experiences at sea convinced him, this was not the life for him. Amund had other ideas and chose to immigrate to America to try another way of life. At the age of 21, he arrived at Ellis Island in New York, New York.

Amund found his way to Sioux City, Iowa where he found work with the railroad. Being close to the Missouri River there was a lot of flooding in the spring. Amund chose to look for higher ground. He settled in Grant Township in Cerro Gordo County. Other Norwegian settlers had arrived earlier and he felt comfortable in this new area. He purchased 20 acres of wooded land and had a start as a landowner. As soon as he was able, he sent for his girl friend Martha to join him in America.

In 1893, Martha arrived from Norway and they were married. They moved into a one room home which Amund had built. It included a dirt cellar. This original home still stands to this day. They acquired a cow and a few chickens which Martha tended for milk and eggs. Martha prepared traditional Norwegian foods and we remember her delicious lefse that she made on top of the cook stove, rommegrot and sweet soup.

Amund worked as a carpenter building numerous barns in the area. He also assisted in the construction of the Fertile Lutheran Church.

They had four children. Daughters, Laura, Tillie, Anna and one son, Melvin. They raised their children on the farmland they had purchased. They continued to acquire more land and farming became Amund's full time occupation. All of the children married and lived in the immediate area. Amund and Martha were able to enjoy their children and 8 grandchildren.

The couple was close to their fellow Norwegian immigrant friends, Jens Bjorkland and Andrew Oppedahl. The three couples celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries together at the Lutheran Church in Fertile. They all lived within a mile of each other.

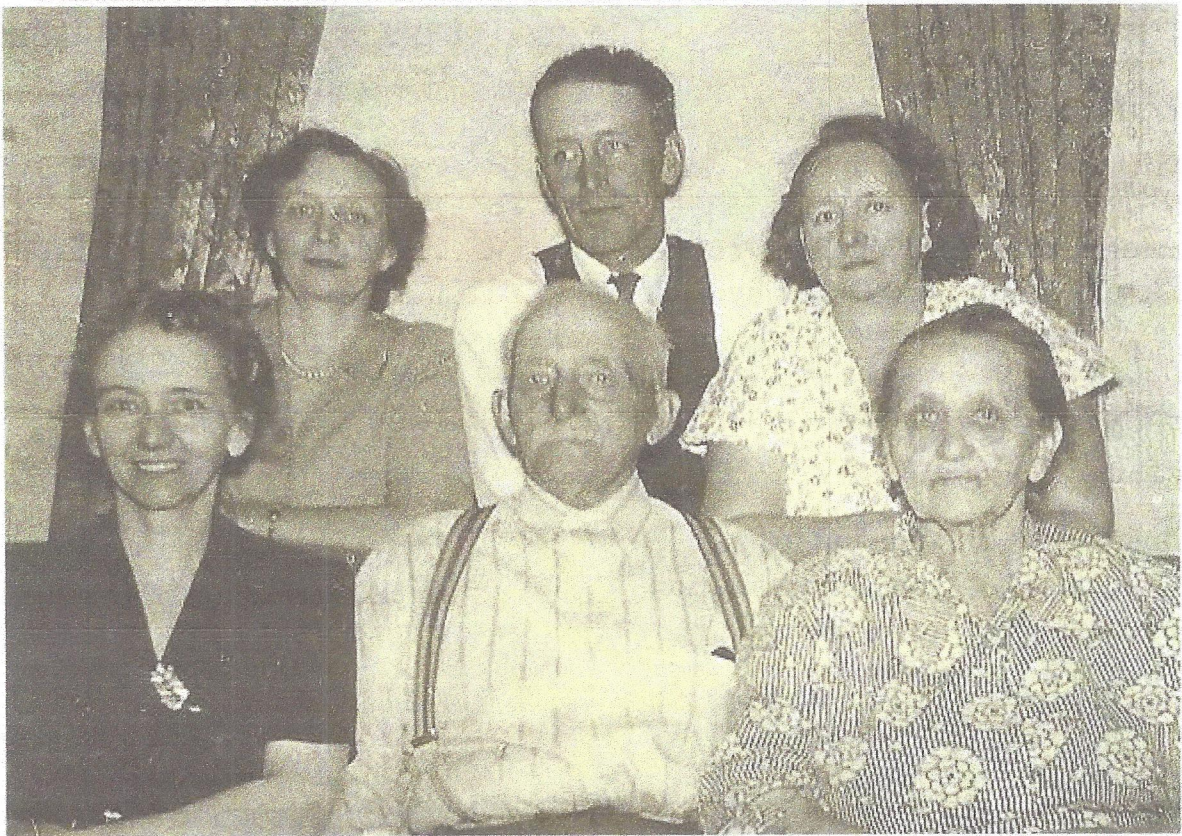
Amund was able to return to Norway his homeland on three different occasions. He was very appreciative of the opportunity that America provided for him, his wife and family. His character, hard working nature, courage and Christian values were to be admired. Martha passed away in 1956 and Amund in 1959. They are buried in Brush Point Cemetery, Hanlontown, Iowa.



Children of Amund and Martha Midtgaard

Front row, Left to right: Anna, Melvin, Tillie

Back row: Laura



Top picture: Martha & Amund Midtgaard

Bottom picture: Front row, left to right: Anna Midtgaard Storre, Amund & Martha

Back row, left to right: Laura Midtgaard Severson, Melvin, Tillie Midtgaard Nyhus

FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY
204 West Main Street/Box 198
Fertile, IA 50434
641-797-2787 Phone/Fax
Monday & Wednesday: 1-6 P.M.
Thursday: 3-6 P.M.
Friday: 9- Noon & 2-6 P.M.
Saturday: 9 - Noon
WWW.YOUSEEMORE.COM/NILC/FERTILEPL

Library Events

Adult Craft Afternoon

October 6th @ 1 pm

We will be doing string art, eating snacks & chatting. Join us for the fun. Ages 18+

Family Movie Night

October 5th @ 7 pm

Hallmark Movie Monday

October 8th @ 1:30 pm

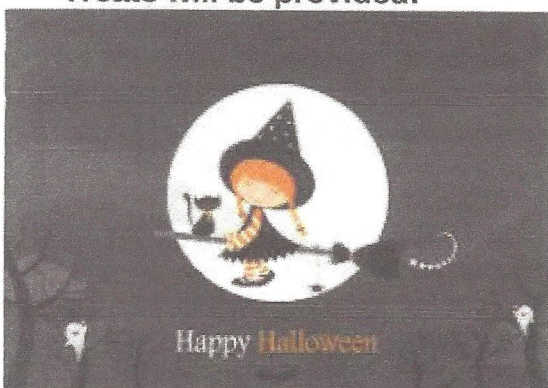
Come join us for "Love on the sidelines" coffee and treats. Kick back and relax and enjoy a fall romance.

Family Game Night

October 26th @ 7 pm

Bring the whole family, or come out for some company and join us as we bring out a selection of board games and enjoy some classic fun!

Treats will be provided!



featuring

New Books

Juror #3 - James Patterson

Time's Convert - Deborah Harkness

Between you & me - Susan Wiggs

Depth of winter - Craig Johnson

The good neighbor (Fred Rogers)- Maxwell King

Fear - Bob Woodward

featuring

New DVDs

A quiet place

Blockers

Country Wedding

Love on the sidelines

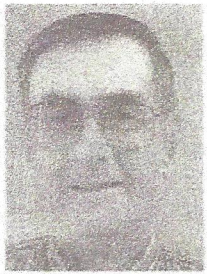
Pacific rim: uprising

I feel pretty

Antiques Appraisal

The library is welcoming Mark Moran back on October 28th @ 2 pm. To register an item please call the library @ 797-2787 or send a message via facebook. There is no cost for the first item appraised. We will

serve coffee and here



THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON

Hello Fertile,
Nothing funny this month, just
honesty.

We had our city council meeting on August 21. It was pretty quiet compared to some. We clarified the duties of the Mayor in respect to the extra duties Joyce does. We will vote on this at our September meeting. What our Mayor does wouldn't change. It will just be legal in the eyes of our state officials. Exact wording means everything. The second thing was that Worth County is looking for volunteers from each community to be on a bike path committee. Since the first one they are looking for is between Fertile and Hanlontown, I volunteered, Being on the city council, Win-Worth Betco are being impassioned about economic development, it just seemed like a good fit. If we can get this done, the next step is to extend it to Forest City and Clear Lake.

The Fertile Days Committee met August 22. The meeting was dead serious. Although everyone liked this year's celebration and it went well, we still had members resign and for good reasons. One was for age and the other two because of extra commitments. Plus my co-chair, to be perfectly honest, got burnt out. Being chairman, we, who are left, had a frank discussion. We talked about different options, all which would decrease Fertile Days, not eliminate, but shorten it up. I know myself that I have taken on extra responsibilities, including being a liaison between my church and Caring Pregnancy, helping with committee work for North Iowa Fresh, along with bike trail committee. We are going to have a Fertile Days committee meeting in November. The date will be published. At that meeting, I will ask members what they would like to do for 2019. I will NOT ask them to do any more than that. I will NOT do any more than I feel I can. Bottom line is that unless more people step forward (they can come from the country), Fertile Days will be shorter and look different. It will probably be more musical inclined with the free meal. Fertile, I have spoken. Now it is time for you to speak.

Two quick updates. The Veteran's Memorial is NOT going anywhere. You have spoken. Next spring we are going to start replanting trees in our park to replace the dead ones that are being cut down. Let us know if you have any thoughts.

Until next time, thank a veteran for the freedoms that you enjoy, thank a farmer for the food on your plate, and above all, thank God for your daily blessings. Ron

The Editors' Desk

Recently I received a package in the mail. As I opened the package I was surprised to find the scrap book of Estaline Sanderson, a teacher who taught and lived in Fertile during the 50's. She taught 3rd grade and perhaps some other grades. I knew her as Mrs. Sanderson and even when I taught along beside her she was still Mrs. Sanderson. I did not have her for a teacher as Mrs. Kelso taught 3rd grade when I moved to Fertile in 1947.

Anyway, back to the scrapbook. It was sent by her daughter, Anna Mary (Sanderson) Spengler, who subscribes to the Reminder. I had written and asked her for information.

Anna Mary says "I've enjoyed every "story" that's published in the Reminder.

I have just come into possession of a scrapbook my mother kept for many years. Most articles were about news and marriages of her ex-students and members of my H.S. Class (1946).

I think that some efforts have been made to collect articles about Fertile, and thought you would know if, in fact, something like that has been started. I enjoyed seeing some of the pictures I'd sent in the past were published. Thank you!

You have done a wonderful job of keeping all of us connected to "Putsy".

Although it has been 72 years since I lived in Fertile, I, like many others are grateful for growing up there – and so pleased that many things have not changed.

The scrapbook will be put in the Community Center when no longer used by the Reminder.

The scrapbook contains pictures of weddings, , men going to service, etc. Some of these will be published in the upcoming editions.

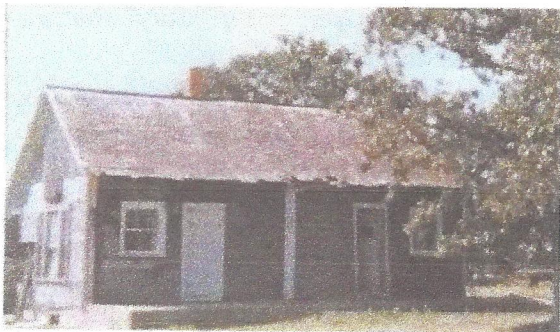
THANK YOU ANNA MARY SPENGLER FOR THIS GIFT. We will all enjoy it!

Cheryl Nelson Kapka's Farm Story

My Mom & Dad's place is southeast of Fertile on the south side of the Winnebago River. They purchased it in 1968 from Bethel Gibler, a year after I was born. But the farm has a special history going way back 100 years, more like the 1860's, starting with a man named Nickolai Christiansen.

Nickolai died in 1932 here on the farm, but left his mark all over the land with his great knowledge of "know how", a skill which has been lost to most in the last century. His legacy is everywhere on this farm, large beautiful boulders he personally cut from the quarry and dragged miles to the Fertile farm by a team of Draft horses are still being used for the barn, silo, and house foundation. Original buildings are long gone, but the large boulders, some are as big as 6 feet by 4 feet wide, are still used for the foundation of the present barn and landscaping of my folk's house. We have pictures of the original barn and log cabin that Nick built, as seen in an old article found about him in the "Cerro Gordo Farmer" back in 1962 (30 years after he died).

I have always had a love affair with rocks since I was old enough to pick one up and put it in my pocket. My siblings and I were paid 1 penny per rock to clear the fields for planting. But I didn't want the money, I wanted to keep the rocks myself; which hasn't changed to this day, (just look at my yard around the house.... And the pictures I post on Facebook!) So, Nickolai's memory lives on in the rocks and the land he left behind for the next generation to enjoy.



Upper left: Nickolai's cabin, no longer there

Upper right: Rocks still on the farm

Picture of Nickolai's barn. Picture taken in 1969



MOVED BOULDERS SINGLEHANDEDLY TO BUILD BARN Cerro Gordo Co. Farmer, Sept, 1962

As the Homer Brinton farm southeast of Fertile was put up for sale, attention has been called to its immense and remarkable barn built almost singlehandedly by a parsimonious but also remarkable Dane by the name of Nick Christiansen. Christiansen, who died about thirty years ago, was an immigrant who hated to part with money, according to his 84 year old friend and neighbor, John Fankel, and hence the barn was constructed economically.

All the dimension lumber, for example, came cut rate by rail from a former display building at the famous St. Louis Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904, and the two foot thick foundations of hardheads, from boulders weighing as much as two tons each—were singlehandedly collected, hauled, cut to size, mortared and place by the Dane, a big powerful man.

Christensen, who wore hay instead of socks in his shoes to save money, carted some of the boulders from as far away as the Manly neighborhood, some 10 miles distant, and his friend Frankel estimated that it took him about five years to complete the job. Another two years were required to finish the barn. Some of the hardheads were also used to build a cyclone cellar in the structure. It was walk-in height, and about 20 feet deep. Brinton has since put a floor in the barn. The boulders were transported, Fankel remembers, on a special high-wheel wagon Christiansen had contrived. One great stone would be swung up from underneath with a windlass, and Christiansen would coax his team through the rolling Fertile hills, right across from Fankel farm where the road then ran to his farm. Sometimes, Fankel said, the stones were dumped in an old slough on his land for temporary keeping.

"Nick would be gone all day from his farm getting stones", he explained and he would split them with wedges. Mostly he worked all the time.

Often he would make it a point to stop by the Fankels' around dinnertime and often he would be invited in for a bite. Except when transporting impossible loads such as boulders, Christensen would walk, his friend said, and it was not uncommon for him to carry lumber on his back some 3 ½ miles to his farm from Fertile.

"He thought more of the almighty dollar than anything," Fankel said, "If he got hold of a dime, he'd salt a nickel."

Christiansen, he thought, left a sizeable accumulation of cash when he died, together with a Grant Township farm and some land he acquired in Texas.

He died "young" in his early seventies, Fankel opined, because he didn't "dress right or eat right" and he worked too hard. After his two sons left the farm, he batched it, his wife having died, and all his life he grubbed out bur and jack oak on his 200 acres. "He worked all the time and he did it the hard way," Fankel said.

Christensen was buried in the little Lincoln Township Cemetery nearby. Fankel helped dig his grave and attended the funeral. "That was more than he ever did for me," he said with a smile and without a trace of rancor. "Yes, he was my friend for 40 or 50 years."

The Brinton farm was bought 11 years ago from Clyde Upchurch who then moved to Illinois. Known as the "Spring Valley Stock Farm, it today produces sheep and hogs and is in the feed grain program. Of additional interest on the farm is a sizeable log cabin used as a tenant house.

Fankel lives with a son, Everett, 51, in the house where he was born and which his father build 86 years ago. His father was William K. Fankel, an Ohioan, Fertile pioneer and the second man to settle a farm in his general neighborhood. Hand-hewn red elm beams a foot across and half as thick, and held in place with wood pins and mortises, support the sturdy frame house. Fankel still has the broadax his father used to cut and shape them. The basement walls are local limestone two feet thick. Somehow the modern gas furnace and big freezer look out of place in this frontier setting. Fankel remembers his father talking about the trouble they had both with Indians and timber rattlesnakes when he first arrived, and this was the second farm he founded, Fankel himself has observed surprisingly few changes on his 95 acre place in 84 years of living. There used to be wolves in the timber along the Winnebago River directly to the north, and once one followed him as he was plowing. Every time he made a turn at the end of the row, however, the wolf, a female, would hightail it for the oaks. She probably had some young there she was protecting.

In all the years he has encountered only "one or two rattlers" in the area and never has there been any large wildlife aside from wolves, except in recent times as Iowa's deer population has grown. Last year three white-tails were killed by hunters about 80 rods from the house.

Handsome, bright-blue-eyed and spry, the elder Fankel is the last of seven children, two brothers and four sisters, most of them farmers, having preceded him in death. If he had his life to live over, he would "learn more." Like most farmers of his era he attended country school and went immediately to till the soil. "Hard work was my hobby," he said with a wry smile. The farm of his old friend Christiansen may soon change hands again, when a buyer comes forward but it will be forever before the barn needs a new foundation.



Instant Pot Apple Crisp

Prep Time: 5mn Cook Time: 8mn

- 5 medium sized apples, peeled and chopped into chunks
 - 2 tsp cinnamon
 - 1/2 tsp nutmeg
 - 1/2 cup water
 - 1 tbsp maple syrup
 - 4 tbsp butter
 - 3/4 cup old fashioned rolled oats
 - 1/4 cup flour
 - 1/4 cup brown sugar
 - 1/2 tsp salt
1. Place apples on the bottom of your Instant Pot. Sprinkle with cinnamon and nutmeg. Top with water and maple syrup.
 2. Melt the butter. In a small bowl, mix together melted butter, oats, flour, brown sugar and salt. Drop by the spoonful on top of the apples.
 3. Secure the lid on the instant pot. Use the manual setting, and cook on high pressure for 8 minutes.
 4. Use a natural release. Let sit for a few minutes, the sauce will thicken.
 5. Serve warm and maybe top with vanilla ice cream.

Did you know?? By: Ann Hendrickson

Yearbooks! Annuals! Whatever one wishes to call them, they are school history. If you, or someone you know, are having to "clean out" an area or house, or for any other reason, please keep the Worth County Historical Society in mind. We have several Northwood annuals/yearbooks in our possession but not all. Please give Amanda a call at the Worth County Historical Society at 324-1180 if you would be willing to donate these books to fill in the gaps. Thank you.



The Garden Club met on the 11th at the Community Center with 11 members present. Roll call was "Where were you on 9/11?"

Plans for the fall flower pots were made with **Work Night** scheduled for **5 pm on September 24th**.

A member invitation list was discussed and the invitations will be sent out for October meeting. If anyone is interested in joining the Garden Club please notify Sharon McLaughlin or Twylah Kragel. New members are welcomed and this is the time to join.

Plans were made for our Potluck in October.

Twylah gave the "Thought for the Day."

Hostesses serving a delicious lunch were Cindy Peters and Twylah Kragel.

Betty Waddington, Reporter

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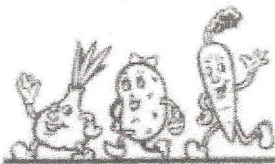
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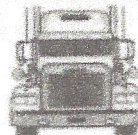
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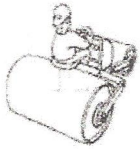
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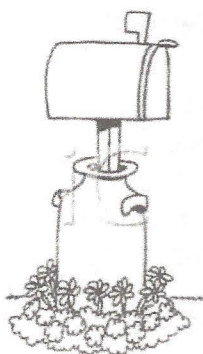
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Pastor Rob Perry

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Worship - 10:15 am

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641-357-0026 (Pastor Dan Miller)

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