

FERTILE REMINDER

SEPTEMBER 2012

50 TH CLASS REUNION, CLASS OF 1962



Class members L to R: Bert Pederson, Harlan Rodberg, Dennis Ouverson, Larry Haugen & Richard Norem Gail (Lee) Shropshire, Sandy (Purcell) Jenkins, Darlene (Johnson) Gremmer, Judi (Schuler) Larson, Joann (Roberts) Zrostlik & Rosemary (Wooge) Thompson Former classmates Larry Burke, Mona (Olson)Gard, Marlys (Tweed) Murray & James Myhre were unable to attend and 5 former classmates were deceased; Robert Jenkins, David Lovick, Larry McCauley, Jay Ouverson and Merle Tuttle.

The class of 1962 met Friday, August 10 at the home of Sandy & Lanny Jenkins for a social get together and then later to Shooterz for supper for a fun time and some reminiscing. On Saturday we rode on a float in the Fertile Days parade.

COMING EVENTS

- Sept. 2-8 Nancy Faber & Ginny Lovik water flowers
- Sept. 3 Labor Day, Post Office Closed
- Sept. 4 Senior Dinner, Noon
- Sept. 6 Recycle
- Sept. 9 Nancy Faber/Ruth Topp water flowers
- Sept. 10 Fireman, 7 pm
- Sept. 11 Fertile Girls, 11:30 am
- Sept. 11 Garden Club
- Sept. 16 Nancy Faber/Carol Jara water flowers
- Sept 17 Library Meeting 7 pm
- Sept 18 Senior Dinner, Noon
- Sept. 18 Council 7:00 pm
- Sept. 20 Recycle

To the Fertile Fire Department:

On July 10, 2012, Mercy Air Med was auto launched to a scene flight on Hwy 9 and I35 for a van vs. semi. A special thank you to Chris (Fireman) who assisted us while preparing to intubate this patient. We appreciated your help. During the flight, we continued supportive care and treated patient for her pain. Patient was a level one pediatric trauma alert. Patient was then air lifted by us to Rochester, MN due to her extensive injuries. We appreciate the opportunity in working with you and look forward to assisting you in the future. Thank you! Shell Lair Langenbau RN, BSN, CEN and Gordy Dye flight paramedic

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2012 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call

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

Pat motioned, Penny 2nd to approve the July Minutes. Carried.

Chuck Waage/Lori Buchannan – Rehabilitation Housing Grant Extenuating Circumstances

- Chuck requested that the stipulation regarding 5 years residency prior to the sale of a property receiving a Rehabilitation Housing Grant through the City be waived due to extenuating circumstances. Chuck recently suffered a stroke and can no longer live in the home.
- Tad mentioned that the home is still a valid asset to the community and would be concerned that, if the penalty was enforced, the increase in the sales price for the home (to cover the penalty) would discourage buyers.
- Jeff questioned whether Chuck, after the sale of the home, would be willing to pay the \$1200 that the City paid out of the general fund for his project. Chuck said that he would, but that it would be appreciated if the City would waive that off as well, considering his many years of volunteer community service. Chuck also stated that he would much rather stay in the home, and that his health is the only reason for his decision to move.
- *Tad motioned, Pat 2nd to waive the 5 years residency rule with no penalties, due to extenuating health related circumstances.* Roll call vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Tom Dillavou - PIM Loading Dock – East Side, South Plant

- Tom requested a 12'x14' easement into a portion of land that City owns, which is designated as a future road, to build a new loading dock. The dock would be off the south corner of the east side of their building. Trucks would pull into the dock from the north.
- Discussion by the council considered that there are no plans to extend the road beyond this point; that the loading dock would not interfere with any water or sewer lines; and that this would not impede the flow of storm water.
- *Jeff motioned, Pat 2nd to allow the easement with the stipulation that 75% of the property owners within a 100 feet radius from the proposed easement approve in writing, and that the City Attorney draws up the legal paperwork for the easement.* Roll call vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Library Floor Plans & Public Notice for Architectural Services

- The Library presented a new set of floor plans without the use of the current structure. The plans allow for complete handicap accessibility, double the current shelf space, an adult reading area with comfortable seating and a fireplace, an internet café, increased computer space, increased storage space, multiple restrooms, and an activity room with kitchen. Plans are available at the Library and at City Hall for review.
- The next step is to post a public notice requesting architectural services to finalize, and professionalize the floor plans. After that is complete, we can solicit bids for construction. The City will hold a Capital Campaign to the public a chance to give, as well as submit grants, to fund the project.
- *Penny motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the new plans and to solicit bids for architectural services.* Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

City Maintenance Report

- Over the last 60 days, there has been damage to the sewer system costing over \$7000 in repairs as t-shirts, underwear, and adult diapers have been chewed up in the sewer grinders. The City has reported these incidents to the Worth County Sheriff's office and have been told that Forest City is also dealing with this issue. Forest City has a system to stop large items from entering their grinders and have so far been able to avoid damage to their system. Steve has been working with Forest City, Yaggy-Colby and Nettleton Excavating to come up with a solution for Fertile. *Tad motioned, Penny 2nd to approve the construction of a catch basin and filtering system, designed by Yaggy-Colby and Nettleton Excavating, at the cost of \$1,200.* Vote was unanimous, motion carried.
- Steve has been busy weed wacking and spraying, rebuilding and repainting the horseshoe pit covers, copper and lead testing the water supply (which passed with flying colors), helping with Fertile Days, and tree trimming.
- The generator at the water treatment plant had an oil change
- Steve and Warren attended classes for their Water Operator's certification
- Steve and Buck have been installing shelving units in a new closet at the Community Center for secured storage of City records.

Mayor's Report

- The City has received an insurance settlement for damages done at the water tower and ball fields by lightning.
- 207 E Main will be up for Sheriff's auction again. Contact the Worth County Treasurer for more information.
- The Downtown Café' was broken into and robbed in July. Other area businesses have been broken into as well. Worth, Winnebago and Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's offices are investigating.
- A water leak was found in front of Earl Kilen's property. It is in the process of being repaired.
- Don & Sharon McLaughlin donated a flag pole for City Hall. It will be installed this week in a well lit area in front of City Hall.
- The City pick-up is in for repairs (leaf-springs)
- Fertile Days was a big hit! A Big Thank You to the Fertile Days Committee and all the volunteers!

City Clerk's Report

- Eddie presented several year-end reports to the Council including: water & sewer reports for the USDA, Streets Report for the Iowa DOT, Debt Report for the State Auditor and the Annual Financial Report (our tax return) for the State Auditor. *Pat motioned, Penny 2nd to approve reports.* Roll call vote was unanimous, motion carried. The reports will be available online by the end of August; the Annual Financial Report will be published in the Northwood Anchor asap.
- The City still owes \$80,000 on a \$300,000 set of bonds and \$143,000 on a \$190,000 note for the sewer system. The City owes \$88,570 on a \$263,000 note and \$13,106 on a \$35,000 for the water system. The City also owes \$17,172 on the Community Center.
- Eddie re-presented the June Financials after adjustments were made in the process of filling out the annual reports.

6/30/12	General/Housing	Roads/WCDA	Water/Sewer	Total
Income	357,795.25	252,970.09	115,973.22	\$726,738.56
Expense	423,911.14	210,470.88	121,802.85	756,184.87
Total	-66,115.89	42,499.21	-5,829.63	-29,446.31

- Losses incurred as the City invested in the housing program, business incubator, and new water meters.
- Eddie presented the July's Financials.

7/31/12	General	Roads	Water/Sewer	Total
Income	9,404.69	1,378.56	33,351.03	\$44,134.28
Expense	14,327.25	791.64	21,778.78	36,897.67
Total	-4,922.56	586.92	11,572.25	7,236.61

- Loss in the General is caused by quarterly payments and low property taxes which will catch up in October.
 - *Penny motioned, Tad 2nd to approve July Bills.* Motion Carried.
- ### Committee Reports
- The Fertile Days Committee estimated there were over 400 people who participated in Fertile Days. A lot of people had positive comments regarding the band, food vendors, and variety of activities. Several people commented that they wish there was an easier way to donate for the event.
 - Streets & Signs – The corner of 1st and Main needs some serious repair. Jeff mentioned that the County will look at the corner and make recommendations for repairs. The City has a 28e agreement with the County for maintaining Main and 1st street as “town-to-market” roads. A decision will need to be made asap in order to get the work done before the winter.

- There has been a request for information regarding the business incubator. There is still one section of the incubator that is available for development. Any interested party can contact City Hall for a tour of the area as well as information regarding the program including the “discounted” rental structure.
 - Please be aware that the drought has brought several critters into town looking for food that normally would not be here. (raccoons, coyotes, etc.) Please be careful when encountering these animals, especially after dark.
 - *Jeff moved and Pat 2nd to close the meeting to discuss personnel issues.* Roll call vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.
 - Both Joyce and Eddie excused themselves from the Closed Meeting due to conflict of interest. Tad took minutes.
 - *Julie moved and Pat 2nd to re-open the public meeting.* Vote was unanimous. Motion Carried. No action was taken in regards to the closed meeting.
 - *Pat moved and Jeff 2nd to adjourn the meeting.* Motion Carried.
- ### Upcoming Meetings
- The Fertile City Council will meet in regular session at 7:00PM, Tuesday, September 18th, 2012, at Fertile City Hall.

City of Fertile
Bills Paid
As of July 31, 2012

1:23 PM
08/22/2012
Accrual Basis
Amount

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
General Fund Accounts					
Check	07/01/2012	6096	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-3,500.00
Check	07/01/2012	6097	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Payment	-4,750.00
Check	07/03/2012	6098	Ward, Julie	Utility Deposit	-150.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/03/2012	6099	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-1,364.32
Bill Pmt -Check	07/03/2012	6100	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Annual Water Supply Fee	-43.34
Bill Pmt -Check	07/03/2012	6101	North Iowa Septic Solutions	2 Handicap Units/1 Portable Zone 2	-215.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/03/2012	6102	Superior Lumber, Inc	Tap-Con	-1.35
Bill Pmt -Check	07/03/2012	6103	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-147.46
Check	07/03/2012	6095	USPS	postage	-96.00
Deposit	07/03/2012			Deposit	2,216.45
Deposit	07/03/2012			Deposit	2,800.89
Paycheck	07/05/2012	6109	Russell, Joyce	Deposit	-1,081.79
Paycheck	07/05/2012	6108	Russell, Grant		-236.33
Paycheck	07/05/2012	6107	Roberts, Stephen J		-792.43
Paycheck	07/05/2012	6106	May III, Edgar F.		-414.09
Paycheck	07/05/2012	6105	Bruns, Warren		-301.99
Deposit	07/06/2012			Deposit	307.87
Liability Check	07/10/2012	I-Que	IPERS		-791.62
Liability Check	07/10/2012	EFTPS	United States Treasury		-1,239.63
Deposit	07/11/2012			Deposit	3,109.25
Bill Pmt -Check	07/11/2012	6113	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-314.06
Bill Pmt -Check	07/11/2012	6114	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/11/2012	6115	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	Repair Water Meter	-72.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/11/2012	6116	Menards	Supplies	-18.44
Bill Pmt -Check	07/11/2012	6117	NIACOG	Association Dues	-262.70
Bill Pmt -Check	07/11/2012	6118	Pronto	Gas for Truck/mower	-262.69
Bill Pmt -Check	07/11/2012	6119	Waste Management	Landfill/Garbage	-1,918.58
Deposit	07/15/2012			Deposit	1,721.08
Deposit	07/15/2012			Deposit	4.41
Deposit	07/15/2012			Deposit/Lien Payment	581.05
Deposit	07/15/2012			Deposit	1,371.16
Deposit	07/15/2012			Deposit	2,489.67
Deposit	07/15/2012			Deposit	-1,096.00
Check	07/15/2012	e-file	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	Hoses	-22.83
Check	07/17/2012		Tractor Supply	Deposit	2,569.11
Deposit	07/18/2012			Natural Gas	-99.20
Bill Pmt -Check	07/18/2012	6120	Black Hills Energy	Removal of Tree Limb in Alley Way	-300.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/18/2012	6121	Clapper Tree Service	Utility location	-13.50
Bill Pmt -Check	07/18/2012	6122	Iowa One Call	Water Testing Supplies	-120.69
Bill Pmt -Check	07/18/2012	6123	USA Blue Book	Cell Phone	-43.28
Bill Pmt -Check	07/18/2012	6124	Verizon Wireless	Community Center Loan Payment	-2,500.00
Check	07/18/2012	6117	First Security Bank & Trust		-911.52
Paycheck	07/20/2012	6125	Roberts, Stephen J	Deposit	2,715.41
Deposit	07/25/2012			Photo Cell/Yard Light & Bulb	-75.02
Bill Pmt -Check	07/25/2012	6126	Hare Electric	Paper Towels	-11.97
Bill Pmt -Check	07/25/2012	6127	Menards	Water testing	-19.68
Bill Pmt -Check	07/25/2012	6128	UPS	Community Meal - Fertile Days	-1,775.65
Check	07/26/2012	6129	Downtown Cafe' V		-527.00
Liability Check	07/30/2012	6116	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	Interest	4.06
Deposit	07/31/2012				-5,609.75
Total General Fund Accounts					
Roads Revenue Accounts					
Deposit	07/31/2012			Interest	7.40
Total Roads Revenue Accounts					7.40
Water Revenue Accounts					
Deposit	07/31/2012			Interest	4.01
Total Water Revenue Accounts					4.01
Sewer Revenue Accounts					
Deposit	07/31/2012			Deposit	4.86
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts					4.86
TOTAL					-5,593.48



Helen Eloise Sparby,

Helen Eloise Sparby, 90, a longtime resident of Iowa City, died on Sunday, August 5, 2012, at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City. Private family burial will take place at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Iowa City.

Helen Eloise Suby was born May 5, 1922, on a farm near Fertile,

Iowa. She was the daughter of Henry R. Suby and Iva F. Kirk Suby. Helen graduated from Fertile Consolidated High School in 1940. She married Alvin B. Sparby on December 31, 1945, in the Kensett Lutheran Church Parish. They lived in Humboldt and Clarion, Iowa, before moving to Iowa City with their two children, Debra and Ronald in 1960.

Helen was a studio photography painter for many years. She was also employed several years at ACT in Iowa City. She enjoyed painting, decorating, sewing, and doing things with her loving family and friends. She and Alvin were ardent canoers, members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Adult Fellowships of Iowa City, Norse Club and Moose Lodge. She enjoyed playing bingo and was a fan of "The Lawrence Welk Show."

Helen's family includes her two granddaughters, Tonya McNabb of Seattle, Wash., and Kim (Eric) Eickman of Coralville, Iowa; Kim's children, Zachary, Alexander, and Jackson; her daughter-in-law, Amy Sparby and her children, Leah (Aaron) Burnett; granddaughter, Adeline, of Humboldt, Iowa; son, Ben Roberts, of Iowa City; Helen's siblings, Roger Suby, Boyd Suby, Leon (Shirley) Suby and Phyllis (Bill) Clausen, all of Mason City, Allen (Nadine) Suby of Ankeny, Iowa, Linda (Tom) Price of Dewey, Ariz.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Alvin (1998), whom she was married to for 52 years; her daughter, Debbie McNabb; son, Ron; brother, Robert Suby; sister-in-laws, Colleen Suby, Delores Suby, Betty Suby, and brother-in-law, Jack O'Neil.

Our sympathies to the Helen and Linda families.



CLEAR LAKE –

Linda Ruth Nuehring, 65, 2215 Main Avenue, Clear Lake, went home to be with her Lord and Savior Wednesday, July 25, 2012, at her residence.

Linda was born Dec. 16, 1946, in Mason City, Iowa, the daughter of Leslie Bernard and Ruth I. (Myhre) Wolfe. She attended school She attended

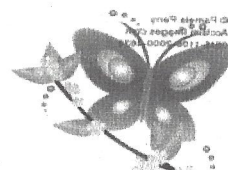
school in Fertile and graduated from Forest City High School in 1964, then attended Hamilton's Business College and later graduated from NIACC. She worked at Grant School in Mason City and then went into business with Lin-Di-Ona Paint and Wallpapering.

Linda married Lowell Nuehring Sept. 30, 1967, at the Fertile Lutheran Church, Fertile. She loved music and enjoyed singing. She gave voice and piano lessons. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, choir and Joyous Voices. She lived with a song in her heart. Linda loved colorful flowers. She loved being surrounded by people and laughter and had a generous heart.

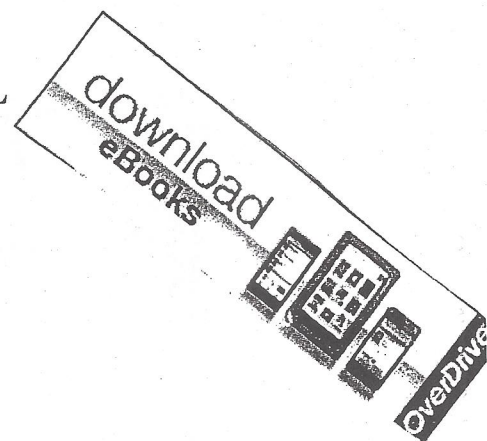
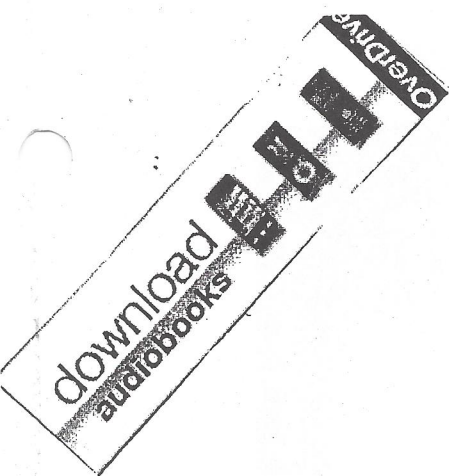
Linda loved baking brownies, being a part of the community theater, reading, floating in the pool, family gatherings and the 4th of July barbecues. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church.

Linda is survived by her loving husband of 45 years, Lowell; daughter Dana (Sonny) Anjum, St. Paul, Minn.; special niece Nicole (Kenny) Gage, Euless, Texas; sister Deanna (Raymond) Jordan, Fertile; brother Robert (Sandy) Wolfe, Clear Lake; brother-in-law Ronald Nuehring, Manly; sisters-in-law Dorothy Nuehring, Mason City, Joyce Nuehring, Manly, and Phyllis Haffaker, Nevada, Iowa; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Harold and Bernard Wolfe and brothers-in-law Richard Nuehring, Darold Nuehring and Arthur Ressler

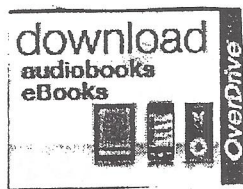


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 Saturday - 9-Noon



NEW BOOKS

Friends Forever—Danielle Steel
 Carnage of Eagles—William Johnstone
 Over the Edge—Mary Connealy
 Whispers in the Wind—Lauraine Snelling
 Judgment Call—J.A. Jance
 Death Without Company (Longmire)—Craig Johnson
 Big Sky Montana—Linda Lael Miller
 Lord of Fire & Ice—Connie Mason
 Dream Lake—Lisa Kleypas
 Crystal Gardens—Amanda Quick
 Murder Season—Robert Ellis
 The Last Victim—Karen Robards
 Sweet Talk—Julie Garwood
 Gone Girl—Gillian Flynn
 The Omaha Trail—Ralph Compton
 Mariana—Susan Kearsley
 Vixens—Bertrice Small
 Sins of the Highlander—Connie Mason
 Wild—From Lost to Found—Cheryl Strayed
 City of Lost Souls—Cassandra Clare
 The Maze Runner—James Dashner
 Pandemonium—Lauren Oliver
 Insurgent—Veronica Roth
 Nevermore: The Final Maximum Ride—James Patterson



NEW DVD's

Tooth Fairy 2—Larry the Cable Guy
 Monte Carlo—Selena Gomez
 Red Tails—Cuba Gooding Jr.
 Judy Moody & the Not Bummer Summer
 The Vow—Rachel McAdams
 One for the Money—Katherine Heigl
 Rise of the Planet of the Apes—James Franco
 Shark Night—Sarah Paxton
 Hanna—Cate Blanchette
 Spy Kids: All the Time in the World

NEW BOOKS ON CD

Lone Man Out—Louis L'Amour
 Mocking Jay—Suzanne Collins
 Gideon's Sword—Preston & Child
 Gideon's Corpse—Preston & Child
 Never Knowing—Chevy Stevens

NEW EBOOKS

The Abandoned—Amanda Stevens
 Gone Girl—Gillian Flynn
 One Breath Away—Heather Gudenkauf
 The Age of Miracles—Karen Thompson Walker

LIBRARY NEWS

We currently provide downloadable audiobooks & ebooks through NEIBORS, a subscription database. We now also have the ability to purchase our own ebooks through their Advantage program. These titles will still be on the NEIBORS website but available to Fertile patrons only. You must sign in with your Fertile patron ID number to see if the book is also owned by Fertile. You will be able to tell by the orange check mark by the add to cart logo. Use NEIBORS as usual but watch the Reminder for new ebook titles. We will add titles as the budget allows. Let me know if you have any title requests.

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FERTILE CLASS OF 1951 Girls GATHERS FOR LUNCHEON/REUNION



Back row: Janice Burtness Abrams, Dolores Jordan Sandifer, Elsie Suby Chisholm, Iva-Dell Oakland Wright & Bonnie Bjelland Kuns. Front Row: Mary Tweeten Myers and Mary Elthon Midtgaard. Missing were LaVonne Pederson Kraft, Donna Hansen Fuller and DeEtta Thovson Twedt who live out of the area. Our hostess, Mary Myers of near Riceville, served a delicious luncheon and we enjoyed an afternoon of fun and memories

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Fertile Day's Celebration



A great weekend was enjoyed by all on Fertile Day's August 11th and 12th. Fertile festivities were kicked off with a Rhodes Run/Bike Ride with approximately 60 people participated in our first Run/bike ride. Next, the streets were lined with spectators from all around to watch the parade that lasted from start to finish a total of 45 minutes! The entertainment continued on Main Street, fire truck rides, Worth County Sheriffs command center demo, clown, children's pedal Pull with 46 kids participating, golf car races, Community meal Catered by Down Town café and served about 350 people, hayride, and "Borderline Band". Sunday morning brought the much needed rain but didn't damper the spirits of Fertile. Everyone joined the Fire department in the community center for breakfast consisting of eggs, pancakes, bacon and sausage. T shirts were also available for purchase that said "Fertile Fire Department". The morning concluded with the annual community church service held at the Church of Christ due to rain. There were 134 people in attendance and \$262.50 was donated for the food pantry in Forest City.



We would like to acknowledge our winners from Fertile for the pedal pull, Ryan Bailey, Gabby Sifuentes, Ashlynn Miller, Kara Oувerson, Anthony Ruiz, Elijah Wagner, Drake Bang, Blaze Anderson, and Anna Anderson.




Without our volunteers none of this could happen: Eddie and Lisa May, Linda Tuttle, Joely Bruns, Allison Bailey, Roberta, Emily, and Katelyn Oувerson, Ann and Danielle Peters, Dave Champion, Amber and Caprice Anderson, Jerry and Paula Appel, Ken Brietz, Karen Usher, Pat Renchin, Steve Roberts, Buck Russell, and Jerry Nye. Thank you everyone and to those who pitched in and helped that we didn't see! If your name was missed, we are very sorry!


We would like to thank our sponsors: Down Town Café, Pizza Hut, Culvers, Barrel Drive In, Subway (Clear Lake), Best Western Hotel, Dairy Queen, Country Inn Suites at Diamond Joes, Brakke John Deere, MBT Bank, Titonka Bank, Keith Brcka, Larsen Plumbing & Heating, WCTA, WCDA, Poet Ethanol, Forest City Farmers Coop, 5 Star Coop, Hanlontown, and Brian Nettleton.

On behalf of the Fertile Day's Committee, we would like to thank everyone who attended and also donated money to help. There were approximately 400 people throughout the day!


FERTILE FIRE DEPARTMENT




Our annual breakfast served hundreds of people and again this year, we ran out of food! Thank you Larry and Judy Gergen for the donation of sausage! Our fire trucks rides were enjoyed by many, young and old! Many T-shirts were sold. Thank you for your continued support! We, as volunteer firefighters, take



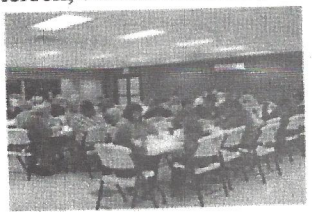

great pride in our job and are willing to serve our community. Many have asked where we get our funding and what is our next project. The City of Fertile and donations are our only source of income. We have applied for many grants throughout the years and some we have received. Our tanker/pumper truck was purchased by the WCDA grant and



monies that we had saved. In the past two years, with donations and fundraisers, we purchased a Chevy truck (swamp monster) and our Ranger (Hurricane). Our breakfast donations will purchase a skid for our ranger. The future project is a rescue unit. Please be watching for details and we would appreciate any donations.



Firefighters: Josh Miller, Mike Dahn, Dylan Knoff, Jason Thompson, Dan Miller, Mitch Tuttle, John Jordan, Andrew Hall, Chris Hanna, Jeff Berg, Josh Bruns, Matt Petersen, Jordan Bakkum, Dwight Bruns, and Dan Lee



Let us be thankful for the people who make us happy. They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.
 --Marcel Proust

Growing up in Fertile, surrounded by acre after acre of the world's finest farmland, my love of gardening blossomed. My grandmother, Naoma Sheimo, was a gardener on a grand scale, and she made good use of everything that she grew. I especially loved when she would send me to the "fruit room" downstairs to bring up a jar of her watermelon pickles, so sweet and colorful. Nothing those days went to waste, and I learned the lesson well. Just like grandma, I have a pantry brimming with homemade ketchup, salsa, jams & jellies, beans, pickles, peas...the list goes on and on. My love of cooking the last 35 years has led me into a world of unique, unusual, but most importantly flavorful vegetables.

After living in the Twin Cities for 20 years, my husband, Todd, and I moved to Ely, Minnesota in 2002 and I soon discovered the enormous difference between growing in the Tall Corn State and on the Canadian border. We grow in three 24 x 48 ft greenhouses to combat the deer, the chipmunks and squirrels, as well as the constant threat of frost. Gracie's Garden was established in 2004 after finding myself with a surplus of tomato plants I had grown for my own garden. My customer list from a small ad in the Shopper that year was 10 people; I now sell to hundreds, supply several thousand bedding plants in the spring to the Co-Op in Virginia, Minnesota, and have a "retail" shop in Ely selling not only 30 plus varieties of tomato plants, but also flowers, hanging baskets, perennials, peppers, and herbs. When the business started to thrive, it needed a name. Gracie is now 8 years old, but at the time, she was just a puppy. I liked the sound of it, and it stuck. Of course, I constantly hear "you must be Gracie", and have been known to answer to it when I'm really busy helping customers. Sometimes, that's just easier.

We use only organic, heirloom and open-pollinated seed (historically grown varieties that are not used in large scale modern agriculture) and non-genetically modified seeds, so the result is old-time flavor and some unique vegetables. We are vigorous stewards of our environment, practicing organic growing methods in our gardens and greenhouses. I also grow lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, and herbs hydroponically, using reservoirs of water to recirculate nutrients, feeding and watering the plants around the clock with just what they need to flourish.



Kathy and Gracie in our sweet corn patch

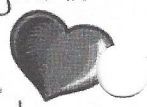


Every spring, Gracie's Garden donates a pickup load of bedding plants to the Ely Children's Garden, and the children take their produce to the nursing home to share with the residents. Gracie's Garden supplies fresh vegetables for the Staff at the Girl Scout Canoe Base all summer, operates a small CSA (community supported agriculture - where members receive a weekly allotment of seasonal vegetables in exchange for an up-front fee), and you'll find the Gracie's Garden stand at the Ely Farmers' Market on Tuesday nights, where I am an active and founding member on the board of directors.

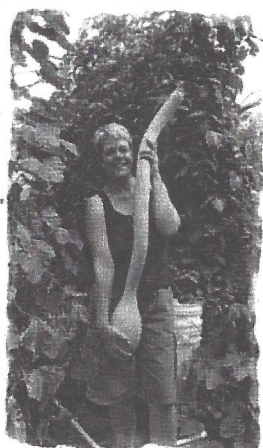
Our goal is to provide fresh, organic vegetables that feed our community in both body and spirit. We strive to give to our community as much as we receive. We believe that eating locally creates a greater connection between you and your food sources, supports the local economy, and helps reduce industrialized and processed foods in your diet. If you are ever in the Ely area, stop in. If not, please try Beaver Creek Gardens in Fertile.

A fond greeting to everyone in my home town!

Kathy Worsley Cyriacks



Heirloom squash "Zucchini" Rampicante" with hydroponic tomatoes in background



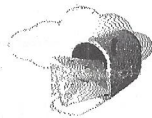
FERTILE GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club met at Central Gardens, Clear Lake for a tour of the gardens on August 14, 2012. After our tour we met in the building for our meeting. President Penny Miller presided over the meeting. Roll call was "If you had all the money you needed, what would you change in your garden." The main answer after this dry year was a water system!

The flower pots by the doors of the Community Center and City Hall were donated by Lonnie Knudson and are a nice addition.

When the geraniums can no longer tolerate the cold weather we will again take them to the town maintenance building for the winter. To cut them down or leave them has not been decided yet. We will have a "cut, trim and weed" time on August 23rd, Thursday night, 6:30 pm. All members are asked to be there so the work will be done quickly. It was decided to buy a sprinkler for the Fertile sign area, Betty will buy it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



You do a great job. Virgil Ouverson

Please keep the good news coming. Russ Faulken

Enjoy the Reminder, thank you so much.
Floyd and Lois Zobel

Celebration Community Church
805 10th Ave. North
Clear Lake Iowa 50428
641-357-0026

Sunday School - 9:00a.m.
Fellowship - 9:45 a.m.
Praise and Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday night bible study - 7:00 p.m.
Youth Group - 1st and 3rd Sundays
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. (Begins Sept 16th)

Youth Group - Kick off
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Fellowship Time -- 9:55 AM
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7-8 PM- 1st-12th Grade Youth Groups

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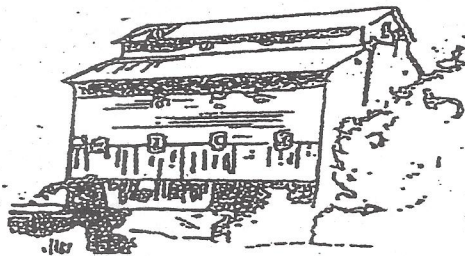
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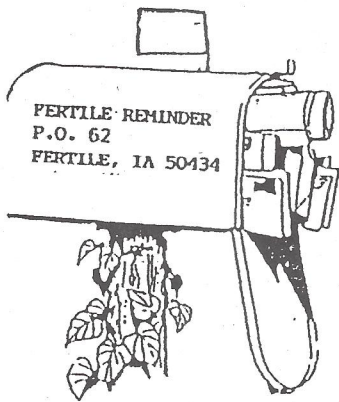
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