

THE CIVIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 15

"A Community Association of Volunteers since 1938"

Issue 1

YEAR 2014

President,

Debbie Smith

Vice-President,

Debra Lewis

Treasurer,

Joyce Kuehl

Secretary,

Vicky Gleason

Directors,

Jeff Dugan

Vicky Haynes

Wes Kuehl

Dan Morrell

Jackie Stapaniak



LeClaire's Famous 'Green Tree'
is the LeClaire Civic Club's logo.

The LeClaire Civic Club was
organized Dec. 12th, 1938.

The Civic Club meets on the
4th Tuesday, each month
with a Pot-Luck Dinner at
6:15 PM & Regular Meeting
at 7 PM in the LeClaire Civic
Center. You are welcome, &
encouraged to attend.

March, 2014

OUR 76th YEAR!

Newsletter Editor , Ron Leiby

CIVIC CLUB ELECTS FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT

For the first time in the history of the **LeClaire Civic Club**, it's members have elected a woman to be the President for 2014. Prior to 1998, the Civic Club was an all male organization supported by a very active Civic Club Auxiliary which included only women. In 1998, the Civic Club reorganized, merged with the Community Association of Volunteers, and opened its membership up to men *and* women. The former Auxiliary disbanded. Until this, our 76th year, all of the Presidents have been men.

Elected **President** for 2014 is **Debbie Smith**, who has been an active volunteer in this community for a very long time. This will be her second year on the Civic Club Board, having served as Secretary last year. Debbie recently completed her fifth term on the LeClaire City Council and was recognized by the Mayor of LeClaire for 20 years of continuous service. She is currently a member of the Buffalo Bill Museum Board, having been heavily involved in that organization for many years, including several years as their President. In addition, she is a very active member of the LeClaire Presbyterian Church, and has been involved with numerous other community organizations over the years.

Debbie is a well known within our community and will serve us well as a member of our board. We welcome her as our first woman President, and wish her all the best success for 2014. We urge all of our members to support her. **Good Luck Debbie!**



Go on line and check out our new web site. A lot of detailed work was put into it, mainly by Chris Conoyuor. She donated her time. Ron Leiby & Dan Morrell assisted.

leclairecivicclub.org



UPDATING AND ADDING NEW KITCHEN EQUIPMENT IS GOOD FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FOR OUR RENTERS

At our Regular February Meeting, the members present voted to add some new Civic Center kitchen appliances, and update some old kitchen appliances. We will be purchasing a new 8-12 Cup Coffee Maker which can be used when only a small amount of coffee is needed. Up till now, our only choice was to use a large coffee pot. It can also be used to have some De-Caf coffee on hand at our public dinners. In addition, we will be adding a new 30 Cup Coffee Maker, 6 new Roasters, and 2 new Crock Pots. These new additions will be a welcome improvement for us and our renters. - **Deb Smith**

MEN'S BATHROOM

Many of you have seen the Women's Bathroom after our remodeling project was finished. It was quite an improvement. Well, now it's time to fix up the Men's Room. We have added a new mirror and will soon be applying a much needed new paint job. - **Debbie Smith**

WINDOW DRESSING

Our front windows have had the same curtains for many, many years. They have been washed countless times, and it's time to replace them. **That's Right!** New curtains. In the very near future, as you drive by the Civic Center, or attend a future Civic Center event, take a look at our new new window dressing. It was time for an update. The new curtains will brighten up our Hall in time for Spring. - **Debbie Smith**

PARKING LOT USE

Remember... Our Parking lot is available for you to sell those antiques that have been gathering dust up in your attic, or a big Garage sale, or perhaps you have a lot of extra produce from that big garden, or whatever.

The spaces rent out for **\$15 for a 10X10, and \$25 for each 10X20 space** you want to set up in. Of course, it has to be when the building isn't already reserved, because regular Civic Center rentals come first, and they expect the use of the parking lot.

If you would like to rent a spot, you must go through **Vicki Haynes** at **639-4621** to obtain the details. She will explain the cost and where to send the rental fees. The rental cost could be waived under certain circumstances, but can only be authorized by the Board of Directors. For a waiver of fees, try to provide plenty of notice, because they would prefer to make a recommendation to the general membership, if time permits. On short notice, they will make their decision accordingly.

THINGS TO PONDER

- 1.- Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?
- 2.- How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?
- 3.- Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?

IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES

If you have not paid your 2014 annual dues, please do so now. The Dues are \$7.50 for each member of your family that is a Civic Club Member, or wants to be. If writing a check, please make it out to '**LeClaire Civic Club**' and give it to our Treasurer, **Joyce Kuehl**, or mail it to her at **LeClaire Civic Club, PO Box# 562, LeClaire, Iowa.** THANK-YOU.



INTEGRITY

- Wisdom is knowing the right path to take. Integrity is taking it.
- *M.H.. McKee*
- Leaders always choose the harder right, than the easier wrong.
- *Orrin Woodward*
- Your integrity is sacrosanct. It is who you are. Never let anyone step on your integrity. That's absolutely where you must stand solid.
- *Ret. General. Peter Pace*

WITCHES' WALK 2013

The Day started out a little chilly and wet... but then the sun came out, which helped the event score big time with all of the parents, and especially the kids. What a menagerie of costumed participants; adults and children alike. We saw some real creativity displayed. I've included pictures of some of the enthusiastic crowd, & our Snack Shop Crew.

The Mayor of LeClaire, **Bob Scannell**, dressed in an Uncle Sam costume, led the long parade of Happy Halloween Kids & Characters throughout the downtown area to gather their candy treats from our generous businesses. What a sight they all presented.

While all of the contestants were being judged on the levee, and later, while the parade was going on, a handful of Civic Club Volunteers were selling Apple Slices with Carmel Drippings, and Nacho Chips and Cheese, along with various drinks, out of the Civic Center. They also handed out candy to almost 250 kids. Thanks to **Barb Lewis, Wes & Joyce Kuehl, Tom Bloomingdale, Vicky Gleason, Alberta Spies**, and yours truly, **Ron Leiby** for their efforts. Although only a small profit was raised through the snack sales, they sure had fun trying.

ENJOY THE PICTURES



On the left, A **Big Shark!** And along side is another character, "**Just Clowning Around**".... The Halloween Parade included everything imaginable!



ALL ABOARD The Witches' Walk Express !



ELVIS WAS IN THE HOUSE !!!



Where is Alice? ... When We Find Her... It's Off With Her Head!



Mayor Scannell Leading the Children's Downtown Parade. What a costume! He'll do anything to help his community



What's a Withes' Walk without a good Witch or two. Her sign says...
"Let the Ghoul Times Roll"



L/R - **Wes and Joyce Kuehl, Ron Leiby, Alberta Spies, Tom Bloomingdale, Diane Spring, and Debra Lewis.** Taking the picture was **Vicky Gleason**. All were taking a short break during our Witches' Walk Snack Shop. We served Apple Slices with Carmel Topping, Taco Chips with Hot Cheese, and Water & Pop. We also handed out Candy to the kids.



**RESERVE THE
CIVIC CENTER
FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT**

**RENTAL COST IS
\$ 75 FOR 6 HOURS
\$125 FOR THE WHOLE DAY**

As a Civic Club Member, you can support the Civic Center by using it for family events such as Birthday Parties, Retirement Parties, Baby Showers, Bridal Showers, Family Reunions, Etc. We now have a 60" TV. in the main hall! Remember, the deposit & rental fee are required up front. If there will be alcohol on premise, you will need a certificate of insurance. If you want our maintenance people to set up and take down the tables & chairs for you, there is a \$50 charge. There is also a \$10 charge to use our exterior lighted sign. To Reserve the building, go to our Web Site, leclairecivicclub.org, or call Vicky at 639-4621.



DONATIONS

We greatly appreciate any donations to our club... federal law states we must tell you we are a **501C-4** non-profit. So, be sure to check with your Tax Consultant first.

KEEP THESE PHONE #s HANDY

President (Debbie) Tel. # 289-4458

Treasurer (Joyce) Tel. # 289-4205

To Reserve Hall or Cleaning Problems (Vicky) # 639-4621

For Building Maintenance - Jeff # 340-2065



**15th YEAR
AS EDITOR**

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM OUR 2014 PRESIDENT...



Hi to All Members:

Thank you so much for electing me as your 2014 President. As you may know, a good leader is only as good as the Board & members of the club. Every member's contribution is needed. We had a great turnout at our Annual Corporation Meeting in February. The reports that were presented tells me we are in overall good shape and have a bright future.

I hope everyone reading this newsletter has already paid their annual dues. The \$7.50 a member dues not only helps the club meet its' expenses, but more importantly, the combination of our present members renewing their membership, and the addition of new members paying dues for the first time, provides our club with more people to complete more projects that can better our community and our club. In the past year our club was there for two needy families in LeClaire that fell on hard times because of severe injuries. It was wonderful to see our community coming together to support them in their time of need. Our club will continue to provide those kinds of fund raiser benefits in the future. A large membership will help us do that.

My main goal this year is to focus on Membership Activation. I have two good Internal Directors that will be very busy. We will be planning to implement programs that we hope will bring more members to our meetings. Let's have a super successful 76th year! - **Debbie Smith**



**HELP US UPDATE
OUR RECORDS**



Over the years we have had many of our members change their telephone numbers and addresses. We're asking any members with changes to call **Joyce Kuehl** at **289- 4205** & give her the update.

Also, we ask all members to provide your Email Address for our records. Contacting you by e-mail saves us time and money. We do not sell or give our membership lists to anyone outside our organization, and if requested by you, we can put notations next to your name in our files to make sure your number is only available on an "as needed" basis.

**Please do this as soon as possible.
THANK - YOU !**

All articles & pictures are by Ron Leiby, unless otherwise stated.

WEB SITE - leclairecivicclub.org

If you have some ideas, digital pictures of Civic Club projects or of big LeClaire events for our newsletter, please call our Editor at 289-5259, or E-Mail him at **f4phantom31@windstream.net**



**Made in
LeClaire,
Iowa, USA**



2013

CHRISTMAS PARTY



CIVIC CLUB



"Ugly Sweater Contest" Participants, Debbie Smith, Bill Fullmer, Vicky Gleason, Linda Leiby, Ginny Fullmer, and Vicky Haines.



2013 President **Ron Leiby**, and **Wes Kuehl** win the Ugliest Wrapped Present Prize! They were very proud of their accomplishment, especially the Bow!



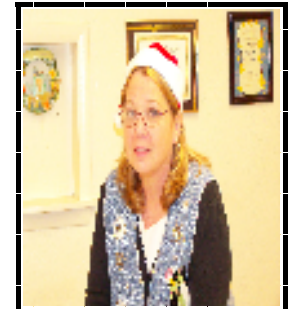
Debbie Smith wins the **"Ugly Sweater Contest"**



The winners of the Two Hand Present Wrap Contest were **Judy Hartig** and **Donna Allen**.



The winning team in the Christmas Song Identification Contest were L/R - **Debbie Smith, Linda Leiby, Bill Fullmer, Vern Spring, and Donna Allen**.



Annette Black, one of our newest members & Chairperson of the Party Committee. They did a great job with everything; Food, Decorations, & Games! Fun time for all.



Lori Ewoldt & Gloria Byrd wrapping a present in the **"Two Hand Present Wrap Contest"**



**FUN EVENT FOR
ALL PRESENT!**



L/R - Enjoying a very good meal, and some good conversation, along with all the other festivities, are **Donna Walley & Ginny Fullmer**.





2014 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS ELECTED

The election of Officers & Directors for 2014 was held during the **November 26, 2013 Regular Membership Meeting** which was held at the LeClaire Presbyterian Church due to the Tug Boat Crew using our Civic Center for their salvage operations. Candidate's names were submitted to be placed on the election slate by the **Nominations Committee**, consisting of members **Debbie Smith, Steve Suiter, & Vicky Haynes**. All positions were filled.

The **Executive Officers** for 2014 will be as follows; Elected to the office of **President** is **Debbie Smith**. (See *Front page*). Our **Vice-President** is **Debra Lewis**. Deb has been involved with us for a short while and has shown herself to be a real go-getter. She has worked on many projects and has been a great assistance with the upkeep of our building. This will be her first year on the Board. Once again, the **Treasurer** for 2014 is **Joyce Kuehl**. She has been the Treasurer for many, many years, and does a fine job for us. She will be a big help assisting the three new executive Board members. Covering the duties of **Secretary** will be **Vicky Gleason**. Vicky has also been a member for a short time and has shown us she wants to be involved. She has worked on several projects and chaired one too. She will do a great job for us as Secretary. Responsible for handling the tasks and assigned areas of the five Director positions are, **Wes Kuehl**, *Internal Membership Retention & Recruitment*, **Dan Morrell**, *Internal Affairs and Membership Activation*, **Jackie Stepaniak**, *Community Relations*, **Jeff Dugan**, *Building Maintenance*, and **Vicky Haynes**, *Building Management*. All except Jackie Stepaniak have served on the Board for many years. Jackie is a relatively new member with a lot of experience in the our community, which should be beneficial to us.

We wish all of the Officers and Directors good luck during 2014 and hope their year in office is very rewarding and successful!

Please support them.

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL INCREASES

We began the 2013 year with a beginning roster of 98 members. Thanks to Wes Kuehl, last year's Membership Recruitment Director, and all who supported him and signed up new members, we ended the year with 140. Outstanding! Although we did not meet our goal of 75 new members, we never gave up and were signing new members right up to the last meeting.

A big thanks to all who helped Wes Kuehl recruit new members and retain those already on our roster. We even went after many past members who had dropped their membership for one reason or another, and convinced some of them to return.

A 30% Membership net growth in one year sets the pace for our club to double it's size by the end of 2015. That's only two years! If we retain our present membership, a mere 10% net growth would result in just over 200 members by the end of 2017, which is only 4 years away. These numbers are very attainable. LeClaire has seen phenomenal growth in the last 10 years and it will keep growing. With a little effort on our part, we can definitely grow with it. The more members we have, the more we can do for our club and especially for our community.

Our 2014 President is pushing for new members and the activation of all membership. If all of us try to sign up at least one new member during 2014..... we should easily grow by an impressive number. This increase would definitely help us with needed additional revenue and manpower to accomplish more in our community, and improve our facility. We just celebrated our 75th year as a major organization in LeClaire. With some short term planning now, we can continue to be a major organization in our community for many, many more years to come.



2013 CIVIC CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

This picture represents the first time in LeClaire Civic Club history that we have an all female Executive Board. L/R President, **Debbie Smith**, Secretary, **Vicki Gleason**, Treasurer, **Joyce Kuehl**, and Vice-President, **Debra Lewis**.



LeCLAIRE CIVIC CLUB ANNUAL CORPORATION MEETING



OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The out going President, Ron Leiby, reported that 2013 was a successful and historic year for our club. He also stated that our year long celebration marking our 75th year, was pulled off without a hitch. We had an ambitious membership drive which netted about 40 new members, bringing our year end total to about 140. We designed and distributed about 500 new tri-fold club brochures, sponsored a Free Ice Cream Social for all citizens of LeClaire thanking them for 75 years of support, we designed and brought on line our first ever Web Site, (leclairecivicclub.org), We enhanced our South Cody Sign to announce our 75th year of Community Service, We distributed News Releases to area newspapers which resulted in good articles appearing in the Bettendorf News and The Moline Dispatch, and last, but not least, the Mayor of LeClaire presented us with an official Proclamation commending the Civic Club for 75 years of Outstanding Community Service. And he stated, we did it all... under budget!

He noted that along with our 75th Celebration, we also handled all of our regular projects, fund raisers, community benefits, and rented & maintained our building. Ron mentioned that all of our fund raisers were successful, and as a result of those, our membership dues, donations to the club, etc. our Total Revenue for the year was about \$18,000, with expenses of about \$14,000. The 2013 Board provided the new 2014 Board with adequate beginning funds in the checking account, our Emergency Savings Account is showing growth, our building is all ours, the insurance is paid up, and that overall, we are in good shape.

He thanked everyone that helped during the past year, especially his Board. He also singled out some members for outstanding contributions, such as Tom Bloomingdale, Debra Lewis, Jeff Dugan, Vicky Haynes, Dan Morrell, and Wes & Joyce Kuehl. Ron concluded his report by thanking all for an almost perfect year...because he said "there is always room for improvement."

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Out-going Treasurer, Joyce Kuehl (which happens to be our 2014 Treasurer as well) presented the members present with a condensed detailed Year End Financial Report for 2013. Her report showed \$ 18,147.00 Revenue for last year. We collected **\$ 1,189.50** in Dues, **\$ 7,972.50** in Rentals, Trivia brought in **\$ 2,881.15**, our Swiss Steak Dinner, Spaghetti Dinner & Tug Fest Breakfast netted us a total of **\$ 1,914.01**, Tug Fest Bingo brought in **\$1, 379.75**, British Car Show Food Sales brought in a total of **\$ 869.82**, Apple Fest Food Sales netted us **\$ 557.65**, and our Christmas Bake Sale made **\$ 275.00**. We had a total of **\$ 729.75** in Donations to our club, and misc. revenue brought the total to the \$18,000 mark.

Her report showed Total Expenses for 2013 was \$ 14,129.05. Utilities; including Water, Sewer, Gas & Electric totaled **\$ 2,734.16**. Garbage Pick up was **\$760.50** and Bug Control was **\$374.50**. Our Cleaning Person cost **\$1,080** and our Booking Agent cost **\$ 900.00**. (Might note that they donated some of this back) Administrative costs totaled **\$ 645.48**. Newsletter expense was **\$250.47**. Snow Removal totaled **\$ 360.00**. (Most, if not all of this was donated back) Building improvements totaled **\$ 2,777.38**. We donated a total of **\$1,130.00** throughout the year. Other Misc. expenses brought the total to the \$ 14,129.05 figure.

Ending Check Book balance was **\$ 7,352.20**. Emergency Savings balance is **\$1,462.50**. Everyone present was given a hard copy of the 2013 Annual Finance Report. A motion to accept the Annual Treasurer's Report was passed by all.

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Our incoming President for 2014, **Debbie Smith**, thanked everyone for electing her to her new position of leadership on the 2014 Board. Debbie stated that she was amazed at the level of work that had been accomplished last year. She said that she hopes to live up to the confidence the members have in her to have elected her to this position of leadership and would do her best to have a successful year.

One of her main goals was to get more of the existing members and those that will be signed up this year, activated. She would be depending on her two Internal Directors to help her come up with plans to accomplish that. She also mentioned signing new members. With more members, we can do a lot more for the community.



LeCLAIRE TRIVIA GAMES

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

The **LeClaire Civic Club** has taken over the total responsibilities for the LeClaire Civic Center Trivia Games. Our first was on November 9th of last year, which was to benefit our own organization. We in turn donated the funds raised to a family in need to help off set recent financial difficulties due to an accident.

Chris Cournoyer, who has done an outstanding job, raising in excess of \$100,000 for local non-profit groups over many years, decided it was time for her to focus on other areas of her life, such as her newly elected position on the Pleasant Valley School Board, and devoting more time to her family. She asked the LeClaire Civic Club if we would assume the operation of the games. After much thought, and discussing the possibility to our members, the board recommended that we do it. Our members agreed. Chris will still be available for advice.

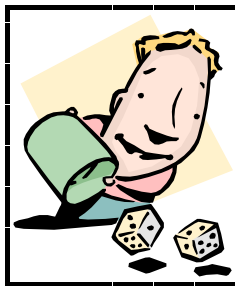
The Games are being run just as they were under Chris's leadership, with the underlying objective of raising funds for non-profit organizations, and those individuals in our city who are in need of financial assistance. The latest Trivia Games benefited LeClaire Youth Baseball and all but one table was filled. We utilized our new 60 inch TV, which is mounted on the north wall of our main hall. There were a few glitches on the trial run, but we will have it all smoothed out by the March Games. We will need support from our membership (Floor help & filling tables) and hope that you will consider volunteering now and then. Please call our Trivia Chairman, **Dan Morrell** at **579- 4126** and sign up for a future Trivia Night Event. Thank-You!

TRIVIA BENEFITS OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY !

UPCOMING TRIVIA SCHEDULE

MARCH	15	To Benefit Civic Center
APRIL	19	To Benefit Buffalo Bill Museum
MAY	17	To Benefit LeClaire Lions

NO TRIVIA GAMES JUNE - AUGUST



CIVIC CLUB **BUNCO**

Our **BUNCO** days are catching on. It started out slow in October, about doubled in size in November, and interest is growing at a rapid pace. There was no BUNCO in December, due to the Christmas Holiday Season, but it resumed in January.

Debbie Smith, and her helpers, have organized this daytime monthly event which starts at 10 AM and usually runs till about 12:30 PM. **Our Bunco Social Event is open to the public.**

Presently, we ask for a small donation, which will only amount to a couple dollars at most. Bring a friend, and a snack to share. We are trying to get about 40 players. Interested? Call **Debbie** at **289-4458**.



Here are some of the **November** players enjoying good games, good snacks, and good conversation!



They sure love to play BUNCO!

BUILDING INSURANCE REVIEW



Every few years we review our building insurance policy to see if it is still what we want. Our Board has been doing this and have decided to go out for bids and try to get a lower premium cost, better insurance for the money, or both.

They presently have several replies from insurance companies, some with local representatives, and are in the process of narrowing them down. Our members told the President what they want in the policy, such as Earth Quake Coverage, and authorized the board to choose one which meets that criteria and best for the club.



CIVIC CLUB NEWSLETTER ACCESS OPTION CAN LOWER OUR COSTS

Now that we have our own Web Site, we plan to use it to cut our expenses. We will be including our Civic Club Newsletter on our Web Site. You will be able to access it by going on line and bringing up our Web Site. This should be an easy thing to do for you computer savy people and will help us lower the cost of our newsletter.

Of course, if you don't have a computer, or you don't have internet access in your home, you can always request a hard copy like you are getting now. We will also have copies available at our regular membership meetings. A hard copy is always in the LeClaire Library...but if you go there, you can also use their computers to access our Web Site and read the newsletter on line too.

This is just another step in stream lining our club and bringing it into the 21st Century. Hopefully, you will be able to access the March newsletter on our web site, which is leclairecivicclub.org. if we are ready to go by then.

For future newsletters, please let our President know **as soon as possible** if you will be able to access the newsletter on line, or if you will be needing a hard copy. Our President's phone number is **289-4458**. She will be putting together two lists; Computer access, or Hard Copy.

If you can, please help us cut our expenses by accessing the newsletter on line. Thank-You.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Club Mission Statement has been revised as follows: The LeClaire Civic Club is dedicated to promoting civic involvement through services and projects which promote: civic responsibility and education; cultural opportunities for its residents; charitable work in the community; and other activities which improve the quality of life in historic LeClaire.

Our club pursues its mission in partnership with other organizations, through its volunteers, and through support of projects compatible with its mission. It operates the LeClaire Civic Center, a low cost rental hall, as a service to the community and to help fund its activities.

CIVIC CLUB HELPS SCOUTS

We have supported Boy & Girl Scouts for years,

The **Boy Scouts** will be using our building and access to our water for a Car Wash Fund Raiser in June.

The **Girl Scouts** will be using our building for an event and Pot Luck meal May 18th.

The members present at our February Regular Meeting voted to waive all charges.

We wish both of these youth organizations the best of luck in these upcoming events.



The **Stephen L. Colby**
Sinking Near The LeClaire Levee

In November of last year, the River Tug **Stephen L. Colby**, struck something in the Mississippi River which punctured a hole in her big enough to cause her to start sinking. She made it to the south bank of the Mississippi at LeClaire, just behind our building, and tied off for major repairs. Our Police and Fire Departments were heavily involved, as was the Coast Guard, an Environmental company, a welding group, 30-40 Repair individuals with the Marquette Transportation Company, and many others. It was a real messy & cold job that lasted for about two weeks.

The **Marquette Transportation Company** rented our building around the clock, 24 hours a day, for employee meetings, bathrooms, fresh coffee, etc. whenever it was available, and many overnight rentals only, when someone else already had it rented during the day time hours. They were a real nice group of people to deal with and we will gain much extra needed revenue for our treasury that we were not expecting. A big thanks to **Tom Bloomingdale** for standing by at the building during day time hours to assist their employees as needed. Also, thanks to **Alberta Spies** and **Ron Leiby** for doing the same during the first day & evening.

They were billed a total of about **\$2100** for the long term rental of our building. We are expecting a check soon.

We also thank our former Fire Chief, **Mark Slagle**, for steering them our way when they were asking about renting space for their on site Boat Repair Headquarters.



If you have not filled out our recent **club survey** about why you joined, what you expect, what you would like us to do within our club and community, please do so and return to **Jackie Stapaniak**, our Community Affairs Director, ASAP. Questions? Call Debbie Smith at 289-44458.