

THE CIVIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 16

"A Community Association of Volunteers since 1938"

Issue 1

YEAR 2015

President,

Debbie Smith

Vice-President,

Vern Spring

Treasurer,

Joyce Kuehl

Secretary,

Jackie Stepaniak

Directors,

Terri Applegate

Vicky Haynes

Wes Kuehl

Dan Morrell

Tommy Morrell

March, 2015

OUR 77th YEAR!

Newsletter Editor , *Ron Leiby*

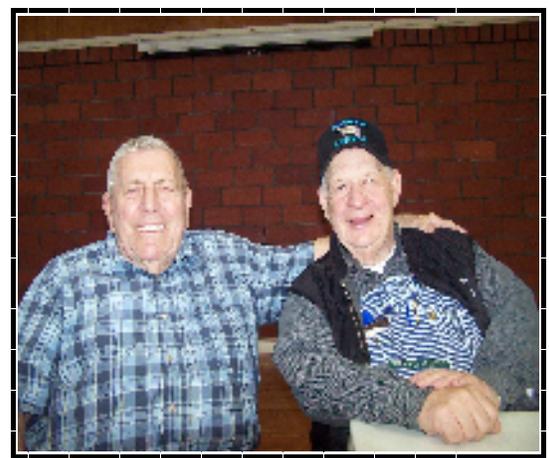
LeCLAIRE CIVIC CENTER

"OPEN HOUSE PROJECT"

SLOWLY CATCHING ON



About 12 members & 2 guests gathered at the Open House Wednesday morning on March 10.



Wes Kuehl & new member, **Ron Paaske**, signed by **Debbie Smith** at the Open House.

An idea for this Open House project was introduced last year, passed by the membership, and implemented right away. The Board was looking for ideas to entice people to join us. An **Open House at the Civic Center** would give us the opportunity to meet new people and possibly sign them up, and give our members a chance to drop in and socialize, or just "Shoot the Bull". We could also offer donuts & coffee, or even a free breakfast.

It got off to a slow start but seems to be picking up a little steam. Our President, **Debbie Smith** said that we've had a high of about 18 and a low of about 6 people dropping in to partake of the free breakfast and to socialize. She also stated that since it started we have signed up about 5 new members. **Joyce Kuehl**, our Treasurer, said there seems to be enough donations made to the Civic Club during these Open Houses to cover the cost of the food we serve. Our President is hoping to find additional ways we can get more guests to drop in. So far it's been mostly our own members. **Ron Leiby**, our Newsletter Editor suggested that perhaps the Board can advertise the event more locally such as in the Chamber of Commerce Newsletter or the North Scott Press. The Board might also try to get it in all the area Church bulletins.

Although our *Open House* won't be open in the summer, with a few tweaks here and there, it still should start paying full dividends in the Fall.



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.



This year marked the 31st year that the citizens and families of our historic little community have enjoyed '**Christmas in LeClaire**'. It's quite an event, to say the least, which is chocked full of three days of many exciting experiences and holiday memories that were shared by young and old.

31 years ago, three local volunteers & crafters, organized the first '**Christmas in LeClaire**', which revolved around it's main event, which was a Holiday Craft Show. Over the years, the event started to grow along with the craft show. It evolved into what has become the most exciting event held in LeClaire during the Christmas Season.

What is truly amazing is that the original three women who kicked off the very first event back in 1983, are still running the show today! There were times when it was harder than usual to raise the financial backing, get enough sponsors, enough prizes and gifts, enough volunteers to help, performers, etc., but they always managed to pull it off. Their perseverance over the last 31 years should be an inspiration to us all. A big thanks to Joyce Kuehl, Diane Glispie, & Vicki Jepsen, all three volunteers living right here in LeClaire, for their outstanding efforts.

The LeClaire Chamber of Commerce honored them with an Outstanding Volunteer Award for 2014! **Way To Go!**



Look Who Paid Us A Visit....



Vicki Jepsen, Joyce Kuehl, Diane Glispie



A Great Civic Club
BAKE SALE!



Christmas in LeClaire
Holiday Craft Sale.



There was a great display of holiday crafts, etc. in the LeClaire Civic Center. The crafters really went all out this year to give us some choices of their best.



MORE PICTURES FROM
CHRISTMAS IN LECLAIRE

ALL ABOARD!



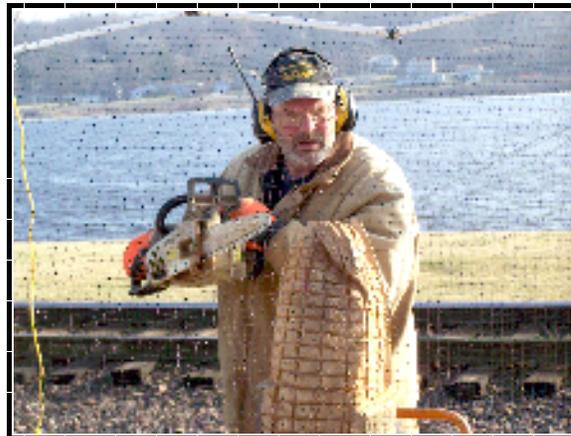
Something new was added this year... the lighting of the Ol' Yule Log. Here it is in front of **Mississippi Cottage Antiques**.



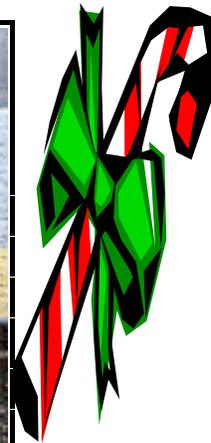
Luke Traver demonstrated his craftsmanship of creating wooden shoes of all sizes. (He also specializes in Rushing & Caning of antique chairs.)



Pat Doyle, of Floyd, Ia, is a professional Chainsaw Carver and creates about 2400 carvings a year.



Here is Pat Doyle carving a giant ear of corn. The 'Christmas in LeClaire' committee will auction off this carving & others in time. When he carves, he does it behind a protective screen. Chips were flying all over!



Many children stopped by Santa's Gift Shop to buy family presents with their 'Santa Dollars' Here to help **Tilly Brooks, Ben & Brooke Porter**, was one of our Santa's Elves (**Deborah Lewis**)



BLAKE ROSS

Here is Blake signing a copy of one of his children's books for a customer.



On site at the Civic Center was a display of books & illustrations by Blake Ross.



Santa is listening to little **Amelia Tapia** as she tells him exactly what she wants for Christmas during 'Breakfast With Santa' at Happy Joe's in downtown LeClaire.



TRIVIA BENEFITS MANY

Our Trivia Crew has been pretty busy putting together the monthly **“Civic Club Trivia Games”**. As a result of their tireless efforts, there have been many local and surrounding area non-profit groups that have benefited very much.

Last month the **Quad-City Cruisers** took home **\$1,067.00** to help their organization. The March 21st Games benefited the **Pioneer Village**. The LeClaire Farmer’s Market will reap the prize in April, and the local **4 H Clovers** will benefit in May. All of these groups can definitely use a helping hand and we are very pleased that our club can raise these funds for them.

Be sure to reserve a table for your team for a couple of the scheduled games, or come to them all. Civic Club Trivia is almost always held on the third Saturday of each month, starting at 7 PM. You may want to take advantage of our early dinners which are served about 6 PM before the games start. In February we served a Roast Pork dinner, and March, an Irish favorite, Corn Beef and Cabbage. We’ll try to have a dinner before every Trivia. Also, if not partaking of the dinner, you will still want to arrive early to give you time to set up your table, your snacks and drinks. But remember... our kitchen will be offering cold drinks and various snacks for sale too.

A big thanks to the Trivia Volunteers! If you can help out the Trivia Crew during any of the Trivia Events, please call **Vicky Haynes** at **639-4621** or **Dan Morell** at **579-4126**.

MEMBERSHIP

We all must put our heads together if we want to come up with ways to increase our total membership. When it comes to membership, we’ll probably never hit our target. It’s because the target keeps changing. We have members that move away, some that lose interest and don’t join back up, some, unfortunately die, etc., etc. So every time we get close to our target goal, the amount of members we need to reach that goal increases. We must always strive to increase the number of members in our club.

We start with last years membership which was 124. Have you sent in your annual membership dues yet? If not, please do so ASAP. Send a check for **\$7.50** for each member in your family that belongs to our club. If your spouse doesn’t belong, sign him/her up. Send your check to **LeClaire Civic Club, PO Box # 562, LeClaire, Ia 52753**. Do it now, before you forget. Then... talk to your neighbors, friends, associates that you work with, people you know at church, etc., and try to sign them up, or at least bring them to a meeting as a guest.

Membership requires all of us, working together, to grow our club. If we’re not growing, we’re dying. We have a very good organization with over 77 years of volunteer service to our community. With a little effort from all of you, we could double that 2014 number within a couple of years. Make it your personal goal to sign up one member.

IDEAS

If you have some new ideas for a fund raiser, or a community project, or someone or some organization in need of assistance..... please do not hesitate to call one of our Board members so that they can bring it up at the next Board Meeting.

BUNCO!

Those that have been attending our Bunco Games around 10:30 AM -12:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, have been having a great time. Besides playing the game, there is also a lot of socializing and refreshments. In addition to those benefits, there is also prize money to be won!

We can’t understand why more people are not coming. A big crowd amounts to about 16. We should be able to double that number easily. If you plan to attend, we’re asking you to bring along your neighbors and friends. Spread the word throughout town by word of mouth, at your church, local school events, other club meetings, etc.

We know that a lot of people enjoy this game and the entry fee is only \$2.00. Presently the Civic Club donates the use of the hall to the Bunco Group. If you would like to come, but need a ride, call **Debbie Smith** at **349-4403**, and she will try to arrange one for you.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- If the enemy is in range, you should be in range too. Right?
- If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- If you don’t pay your exorcist, can you get repossessed?
- When a clock is hungry, does it go back four seconds.



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

**RENTAL COST IS
\$ 75 FOR 6 HOURS
\$125 FOR THE WHOLE DAY
\$200 FOR COMMERCIAL USE
(OVER NIGHT RENTAL NEGOTIABLE)**

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 tables and 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.



**A PERSONAL NOTE
FROM OUR 2015
PRESIDENT...**



THE NEW YEAR HAS JUST BEGUN

Hi Everyone,

Is Spring almost here? If not, I'm sure we're all hoping it will be soon. Even though it has been a long cold Winter, our club members still come out. Our Wednesday morning get together, at the Civic Center, which includes breakfast, has been seeing from 6 to 16 people. Its a good time to meet new people and socialize with your fellow members.

Trivia continues to be very successful. The lowest turnout was about 8 teams and now the average is around fourteen teams.

Our Membership Survey we asked the members to fill out last year showed that people join our club for fellowship and community service. So you must come to the monthly meetings for the opportunity to enjoy both. Hope to see you at the next one.

- Debbie Smith

PS: My new Email is Smith5Grand@gmail.com



**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 !

This newsletter has been reviewed & authorized for distribution, by our President. All articles & pictures are by Ron Leiby, unless otherwise stated.



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 - Tommy 449-6120 or Jeff 340-2065



**15 YEARS
AS EDITOR**

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



**CIVIC CENTER
SNOW
REMOVAL
HAS BEEN
VERY TIMELY**



At the January General Membership Meeting, those present voted to transfer \$3,500 from our Checking account into our Savings / Emergency account. We had some good income during 2014 and it's a good idea to build up the Savings account which now stands at **\$5065.13**.

In past years our Savings was up to about \$18,000. Major roof repairs just about wiped the account out. It was good that we had that much money at the time of the repairs. Now we have been working on building that account back up again so the money will be there for the next major expense.

Wes Kuehl Jr.s Snow Removal outfit has done a great job on getting our parking lot, etc. cleaned up real fast during the last heavy snowfalls. His service is well worth the cost.

Our sidewalks have been generously attended to by **Jeff Dugan, Tommy Morrell, Tom Bloomingdale, and Deborah Lewis**.

Our hats are off to these people for a job well done. Many Thanks to to all !



**OUTSIDE
STORAGE
SHED**



Preliminary plans for a possible outside storage shed is in the works. Tommy Morell informed the membership at the January meeting that before sketches or estimates of a free standing type of shed are developed, LeClaire City Hall, and/or the railroad, who we lease the parking lot from, should be contacted regarding any restricted use of the easement which is situated in the area of the South end of our parking lot. Debbie Smith will look into this.

Our President, Debbie Smith, reported at the January Meeting, on behalf of our 2015 Community Affairs Director, **Terri Applegate**, who was not in attendance, that the "**LeClaire Remembered**" project which was started last year and was headed up by Judy Hartig and Jackie Stepaniak, before Judy moved to Colorado, and Jackie was elected to the Executive Board as Secretary, will now be continued by **Linda Hatcher** and **Deborah Lewis**. The overall project now falls under our new Community Affairs Director.

Many interviews of area wide senior citizens have already taken place and filmed. There is more to be done with some possible connections with a local or county museum. It is still a worthwhile project and we hope that it will be completed in some fashion or another. As for now, contact Terri Applegate or Debbie Smith at 349-4403 for further information.

**CIVIC CLUB
SPRING TRIVIA
SCHEDULE**

2015

Mar.- 21 - Pioneer Village

Apr.- 18 - LeClaire Famer's Market

May- 16 - LeClaire 4-H Clovers

Then no Trivia till Fall
Mark Your Calendars & enter a team.



**Harriet Joens
in St. Mary's
Home**

Harriet Joens says hello. She is presently an in-patient at St. Mary's Home in Davenport. She would surely appreciate some visitors and/or cards. Help brighten up her stay and stop in to visit if you get a chance. Thanks a lot! Questions? Call Debbie at 349-4403 or Ray Joens at 289-5870.

**YOU CAN WIN CASH
AT OUR MEETING**



At each General Membership Meeting you can win \$5.00 or more just by being there. We have a \$5 Attendance Prize, and if your dues are paid up, & you are present, you might win much more cash. It pays to be there. Hope to see you at the next meeting.



LeCLAIRE CIVIC CLUB ANNUAL CORPORATION MEETING FEBRUARY 2015



2014 Presidential Report & 2015 President's Remarks

Twenty-Three members and Guests were present at the Annual Corporation Meeting of the LeClaire Civic Club. The guests and 2015 Officers and Directors were introduced by **Debbie Smith**, our outgoing and incoming President. Debbie gave a short speech on the high-lights of last year which included several fund raising successes, new projects such as our ongoing "LeClaire Remembered" and the establishment of our "Emergency Fund". She mentioned several other projects such as Christmas in LeClaire which last year included a Santa's Gift-shop out building, A Thank-You Lunch for first responders and LeClaire City Personnel, and the initiation of our Wednesday Community Coffees. She also made special note of our strong financial status, an updated Mission Statement, and many updates to our facility, such as kitchen improvements, a new Big Screen TV with electronic attachments for Trivia Games, and exterior improvements. Throughout the year we had many speakers present at our monthly meetings to talk on various topics. Bunco is starting to catch on, and we had a nice year end with an off site Christmas Dinner attended by many of our members.

Debbie made some remarks as the in-coming 2015 President. We need to find ways to show more appreciation of members involvement in every activity, encourage members to serve on the Board of Directors in 2016, and she closed by challenging every member to sign up at least one new member in 2015.

There were no comments from the floor. All the members present recognized her efforts last year with applause, and wished her good luck in her second term this year.

Out-Going Treasurer's Report

Joyce Kuehl, our Treasurer for 2014 & 2015 presented her Annual Financial Report to all the members present. Copies were distributed for review. According to her Report, total Revenue for 2014 was about **\$23,500** which was up from the previous year by about **23%**. Our total Expenses were about **\$23,000** which showed an increase of about **39%** over 2013. So, we brought in a lot more revenue, but spent a lot more over previous years. Revenue from rentals was down by about **\$ 678.00** from 2013. Revenue from dues was down by about **\$280** for a **23%** loss. Revenue from Trivia (not counting the Kitchen) was up by **\$1,763.85** for an increase of **38%** over 2013. Bingo revenue was down by about **\$200**. We had **three** major meal fundraiser in 2013 that brought in a total of **\$1,914** compared to this year's **two** meal fundraisers bringing in only **\$1,517**. Our RADA Knives fund raiser which had a **28%** profit of **\$556.26** for this year made up for the lost revenue for one less meal fund raiser.

Some examples of month in / month out expenses are as follows: Our Utilities, including Water, Sewer, and Gas & Electric went up by **\$558.00** for an increase of **17%**. This was due to normal increases and more free use of our building. Bug control costs went up by **\$75** which was an increase of **17%**. Donations to our club for this year were **\$ 1,221.22** compared to last year's **\$729.75**, an increase of about **40%**.

Major improvements this year amounted to **\$4,075.59**, which included such items as a new refrigerator, coffee pots and roasters, dumpster fencing, big screen TV, special camera, tent, ladder, etc. We own our building and the insurance is paid up. The Report was approved.



SWISS STEAK DINNER

The Civic Club will be hosting our annual **Swiss Steak Dinner** on Saturday, April 25, from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. The tickets will cost **\$9.00** in advance and **\$10.00** at the door. Children **ten years of age and under** will eat for **\$5.00**.

The menu will consist of Swiss Steak (using our secret recipe), Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Dessert, and Drink.

There will be an incentive for our members to sell tickets. **For every ten tickets a member sells, the member will get one free ticket to use at their pleasure.** So, get your tickets from **Wes Kuehl** ASAP and start selling. They usually go pretty fast because those living in and around LeClaire look forward to this meal every year.

Wes will need a lot of member volunteers for Kitchen work, cooking, set up and tear down, watching tables during the event, decorations, Garbage detail, etc. Please call Wes Kuehl to volunteer and to sell tickets at **289-4205** or **528-4259**.

This has proved to be one of our biggest fund-raisers of the year. It can raise a lot of much needed funds but will require a lot of work to pull it off. Please do not force a handful of members to do everything. Call soon and volunteer a few hours. Every little bit helps. Funds raised will be used on building renovation and equipment.

SELL THOSE TICKETS !!!



WINTER STORMS ARRIVED

Our last few Winters have been fairly mild, but this January brought a big one followed by more ice and snow which caught everyone kind of by surprise. Here is a picture of a big tree laden with ice & snow about 5 PM one evening up by Ron & Linda Leiby's home. With all the ice hanging on every branch of the trees all over town, it took on the appearance of a *Winter Wonderland*.

TUG-FEST !

It's not too early to start your planning for Tug-Fest which is **August 13-15** this year. Our club will take part in the event with Bingo on the Levee and A Saturday morning Breakfast. We will need many members volunteering. So... you can call any Board Member to let them know when you are available.

RON LEIBY SURVIVES SERIOUS OPERATION

Ron Leiby, long time active member and our Newsletter Editor for over 15 years, was unexpectedly admitted to Genesis West for an emergency brain injury. The December 21st operation was successful and everything turned out alright. He and his family wish to thank everyone who sent cards, visited, cooked meals for the family, sent flowers, etc., while he was in the hospital during the Christmas Holidays.

-Leiby Family



BUFFALO BILL'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Buffalo Bill Museum celebrated **William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's** birthday (**Feb.26, 1845 in LeClaire**) on February 22nd. It was free admission for everyone and many citizens and dignitaries showed up to enjoy the Sunday afternoon. Pictured above is John Giovanazzi, portraying Buffalo Bill for the event, and standing next to him is a visitor's daughter Samantha Gerstel, who took advantage of the museum's new children's room Dress Up Corner. Many Civic Club members were in attendance.

Buffalo Bill, lived an unbelievable life; the likes of which will never be lived again by anyone. During his life, he was a Supply Wagon Driver, a Pony Express Rider, A Herder of Horses and cattle, Soldier and Scout in the 7th Kansas Infantry during the Civil War, a Trapper, A Guide, a Scout for many Western Cavalry Regiments, Indian Fighter, Hotel Manager, Miner, Entrepreneur in several ventures; Three times a millionaire, Buffalo Hunter for the Kansa Pacific Railroad, A Guide and Chief of Scouts for the 5th Cavalry in which he received the Congressional Medal of Honor, A Sharp Shooter, A Justice of the Peace, a Play Actor on the Eastern Stages, Elected to the Nebraska Legislature, Owner and performer in his infamous "Wild West Show" throughout the U.S. and many foreign countries. He even had a big hand in the beginning of the Boy Scouts organization. **WHAT A LIFE!**

If you get a chance, visit the museum and check out the expanded display on Buffalo Bill.



2014

LeCLAIRE CIVIC CLUB

CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

Our 2014 Christmas Dinner Outing was very successful with close to 30 members showing up to enjoy the food and festivities. The Restaurant choice for the event was "Dynasty Buffet" at 5388 Elmore Circle in Davenport. The Buffet was fabulous with many opportunities to sample some dishes that you may not have ever tried. No one went away hungry!

Our President, Debbie Smith was trying hard to give a Million Dollar Candy Bar to a member that was an essential part of last year's success, but every time she came up with a name, there was another member that contributed as much or more during the year. After she cycled through all the members present...she finally realized she could not award it to anyone single person because she said that all members efforts were pretty equal, so she just thanked all & ate the candy later herself !



Debbie tries unsuccessfully to award a Million Dollars Candy Bar to **Carolyn Carstens**.



Many members enjoying the great dinner. ...and many went back for seconds!



Debbie once again tries to award the Million Dollar Candy with no luck... first to **Shirley Clark** & then to her husband, **Jay Clark**. It was on to the next table to look for that Best volunteer member.

HOPE YOUR CHRISTMAS WAS VERY MERRY !

WISE OBSERVATIONS

- Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
- Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
- The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
- Some of us have reached the age where the happy hour is a nap.
- Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
- A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you are in deep water.