

# THE CIVIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 16

"A Community Association of Volunteers since 1938"

Issue 2

## YEAR 2015

### President,

*Debbie Smith*

### Vice-President,

*Vern Spring*

### Treasurer,

*Joyce Kuehl*

### Secretary,

*Jackie Stepaniak*

### Directors,

*Terri Applegate*

*Vicky Haynes*

*Wes Kuehl*

*Dan Morrell*

*Tom Morrell*

Sept., 2015

**OUR 77th YEAR!**

Newsletter Editor , *Ron Leiby*



## **RON LEIBY** **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** **FOR SIXTEEN YEARS,** **TO STEP DOWN**

**Ron Leiby** has decided that 16 years is enough. So, as of December 31st, 2015, he is stepping down. Records show that he has created and published close to 38 Newsletters during that time period, with each one consisting of 9 - 13 pages of club and community news. Add to that the hours it took to take multiple pictures during all of our club events, special community wide events, research, interviews, hours upon hours on his computer, back and forth to Davenport Printing, distribution, and well.... it all added up to a huge number of hours. Perhaps new blood will bring new ideas, a new vision, and perhaps a much better newsletter for our club as it ventures deeper into the 21st century. He doesn't regret the years of work he has put into the publication. Actually, he says it has been a lot of fun, coming up with new publishing ideas, formats, picture placements, humor, and just making everything come together before it was distributed to the members and public.

Ron was 53 years old when he put out the first newsletter and he just had his 69th birthday. That's almost two decades. No one can blame him or be too terribly disappointed that he is giving it up. He thanks all who may have helped over the years, and for the many, many compliments he received on the newsletter.

Who ever decides to take on the responsibility can depend on him sharing his experience and assistance once in a while. But...he doesn't want to smother the person's creativity. He will look forward to reading their newsletter. In fact, it will most likely be very enjoyable to just read someone else's newsletter for a change.

**If you are interested in the Newsletter Editor position, please contact Debbie Smith at 349-4403.**



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.



**CIVIC CLUB NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT TO STUDY POSSIBLE CHANGES**

At a recent Board Meeting, one of the topics discussed was how we could reduce costs of our newsletter, add content which would highlight our aid and donations to the community, distribution methods, printer company review, format, and the web. After much discussion, it was decided to appoint a committee at the next General Membership Meeting to look into these items and report their recommendations back to the Board of Directors. Our Newsletter Editor would Chair the committee, which would include the President, and a few regular members. A report will soon be made to the Board.

**CIVIC CLUB FOOD DRIVE**



Enthusiastic Volunteers were collecting food supplies from drive in citizens of LeClaire. They filled many boxes of much needed non-perishable food for local pantry.



One of the co-chairwomen, Terry Applegate, seen here working with volunteers to hopefully fill up a van full of food. It was a very hot and muggy day.

The Civic Club had a Food Drive in our Parking Lot on Friday September 4th and Saturday the 5th. We collected many canned goods & non-perishable items. All will be donated to the local food pantry right here in LeClaire. All items will be very appreciated by those families in need. Thanks to the Committee Co-Chaired by Terry Applegate, & Jackie Stepaniak.

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY PROJECT ORGANIZED BY THE LeCLAIRE CIVIC CLUB !**

**CIVIC CLUB TRIVIA NIGHT RAISES THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR THE BENEFIT OF LECLAIRE AND SURROUNDING AREA**



Since the LeClaire Civic Club took on the responsibilities of organizing and running the monthly Trivia Night Games, many LeClaire and surrounding area charitable organizations, families in need, and

worthwhile causes have benefited to the tune of thousands of dollars. We have been operating Trivia Games for about five years or more, and in 2014 alone, we raised **\$6,324.00** which helped fund the **Pleasant Valley Little League**, the **Buffalo Bill Museum**, **Christmas in LeClaire Event** and their **Benevolent Fund**, the **LeClaire Library**, **LeClaire Lion's Club**, and the **LeClaire Civic Center**.

So far this year we have raised **\$3,937.00** which benefited the **Pioneer Village**, the **LeClaire Farmer's Market**, and the **Quad-City Cruisers** (who help Veterans). This Fall, we will raise funds through out Trivia Games for the LeClaire Library, Buffalo Bill Museum, and the Christmas in LeClaire Benevolent Fund. More Games are scheduled for other organizations.

These fund raising events are only a portion of the community projects organized and run by the Civic Club. We do all of this and still have the time to fund, maintain, renovate, and rent out one of the lowest cost rental halls in this area. Have you been contemplating getting involved in this community? A good place to start is the LeClaire Civic Club! Join and help us help this community grow. We meet on the 3rd. Tuesday of each month, at the LeClaire Civic Center, in the South end of the downtown business district on Cody Rd., Pot Luck at 6:30 PM & regular meeting at 7 PM.



**GET INVOLVED, WE NEED YOU!**

# SPRING SWISS STEAK DINNER WAS WELL ATTENDED

This year's Swiss Steak Dinner, chaired by **Wes Kuehl**, and implemented by his committee of **Vicky Haynes** and **Debbie Smith**, along with many hard working club volunteers, was a success.

The event which was held at the LeClaire Civic Center on Saturday, the 25th of April, was attended by over 120 hungry citizens and their families. Many tickets were sold in advance. Tickets were also available at the door. The meal, which consisted of very tender swiss steaks, mashed potatoes, green beans, fruit cups, many dessert choices, coffee, and lemonade, was thoroughly enjoyed by the crowd. A lot of townfolk look forward to this Spring event which we have been providing for countless years.

Hats off to the committee and its chairman for a job well done, and a special thanks to all of you who went above what we expected and sold 20 or more advanced tickets. After expenses, we cleared \$ 754

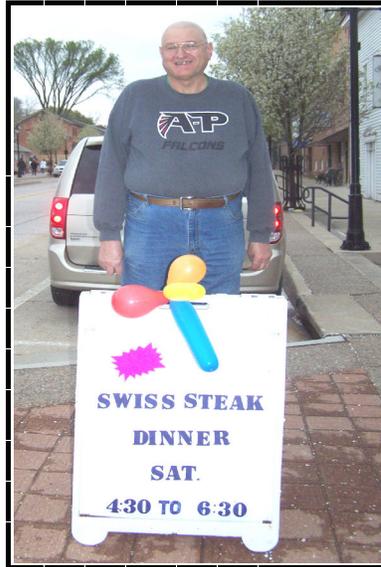


As usual, the crowd is chompin' at the bit to get at that Swiss Steak!

## PICTURES BY RON LEIBY



**Carl Carstens** is just checkin' the heat for the meat.



**David Wubben** makes sure our sign is in the right place.



One of our many shifts of servers dishin' it out and welcoming the towns folk as they line up for the good food. Pictured above is L/R, **Deborah Lewis**, **Darlene Nichols**, and **Jackie Stepaniak**.



Making sure the food is ready to serve is **Deborah Lewis**



Taking tickets and money are **Joyce Kuehl**, our **Treasurer**, and **Tom Bloomingdale**.



Delicious desserts were available to choose. Workin' the table were **Vicky Haynes** & **Alberta Spiess**.

## 501 C-3 STATUS

When we first re-organized back in 1998, we discovered that our 501C-3 Tax Exempt Status had lapsed. We still had our 501A Tax Exempt status corporation papers from the state of Iowa, but not our Federal Exemption. When we re-filed in 1998, we did not have nearly enough financial data to back up our request for the Federal 501C-3, so they gave us a 501C-4. About the only difference is the ability for someone to donate to our organization and take it off of their federal taxes, and for us not to be able to apply for many financial grants. With the 501C-4, which is a Federal Exempt *Social Organization*, We do not have those options.

So.... now that we have about 16 years of financial data records, it was voted on by the membership to once again apply for 501C-3 Status with the federal government. Our board is in the process of doing that. It must be done just right and we will probably need a good tax attorney or someone with experience in the tax exempt field. There will be a hefty cost, but well worth it if we can get reclassified. We are hopeful that we will succeed this time.

## WE HELP OUT THE SCOUTS



At a recent meeting the members voted to allow the Boy Scouts to use our parking Lot and access to our water for their annual Car Wash Fund Raiser.

## VACUUM CLEANER REPLACED



Our old vacuum cleaner needed to be replaced. Cleaning Contractor gave us a good deal on a much better used one. It was a lot cheaper than buying a brand new one. **Thanks Connie.**



## BUILD YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONE AT A TIME

Membership. It's a tough subject. We always have to be working on it, even if it's just to maintain a certain level of members within our club. Members are either moving away, passing away, or just drifting away from the club. And... they have to be replaced just to maintain our current year end membership level. Sometimes it's a tough job to just do that.

Growth requires us to think beyond that, to think outside the box, to come up with ways to sign up more members than we lose each year. We have to set goals. At what level do we need to be to continue being a meaningful organization within our community? How many members do we need to accomplish what it is we wish to do? Where do we want to be in five years, or beyond? Now is the time to start thinking about it, not five years from now.

I know you have heard this before... but a 200 membership level is a good goal to start with. It's not impossible, other organizations have achieved that level and more. For example, the Buffalo Bill Museum has 433 members. And yes.... they are not all active, but there are other advantages to a large membership.... one being our budget. More members equates to more dues. 100 members X \$8 equals \$800, but 200 members X \$8 equals \$1600. 400 would bring in \$3200 a year. So, it's not just a Membership Drive, it's also a Fund Raiser. Like I said... you have to think outside the box!

It's not too late to start planning. The toughest part of a long journey is that first step.



## BUNCO!

Bunco starts up again on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 10:30 AM -12:30 PM. 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!

Last Spring, a big crowd amounted 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. Car pool would be a good idea. So, spread the news 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. It's a lot of fun... don't miss out. Presently the Civic Club donates the use of their hall to the community for Bunco. 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.



## CONGRATULATIONS SKIP SUITER

**Skip's name was recently drawn for the Progressive Drawing and he walked away with \$15.00. When you attend one of our meetings... you just never know what might happen. It may be your turn soon!**



**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, and a \$10 charge to use our exterior lighted sign. We also offer a Wedding Arch & Chocolate Fountain. To Reserve the building, go to our Web Site, [leclaircivicclub.org](http://leclaircivicclub.org), or call Vicky at 639-4621.**



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



**Dear Members,**

Have you seen the Civic Center lately? The updates to our kitchen are super! Changes have been made to the front door hallway, and in the main hall as well. Come and see them!

The last few months have been really busy. Our members have truly earned the title of "**Volunteer**". All of our events have been well attended. Even though it is a lot of hard work to host any type of event, our "Volunteers" make all that hard work seem like a lot of fun!

Have you attended an event or a meeting lately? We are always looking for new ideas for a "special program" for a meeting, or a new community event to host or get involved in. Only four months left this year. Let's make the best of that time to cap off a great year. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. I always enjoy seeing & hearing from you. Thanks to every member for being such great "Volunteers".

**- Debbie**



**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 !**



**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.

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

**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 - Tom 449-6120 or Jeff 340-2065



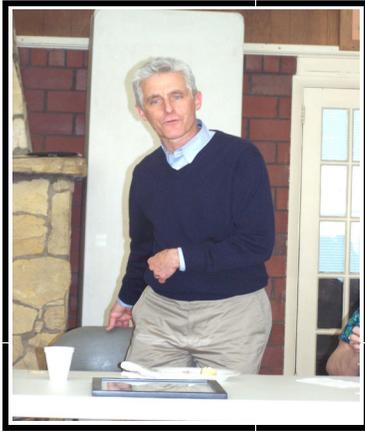
**16 YEARS  
AS EDITOR**

**WEB SITE - [leclaircivicclub.org](http://leclaircivicclub.org)**  
**If you have some ideas, digital pictures of Civic Club projects or of big LeClaire events for our newsletter, please call our President at 349-4403 or email [smith5grand@gmail.com](mailto:smith5grand@gmail.com)**



**Made in  
LeClaire,  
Iowa, USA**

## APRIL SPEAKER



At our April General Membership Meeting, **Mark Smith**, representing the **"Hand in Hand"** non-profit organization, gave a short presentation about the organization's programs. It was interesting and very informative.

He explained to the members present that the organization assists families with special needs. It exists primarily to expand the capabilities, confidence, and quality of life for children and young adults of all abilities by providing programs designed to encourage fun, learning and social interaction in a positive environment. One of those programs, which is called **"Inspiration Studio"**, partners artists with special needs and local art professionals. 100% of the proceeds benefit individuals with special needs. He passed out some of the note cards that were created through this program.

Hand in Hand is located at 3860 Middle Road in Bettendorf, Iowa. For more information, you can call 332-8010, or access its website at [www.handinhandqc.org](http://www.handinhandqc.org).



**CIVIC CLUB  
ELECTION NIGHT  
NOMINATION  
COMMITTEE  
APPOINTED**

Members of the Nominations Committee will be contacting you. and you can contact them too, about placing your name in nomination for a position on the Board of Directors for 2016. The one year term offices are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or one of 5 Director spots. Be the first to step up to the plate and get your name on the ballot. ELECTION - November Regular Member Meeting. Call Debbie at 349-4403.

## PARKING LOT RECOVERED WITH NEW TAR COATING



Dan Morrell & Paul Smith applying a Blacktop Covering on our Parking Lot

*Picture by Vicky Haines*

The club decided it was time to resurface our parking lot. Although it would be a big task and some costs would be involved, it had to be done. **Dan Morrell and Paul Smith** were up to that task and put a lot of hours into it. It wound up costing about **\$950**, more than we originally figured, but still well below having it professionally done. It should be OK for another 5 years or so. In addition, the process and material we used this time will allow us to do it for much less next time. The parking lot parking lines will be added later. Above is a picture taken by **Vicky Haynes** which shows those two members hard at work. A big thanks goes out to those volunteers.



**RIB EYE  
STEAK DINNER  
COMING SOON  
CIVIC CENTER**

The Civic Club will host a Rib Eye Steak Dinner at the **LeClaire Civic Center** on **September 12th**. We will be serving from **4 -7 PM**. The dinner consists of Rib Eye Steak, Baked Potato, Corn, Rolls, and Drinks. There will also be an assortment of Desserts. The cost is **\$10.00 in advance** and **\$12.00 at the door**. There will also be a 50/50 drawing held during the event.

So, come on down for a delicious steak dinner and bring your family and friends. Tickets are available from many Civic Club members or you can call our President, **Debbie Smith** at **349-4458**, or **Vicky Haines** at **639-4621** Carry Outs will be available.

## CHRISTMAS IN LeCLAIRE IS IN PLANNING STAGE

Joyce Kuehl, a member of the Planning Committee, tells us it's a go for another great event. The Committee looks forward to the challenges, and with a lot of volunteers stepping up, will conquer them all. The event which is scheduled for December 4th through the 6th will be just as good or even better than previous events.

If you would like to be involved, call Joyce at 289-4205. There's plenty of work to go around. Call her now.



**Steve Suitor**, Civic Club member, and long time resident and business man in the LeClaire area, stands next to the antique 1939 Chris Craft speed boat, which the Suitor family recently donated to the Buffalo Bill Museum. Dedication was August. 23 at the museum.



We're always looking for new people, new blood, new ideas, etc... Here are three new members that joined our club within the last six months. L/R - **Jill & David Wubbena**, and **Susan Filbrandt**.

As of Spring of this year paid members was 94. We need many, many more. That's where you come in. If each one of you sign up one new member... we'll double our total members. It's not impossible to do.

**Let's Git 'er Done!**



## SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL INCLUDE A POT LUCK MEAL

Our regular Membership Meeting on September 25 will offer up a Pot Luck Meal. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to the meeting. It can be a meat dish, vegetables, salad, dessert, or whatever you have at home. The club may have something there too, you never know. The club will have Pop and bottled water on site for purchase. The dinner will be starting at about 6:30 PM, followed by the regular business meeting. Hope to see you all there. Bring a prospective new member with you as a guest.

## EXTERIOR LED SIGN

At a previous General Membership meeting the members present voted to look into purchasing an exterior Light Emitting Diode sign. (LED) It will be a great improvement over our present sign and much easier to manage. New messages can be placed on the sign via a keyboard from inside our building. Some permanent messages could be placed into memory and easily inserted whenever we want them to appear.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Beginning in 2016, our membership dues will increase. At this time the dues are \$7.50 each member. Next year the dues will be \$8.00 each, and \$15.00 for a couple. Our administrative costs, insurance, utilities, etc. have been going up each year. We felt the dues increase was justified. It is still one of the cheapest club dues in the entire area.

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS AVAILABLE TO RENT

We now have a beautiful **Wedding Arch**, and a **Chocolate Fountain** that can be rented for **\$25.00 each** by those who wish to use them during wedding receptions, etc., held at our Civic Center. We are always looking for additional items that can enhance our renters experience at our building.

## TRIVIA STARTS UP AGAIN

Our Trivia Games will start up again this **September, the 3rd Saturday**, and will benefit the **LeClaire Library**. We will need an M.C... Caller, Floor help, Raffle Sellers during the event, Kitchen Help, Set Up, Tear down, and clean up help. Can you help a couple of hours? We raise a huge amount of money for the non profit organizations within our community as a result of this monthly event;

The doors will open at about 6:30 PM. The cost for individuals is \$10.00 and a team of eight would cost \$80.00. A team has to have at least five people. There will be mulligans for sale. You can bring your own food and drink, but there will be some food, desserts, and drinks sold in the kitchen.



## CIVIC CLUB WEDNESDAY MORNING SOCIAL GATHERING

The Civic Club is hosting a wednesday morning free breakfast and social gathering event again this September through May of next year.

Invite your friends and possible new member prospects down to the Civic Center between 8 AM to about 9:30 AM to enjoy a breakfast on us and a chance for them to get to know what our club is about. We are hosting this event with hopes of encouraging citizens to get involved in our organization.

**Hope to see you there.**

## THINK ABOUT IT.....

- Protons have mass. I didn't even know they were Catholic.
- I had amnesia once... Maybe twice.
- How can there be self help "Groups" ?

## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR KITCHEN LATELY?

**Tom Morrell** has been very busy! Almost single handedly, he has rejuvenated the kitchen. Dan Morrell helped him with some of the bigger items, but overall it's been his show. We have new sinks, new counter tops, a new paint scheme, new hardware, Cabinet rearrangement with liners placed on the bottom shelves, and boy...does it look sharp! If you have not seen it for a while, you have to stop in at a regular meeting, or during our wednesday morning free breakfast, or come to Trivia Night, and check it out. Then the next time you see Tom, and Dan, say thanks for the hours of hard creative work. Our club is always looking to improve our building.

**Tom Morrell** proudly stands in \$2700 redesigned kitchen.



New Heath Dept. required Triple Sink



New style high swivel faucet and sink.



New Countertops All Around

## OUTSTANDING JOB !!!



Some cabinets were removed that were not needed in order to open up the work space more and provide space for a larger refrigerator as needed future. New window blinds were installed. The overall results were fantastic! This is a major improvement over the previous kitchen.



In addition to the complete kitchen overhaul, Tom also moved all of the wall plaques belonging to the American Legion, the Civic Club & former Civic Club Auxiliary from the main hall to the entry way inside the front door. It's a much better arrangement and much more visible to the public as they enter the Civic Center.



# TUG FEST EVENT AND OUR FUND RAISERS



Ten of the seventeen **Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast** Volunteers helping out in the kitchen. L/R - **Lori Ewoldt, Karen Rodgers, Jackie Stepaniak, Barb Fullmer, Alberta Spies, Deborah Lewis, Janet Willman, Susan Filbrandt, Joyce Kuehl (Chr.), & Linda Leiby.**

Once again, Tug Fest was a lot of fun, but also a lot of work. The Civic Club ran our Saturday Morning Tug Fest Breakfast along with four days of Bingo on the Levee. Both events took a lot of planning, and a lot of volunteers to pull them off.

**Wes Kuehl**, chairman of the **Bingo Games**, put together some great shifts of members to set up, tear down, man the tables, and call all the games, to make this years Bingo a great success again. After expenses, we cleared **\$ 1,228.00**. Our Treasury, which has been a little low for a while can sure use these funds. Wes thanks all members who volunteered their time during this four day event.

Our **Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast** on Saturday morning not only served the public at large, but also all of the Competition Tuggers on the Iowa side as well. It took a lot of planning and implementation to pull it off. Many volunteers stepped forward to assist, before, during, and afterwards. The committee, chaired by **Joyce Kuehl**, thanks all seventeen members who donated their time and efforts to make this event successful. After expenses, and a low turnout, we cleared **\$ 261.12**.

Total funds raised during Tug-Fest was **\$1,489.12**.



**ALL ABOARD !!!**



**AROUND & AROUND, UP & AWAY !!!**



**THE TUG OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE ALL IS READY TO GO**



**BORN TO BE WILD !!!**



**THE TUG CROWD WAS OPTIMISTIC !**



**Tom Bloomingdale**, one of many Bingo Callers, starts another game.



**YOU COULD WIN YOUR VERY OWN ALIEN**



**THERE WAS PLENTY OF BEER..... BUT, WE LOST AGAIN (9-2) MAYBE NEXT TIME...**



This couple played Bingo for a very long time, won some, lost some, and enjoyed the day.



**... AND FOOD GALORE !**