

THE CIVIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 14

"A Community Association of Volunteers since 1938"

Issue 2

YEAR 2013

President,

Ron Leiby

Vice-President,

Tom Bloomingdale

Treasurer,

Joyce Kuehl

Secretary,

Debbie Smith

Directors,

Jeff Dugan

Vicki Haynes

Wes Kuehl

Dan Morrell

Vern Spring

July, 2013

OUR 75th YEAR!

Newsletter Editor , *Ron Leiby*



MOMMA MIA!
OUR SPAGHETTI DINNER
WAS
"MOLTO DELIZIOSO!"

Everyone seemed to enjoy our Spaghetti Dinner held at the Civic Center on Friday evening, June 21st. The committee, consisting of **Ron Leiby, Joyce & Wes Kuehl, Dan Morrell, Vicky Haynes & Tom Bloomingdale**, planned this event. The food was very good, and the Salad Bar and Desserts were fantastic! The background Italian music was a nice touch too. Although the pre-event ticket sales time was short, it was still a big plus for us. A special thanks to those selling prior to the event. We sold about 50 in advance and about 25 at the door. Next time we will definitely need more time to sell tickets in advance. We served dinners to 72 adults & 3 children. After expenses, we cleared **\$ 462.50**. Our members voted to deposit all of it into our Emergency Fund!

It takes a lot of members to pull off an event like this... and the members came through for us. Thanks to the many members that made & donated salads & desserts. The day before the event, the hall & kitchen floors were mopped & cleaned by **Ron Leiby**, and all tables & chairs were set up by **Ron & Wes Kuehl**. In addition, **Joyce Kuehl** picked up all the fixings for the spaghetti & meatballs, etc. and delivered them to the hall. On the day of the event, the following helped ; **Joyce & Wes Kuehl, Wes Kuehl III, Ron & Linda Leiby, Alberta Spies, Janet Willman, Debbie Smith, Lori Ewoldt, Marsha Peters, Connie Curlott, Diane Spring, Gloria Byrd, and Libby Platt.** If I left someone out... I am very sorry. So, all in all, it took about 15-20 members to ensure that our first Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser was successful.



MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 9

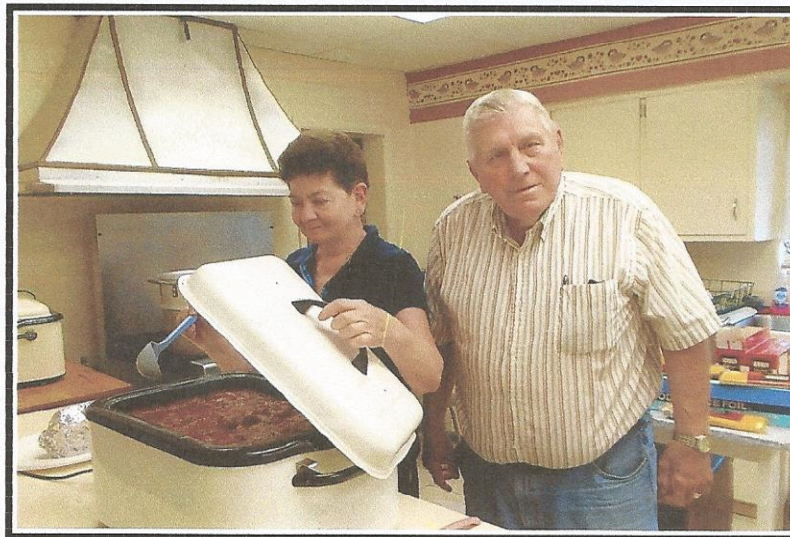


LeClaire's Famous 'Green Tree' is the LeClaire Civic Club's logo.

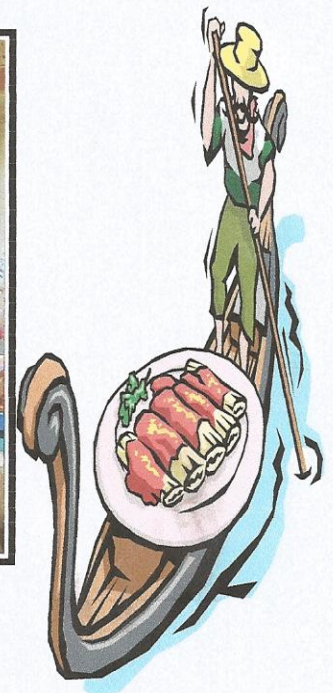
The LeClaire Civic Club was organized Dec. 12th, 1938.

The Civic Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month with a Pot-Luck Dinner at 6:30 PM and regular meeting at

7 PM in the LeClaire Civic Center. You are welcome.



Wes Kuehl & Marsha Peters working on the Spaghetti Sauce

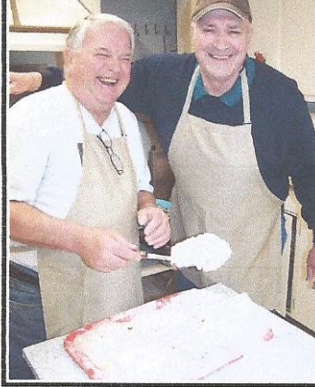


SWISS STEAK DINNER

Last Spring's Swiss Steak Dinner came off pretty well considering our Chairman was pulled off of the project a day before, due to his job, and a well publicized fund raiser just North of us, in Princeton, siphoned off many of our regular customers. What helped us a lot was pre-event ticket sales. Several of our members sold many dinner tickets way ahead of time. This, plus the walk ins and carry outs, and donations at the door, saved the day for us. We were only down about \$200 off our regular expected gross, and after expenses we made **\$ 832.70**.

A big thanks goes to our Dinner Committee, which consisted of **Wes & Joyce Kuehl, Dick Wales, Ron Leiby, Tom Bloomingdale, Dan Morrell & Vicky Haynes**. In addition to these, there were many members that stepped forward to help sell tickets before the event, and work the day of the event in the kitchen, out at the tables, cleaning up, setting up, tearing down, at the door, on the dessert table, the fruit cup table, etc., etc. **Thanks to all who helped**. Your tremendous efforts were very appreciated.

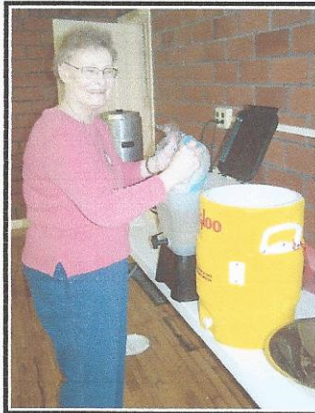
All these pictures were taken by Ron Leiby



(Left) Jay Clark & Carl Carstens sure enjoy their work!



(Right) Shirley Clark keeping all those trays clean & ready to go back on the line.



(Left) Lori Ewoldt prepares refreshing Lemonade.



(Right) Wilma Pitsenbarger serves the fruit cups and bread rolls.



Left-Right, Lori Ewoldt, Diane Spring, Darlene Nichols, & Debbie Smith work a shift on the Kitchen Serving Line.



Mayor Bob Scannell & Wife, Rita (Right side of picture to left) enjoy our Swiss Steak meal along with friends.



Another picture of some more folks enjoying the meal and some friendly conversation.

We filled the Hall most of the night!



Libby Platt, in the kitchen, washing pots & pans.... again. She says, "Oh No...Not Again... you always seem to get the same picture...me, washing the dishes."



Tom Bloomingdale tallies up the pre-event ticket sales. "According to my figures, we're in the black. If we get about 50 or more walk ins... we should do just fine, even with the other Princeton fund raiser going on at the same time." He figured right... 'the pre-ticket sales saved the day.

SOME THANK-YOUs HAD TO BE MADE IN PERSON



Dr. Lisa Nix was unable to be at the Corporation Meeting on March 26, so Last year's President, **Wes Kuehl** and This year's President, **Ron Leiby** visited her Eye Clinic in LeClaire and presented her with a framed certificate thanking her for her **Outstanding Community Support** of our LeBarge Fundraiser



You can always count on **Rich Henning** and LeClaire Happy Joe's, and he sure came through for us and the "**Blackie**" LeBarge family last Fall. For his **Outstanding Community Support** for his amazing help and generosity, 2012 President, **Wes Kuehl** and 2013 President, **Ron Leiby** visited him on site during lunch hour at his place of business and presented him with a framed certificate and our thanks. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the Annual Civic Club Corporation Meeting on March 26.

WE ALWAYS APPRECIATE THE HELP FROM OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES... WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT...SOME OF OUR EVENTS WOULD BE MUCH HARDER TO PUT ON.
PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN...

ANNUAL CLEANING DAY

On Monday, July 1st., a handful of members volunteered to do some much needed cleaning at the Civic Center. Our windows really needed a going over, along with the outside of our building and several other neglected areas. They all met at about 9:30 AM and went to work. We also cleaned up and reorganized the kitchen drawers. The following members were present; Ron Leiby, Dan Morrell, Vicky Haines, Joyce Kuehl, & Tom Bloomingdale. Thanks to those energetic volunteers. The outside of our building looks a lot cleaner.

FIRST FRIDAY FUND RAISING EVENT

During **First Friday Festivities** in LeClaire on August 2nd, the Civic Club will be selling **Roasted Sweet Corn & Ice Cream** from our Parking Lot. It will be pretty easy work. We hope to raise much needed funds to shore up our club's Emergency Fund.

We will need volunteers from about 9AM - 3PM. So, please call **Ron Leiby** at **289-5259**, or **Joyce Kuehl** at **289-4205** to sign up for a 2 hour shift. The shifts will be 10 AM - 12 Noon, 12PM - 2PM, & 2PM - to Close.

We will also sell the same things during the British Auto Show on Aug. 3. Check elsewhere in this newsletter.

THE LECLAIRE CIVIC CENTER

HISTORY & PAST PICTURES

The **LeClaire Civic Center** used to be old Kitchen's Corner. The stone structure was originally built in the 1930s by **Captain Frank Kitchen**, a former river man. He lived in a single second story room (there used to be a building with an entire second floor on that sight, see picture to the right) In the lower level there was a tavern, a gas / service station, and a restaurant.

In **1958**, the building had been vacant for about five years and in very poor shape. Some **LeClaire Civic Club** volunteers got together to see if it could be renovated for use as a community center. **Frank Schurr**, a member of the Civic Club at the time, decided to purchase the building and sell it to the Civic Club. They paid him back over a period of many years, using the proceeds from the old "**RIVERESTA**" summer celebration event that was sponsored by the Civic Club.

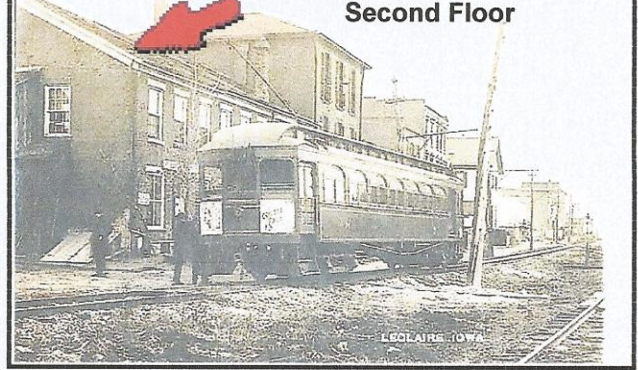
The entire community of LeClaire was behind the renovation and many volunteers stepped forward to help. A lot of the materials were provided "at cost" by local merchants. The **1960 Civic Club President, Don Youngers**, gave a report at a regular meeting stating that the building renovations were coming along just fine and that with the continued help of some more volunteers, they might be able to finish the job by Winter.

The complete renovation was accomplished in the early 1960s and opened to the public. It was owned by the Civic Club and operated by them, along with the Civic Club Auxiliary. The Auxiliary was very instrumental in raising funds for things such as tables & chairs, kitchen appliances and equipment, interior decorations, etc. In 1999, the two civic groups were combined into the Civic Club.

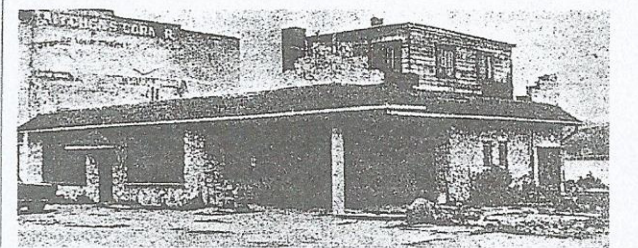
The LeClaire Civic Center has proved to be a big asset to the community over the last 57 years of operation. We have every intention of continuing operations well into the future. Thousands of hours of hard work from hundreds of volunteers over the years have made this center what it is. We have all worked together to keep the original dream alive, which is an example of the saying "**Through Teamwork, The Dream Works**" Thanks to those handful of dreamers, and Frank Schurr, back in 1958, who looked at a run down, completely dilapidated, vacant building, and thought to themselves that with a little hard work, this building could be saved and converted into a very useful and much needed community center.

A side note... Most know this but some of you don't... If you look at the face of the stone fire place, in the main hall, you can still see the "K" in the stone. It stood for Kitchen's corner. The past is always there to remind us that the original volunteers are watching us..... hoping that their dream stays alive.

We need volunteers to keep the dream alive. To honor the original members that started our club back in 1938, please sign up a new Civic Club member today. Our Future is up to You!



Picture of the original building back during the time of the I&I Urban Railroad -Early 1900s.



Old Kitchen's Corner - 1958

Sorry for the grainy picture. The building was in a shambles, completely deteriorated, almost to the point of no return when the Civic Club decided to renovate it into a Community Center.



**LeClaire Civic Center
2013**

1998-2013 New Furnace, Air-Conditioning, Windows, Electrical, Kitchen / Hall Floor, Doors, Siding, Roof, Commercial Stove & Refrigerator, Paved Parking Lot, Ladies Restroom, and more improvements planned!



**LeClaire Civic Center
Paved Parking Lot - 2013**

TUG - FEST

AUGUST 8-10

TUG-FEST is right around the corner and [WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!](#) This is a busy time for us, and we have the opportunity to raise funds we desperately need. We will be hosting **BINGO GAMES** on the levee and a **BISCUITS & GRAVY BREAKFAST** at the Civic Center. Both will require many volunteers.

The **Bingo Games** will be run in three hour shifts, Thursday-Saturday. There will be afternoon and evening shifts. The Bingo also has to be set up and torn down each day. We will need callers (if you have experience at the mike) and table runners to collect money and watch the players. We will need a couple of people on each shift to count the money taken in, keep records, and disperse winnings. If you can help on any of these days (evening is the busiest times) please call **Wes Kuehl** at **289-4205**, or **Ron Leiby** at **289-5259**.

The **Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast** is on Saturday, starting at about 7 AM for the public and the doors close at 11AM. For Civic Club volunteers, some of you will be needed as early as 5 AM to help set up the tables & chairs along with any decorations, and work the kitchen. Then we will need volunteers during the event; serving breakfast, cleaning tables, taking out the trash, taking money at the door, assisting the older citizens, etc. If you can help, and we sure hope you can, call **Dan Morrell** at **579-4126**, or **Ron Leiby** at **289-5259** or **Joyce Kuehl** at **289-4205**

This is our club... please don't make a handful of members do it all by themselves. Please take a shift / s at Bingo, or / and a couple of hours or more at the Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast.



**ABOUT 50
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**



The Board recommended and the members present at the June Regular Membership Meeting agreed to make portions of our parking lot available for rent if the building was not rented for the same time period. So, now a vendor can rent a 10 X 10 foot space for \$15.00 or a 10 X 20 foot space for \$25.00 a day. The vendor would have to call our Booking Agent, Vicky Haynes, no more than a week ahead of the time they would like to use the space... and if the building was not rented for that time period, the vendor would be allowed to set up. Of course, a regular Civic Center building renter, who would expect the parking lot would be available for them, would take preference.

We have had vendors, every now and then, ask to use a portion of our lot. This would give us another source of revenue, and set a standard fee for its use by vendors or citizens. The board is always looking for ways to increase revenue that could be used for the maintenance of our property and to help cover administrative costs.

If any of you can suggest ways for us to save money, or increase revenue, without raising the basic rental cost of our building, please share your ideas with our Board. They are open to new ideas.

YOU HAD TO BE THERE!

Actually, you really did have to be there.... At the April, 2013 Membership Meeting, **John Savage's** name was drawn for a membership prize of **\$20**. But, alas, he wasn't present. The prize then increased to **\$25** for the May meeting, but unfortunately we forgot to bring the paid up membership chips so none were drawn for May. To rectify the situation, we drew twice at the June meeting. We used the list of members present at the May meeting for the first drawing, and the members present at the June meeting for the second drawing. The first name drawn was **Jim Pfeiffer**. The second name drawn was **Wayne Holst**. Neither were there. The July Meeting's Pot will be \$35.

At the May meeting, **Steve Suiter** won the \$5 attendance drawing and after the meeting he donated it back to be used for our **75th Celebration**. Thanks Steve! The \$5 attendance prize for the June meeting was won by **Wes Kuehl**.

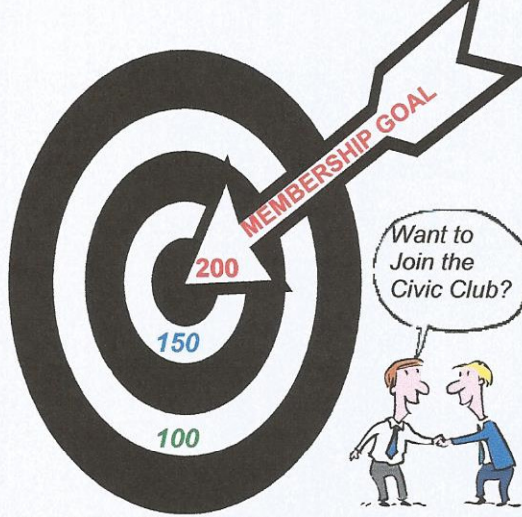
Everyone enjoyed a great Pot Luck Dinner at both of these meetings!

IT PAYS TO COME TO OUR MEETINGS!

**HOPE TO SEE YOU...
AT THE NEXT MEETING**

TARGET

For many years our ultimate goal of **200** total members has never been reached, although not for a lack of trying. A few of us have signed up one or two members this year already... but we need many more of you to get on board to reach **200**. We started with 101. Our intermediate goal is 75 new members in honor of our 75th Anniversary. Once we reach that... we will go for the gold, so to speak, and work on that magical **200** total membership level. We are now at 115 total members. 61 more needed to make 75.



WE CAN DO IT !

AN UNEXPECTED DONATION

At the April General Membership Meeting, **Dan Morrell and Vicki Haynes** donated **\$75.00** to the Civic Club. They had used our parking lot a couple times for their personal food business and the donation was their way of saying thanks. Dan & Vicki do so much for our club by letting us use their equipment, such as their funnel cake stand, tents, etc at no charge over the years, and we really appreciate their generosity. The \$75 was truly unexpected and we thanked them very much.

75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SIGNS

We added a temporary sign to the bottom of our South Cody Rd sign to exclaim our **75 years of community service to LeClaire**. It stands out pretty good with yellow letters on a red background. It will remain for the rest of the year as part of our celebration. We also will display our organization's 75 years of existence on our regular exterior sign, when not being used by our renters, or for any of our fund raisers. It is attached to the South side of our building.

You can help share our news by informing your friends and neighbors about our club's 75 years of community service, and giving them the opportunity to become a member of our community association of volunteers.

Do It Today!

CIVIC CLUB BOARD RECOMMENDATION OKed BY MEMBERS

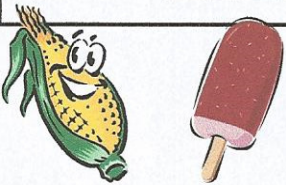
Our membership voted to return to our old policy of requiring the renters to set up their own tables & chairs. Our Maintenance man has retired and it has been tough to get other members to do it as a favor to our renters... so, we will no longer provide that extra service.

The members present at the June Regular Meeting voted to charge an extra \$50 to any renter that would request us to set up their tables & chairs and take them down. At this price, we don't expect many requests.

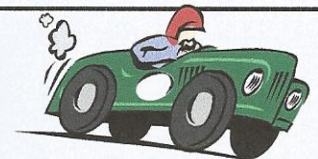
The Board has been authorized to waive that charge at their discretion.

JUST WONDERING...

- Is there another word for synonym?
- What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?
- If a deaf child signs swear words, does his Mother wash his hands with soap?
- If the police arrest a mute, do they still tell him he has the right to remain silent?
- If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown too?
- If you spin an oriental man in a circle three times, will he become... disoriented?
- If a pig loses it's voice, will it become a disgruntled pig?
- What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?



BRITISH AUTO SHOW ON THE LEVEE



On August 3rd, the Civic Club will be selling Roasted Sweet Corn and Ice Cream in the Civic Center Parking Lot from 9 Am to 3pm during the **British Auto Show**. It should be pretty easy work. Please volunteer by calling Ron Leiby at 289-5259 or Joyce Kuehl at 289-4205. Remember, it's a fund raiser that we desperately need to put some additional funds into our club's Emergency Fund.

In addition to the Car Show, there will be a Vendor Craft Show inside the Civic Center on the 3rd of August. Many vendors will display a variety of goods for sale to the public at reasonable prices. So, come on down, bring your family, friends, and neighbors for a whole day of activities, and enjoy some Roasted Sweet Corn and/or some Ice Cream too. **SEE YOU THERE!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- July -** 23 Civic Club Regular Mtg. (Pot Luck -6:30) Mtg -7PM
- Aug -** 1 Civic Club Board Mtg. 12 Noon
 2 **FIRST FRIDAY** (Corn & Ice Cream Fund Raiser)
 3 British Auto Show / (Corn & Ice Cream Fund Raiser)
 8-10 **TUG FEST** (Bingo & Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast)
 27 Civic Club Regular Mtg. (Pot Luck-6:30) Mtg. 7 PM
- Sept. -** 2 **LABOR DAY**
 5 Civic Club Board Meeting 12 Noon
 6 **FIRST FRIDAY in LeCLAIRE**
 8 **Grandparent's Day**
 24 Civic Club Regular Mtg. (Pot Luck-6:30) Mtg 7 PM
- Oct. -** 3 Civic Club Board Mtg. 12 noon
 4 **FIRST FRIDAY in LeCLAIRE**
 22 Civic Club Regular Mtg. (Pot Luck-6:30) Mtg 7 PM
 31 **HALLOWEEN**
- Nov. -** 1 **FIRST FRIDAY in LeCLAIRE**
 7 Civic Club Board Mtg. 12 Noon
 26 Civic Club Reg. Mtg (**Election Night**) Pot Luck Meal
 28 **THANKSGIVING**
- Dec. -** 5 Civic Club Board Mtg 12 Noon
 6-8 **CHRISTMAS IN LeCLAIRE (We are a Sponsor)**
 24 Civic Club Regular Mtg (Pot Luck 6:30) Mtg 7PM
 25 **CHRISTMAS**



WHAT ABOUT AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL?

At the June Membership Meeting, one of our members suggested having more free events open to the public as a way to possibly sign up some new younger members. The possibility of an Ice Cream Social was brought up. We would provide the ice cream cones, or cups, etc. to the public, perhaps in mid to late August or early September, as a means of meeting some new member prospects. The event would be held in our building. We could hand out brochures and talk with those who came in for some Ice Cream on us, and hopefully sign up some new members.

It's a pretty good idea. We need someone to chair this project...or a committee. Would you be interested? If so, please call Wes Kuehl at 289-4205, or Dan Morrell at 639-4621, or Ron Leiby at 289-5259.

WOMEN'S BATHROOM UPDATE



Our women's bathroom is starting to look a lot better. The new sink and mirror are in place. The walls have all been redone with new dry wall, and have been painted a pleasing peach color. We will soon have the baby changing platform installed. Our Building Director and part time contractor, **Jeff Dugan**, has been working on this bathroom project over the past several months. Even though we still have some trim work, a handi-cap rail, & baby changing station to install, it should be complete soon, according to our Women's Bathroom Renovation Committee, which includes Chairman **Dan Morrell**, **Joyce Kuehl**, and **Tom Bloomingdale**.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING TIME & DAY CHANGED

At the request of the newly elected 2013 President, the Civic Club members voted at the November Regular Meeting to change the Board of Directors meeting day. Due to conflicts with some Directors, it has to be changed again to the first Thursday of each month. The time will be 12 Noon at the Civic Center. Due to the Holiday, the meeting on the the 4th of July was held on the 1st of July.



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. 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 !

FOR DOTTIE MORRIS...
Just thought we would say Hello. We miss you & your cookin' ! Hope you're doing OK up in the Northwest... It was a pleasant surprise when you came to our May Membership Meeting while on your recent visit to LeClaire. We wish you well.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM OUR 2013 PRESIDENT...



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 your family events such as Birthday Parties, Retirement Parties, Baby Showers, Bridal Showers, Family Reunions, etc. 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, there is a \$50 charge. There is also a \$10 charge to use our exterior sign. Call Vicky at 639-4621 to reserve the Civic Center.



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's Tel. # 289-5259

Treasurer's Tel. # 289-4205

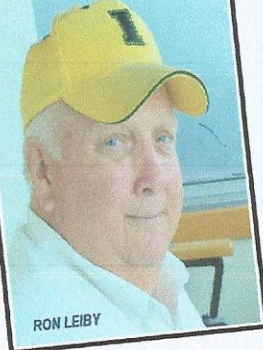
To Reserve Hall # 579-4126

For Building Maintenance

Bldg. Director, Jeff # 340-2065



Made in
LeClaire,
Iowa, USA



Our 75th year is half over. We've had a couple of successful fund raisers, our membership is growing, our new web site is up and over all, we're doing pretty good. But... pretty good isn't good enough. We need to do better in the second half of 2013 if we are going to have the level of success we have been used to in past years. It's time to shift into 2nd gear!

There is a lot more to do before this year is over. We'll be smack dab in the middle of Tug-Fest before you know it, and we desperately need the revenue from that event. Many volunteers will be needed for Bingo and our Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast. We need each and everyone of you to do what ever you can to ensure the success of those two important fund raisers... Much more now, because of the need to fully fund our Emergency Fund, as soon as we can. All of it (about \$18,000) was used to replace our building's roof last year. **We will also need help on Aug 2 & 3rd to sell Roasted Sweet Corn & Ice Cream.** There are a lot of volunteer opportunities available!

In addition, even though our membership is growing... we are way short of our Membership' Director's goal of 75 new members, and my own long time personal goal of 200 total members. There is a definite need for these new members, especially in the 20 - 50 year old level. These are the members that will be needed for this club of ours to accomplish another 75 year milestone. Many of us, including yours truly, will not be around in 2088 to celebrate, what I hope will be, the 150th year anniversary of the Civic Club. We will need new members, with new blood, and new ideas, with fresh legs, so to speak, to carry on the time honored tradition of outstanding volunteer service to our community, which the LeClaire Civic Club has continually provided for the last 74 years. I'm asking each of you to try your best to sign up, and then help us activate, at least one new member during the second half of this year. **The future of our club depends on it.**

In closing, I thank all of you who have put in many volunteer hours so far this year, especially our **Board of Directors**, and **Fund Raising Committees**. I'm proud to be serving as your President during our 75th year. I'm also proud that LeClaire **Mayor, Bob Scannell**, has told us he plans to publicly recognize and thank all present and past members of the Civic Club for 75 years of outstanding service to LeClaire at an August City Council Meeting. I hope you all can attend that meeting. We will frame a copy of his proclamation and place it within the Civic Center for all to see.

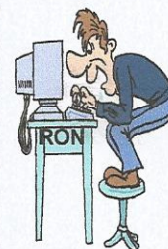
I look forward to the challenges of the second half of this year, and if we all work together, we can still accomplish much and have a good chance of successfully reaching all of our goals.

- *Ron Leiby*, President



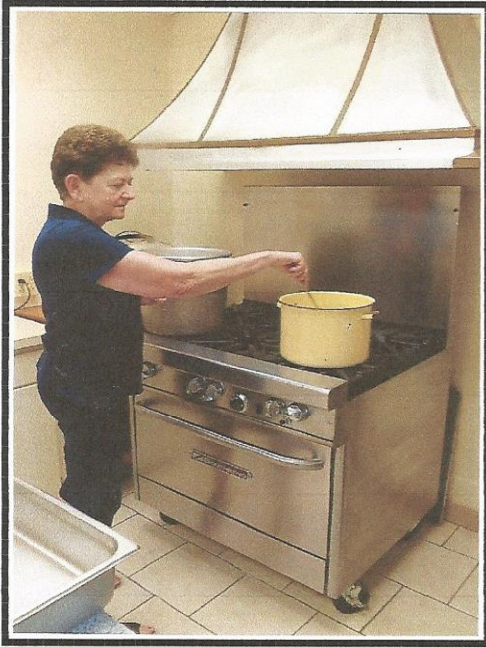
All pictures in this newsletter were either taken by Ron Leiby or copied from local historical documents such as LeClaire's 150th Celebration Booklet.

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





**MORE
PICTURES
FROM OUR
JUNE
SPAGHETTI
DINNER**



Marsha Peters boiling the Spaghetti



Alberta Spies & Joyce Kuehl preparing food for the Salad Bar



Lori Ewoldt & Linda Leiby Prepare the Dessert Table



Connie Curlott & Alberta Spies setting up the Spaghetti Dinner "Salad Bar"