

- ▶ MEMORIAL SERVICES
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CLARENCE cardinal

CLARENCE IOWA: THE HEART OF THE HISTORIC LINCOLN HIGHWAY

The Clarence Main Street office is located at 514 Lombard Street, Clarence, Iowa. The Clarence Cardinal is published independently, in partnership with Clarence Main Street.

Johnson Family Leaves Shining Legacy

The family of Karen Johnson has left a lasting legacy, honoring wife, mother and grandmother, while making Clarence an even more charming place to live, work and visit.

The downtown beautification project began as a labor of love for the Clarence Main Street Design Committee, and that love spread throughout the community. Karen's family saw the importance of those efforts and, in her honor, invested the funds necessary to purchase half of the needed twenty-four solar lampposts.

"My mom was an incredible person who brought joy to everyone around her. Honoring her memory with lights that illuminate the downtown area is a beautiful way to celebrate her radiant spirit and her love for the community that she lived in for almost 50 years. These lights will not only brighten the streets of Clarence, but also continue her legacy of bringing smiles and laughter to others. To us, it's a wonderful reminder of how she lit up the lives of those around her. We hope this investment will be cherished by everyone in the Clarence community, leaving a beautiful mark, just like she did!", said Karen's daughter, Tricia Blakney.



Karen Johnson



The Clarence Main Street is grateful for the generous memorial investment from the Johnson family and will honor Karen's memory with the diligent completion of this project.

CLARENCE
MAIN STREET

THIS & THAT

Yoga with Janel

St. John's UCC Fireside Room

*Yoga, Mondays, 5:30pm \$10

*Sound Meditation, first Sunday of the month, 6pm, suggested \$20 or contribute as you are able.

Preregister with text or call Questions?

Contact Janel at 319-721-9559

The Clarence Main Street Committees (Design/Promotion/Organization/Economic Vitality) invite YOU to join in the fun! Contact the Clarence Main Street office for details.

May is Family Reunion Month

When apple blossoms bloom at night,
For 15 days no rain in sight.

Clarence United Methodist Church New Worship Times
11:15am Sundays, Pastors Derrick and Theodora Okine. All are welcome. 316 7th Avenue

St. John's Food Pantry open
5pm - 7pm every Wed. Use north door at St. John's UCC, 320 9th Ave, Clarence. Worship with St. John's UCC Sunday at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!

320 9th Avenue, Clarence

Gerry Stamp
President
Marcia Syring
Vice President
Terry Hoy
Treasurer

CLARENCE
MAIN
STREET
BOARD

Fritz Drexler
Vicki Hamdorf
Becky Corbett
Jamie Wilhau
Lori Dennis

CLARENCE
MAIN STREET



MAY 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6  RECYCLE PICKUP	7	8 Promotion Meeting 4pm CMS Board Meeting, 5pm	9	10
11	12 City Council, 6:15pm	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Articles due for June Cardinal  RECYCLE PICKUP	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

{submit calendar items to ClarenceNewsletter@gmail.com}

Clarence Main Street Meetings and Events

May 8, 4pm: Clarence Main Street Promotion Committee, Clarence Main Street office

** note: all summer Promotion Committee meetings will be held at the Clarence Park, prior to the Farmer's Market

May 8, 5pm: Clarence Main Street Board Meeting

Clarence Main Street Awarded Grant



Clarence Main Street was recently awarded the Paint Iowa Beautiful grant by Keep Iowa Beautiful and Diamond Vogel Paint. The grant will be used to purchase the necessary paint for maintaining the Lincoln Highway crosswalks in the main street district. The crosswalks are painted annually by volunteers in conjunction with the Clarence Main Street Design Committee. In addition to the four currently maintained, a crosswalk will be added to 7th Avenue at the completion of the water main replacement.

Lincoln Highway Tour To Make Clarence a Destination

The National Lincoln Highway Association will be hosting their annual motoring tour, featuring the middle third of the original Lincoln Highway route this year. The tour stretches from Joliet, IL to Cheyenne, WY. The group has been invited by the Clarence Main Street to stop in Clarence on June 19, as they're traveling from lunch in Clinton to their overnight in Cedar Rapids. More information will be available soon regarding their stop, but make sure to mark your calendar for this fun event, which will include a community reception and history display.



Iowa Barn Foundation Tour Features Cedar County Barns

The self-guided Iowa Barn Foundation Spring Tour will be held **Saturday, June 21st and Sunday, June 22nd**. Eighteen Cedar County barns will be featured on the tour. Barn owners are excited to meet with you and tell you all about their unique barn. Each barn has a story to tell! Enjoy your drive through Cedar County with a stop at the Cedar County Historical Museum where a luncheon will be available from 11-2 on Saturday for \$15. All proceeds will be used to support the Tipton Ministerial Fund which provides resources for community members.

The tour is free and open to the public.



For more information www.iowabarnfoundation.org

Model A's Line Clarence Main Street

Clarence Main Street looked like a scene straight from 1930 on Friday, April 25. The Hawk A Model A Club of Cedar Rapids filled the street with dozens of Model A's. The club, which consists of members from all over eastern Iowa, converged into the Clarence business district just before lunch. The club enjoyed some shopping in the district before enjoying lunch at Mill Creek Café. Members of the community, car enthusiasts and passersby strolled the district, visiting with the Model A owners.



CLARENCE
MAIN STREET

Clarence Farmer's Market

The Clarence Farmer's Market is just a few short weeks away. With the growing popularity of this community resource, the Clarence Main Street has developed a Facebook page exclusively for Farmer's Market content. In addition, you can find necessary forms and information regarding the market on the Clarence Main Street website at



www.ClarenceMainStreet.com

Muffins with Mom Event at Clarence Senior Living



Join your mom, grandma or beloved friend for muffins, juice and coffee with the community at Clarence Senior Living to celebrate Mother's Day! This event is for all residents in the Clarence Nursing Home, Assisted Living and West Winds Villas. Monday, May 12, 1pm-2:30pm.

Clarence Main Street, located in a rural community in the heart of Iowa along Highway 30, is seeking an Executive Director to coordinate downtown revitalization activities using the Main Street Approach™.

Applicant should possess excellent communication skills and be able to create strong public relations. Previous nonprofit experience is desired, as well as a background in the areas of special event planning, small business development, and volunteer recruitment. An administrative background and management experience is a plus.

Position requires a dynamic, outgoing team player with the proven ability to multitask and work in an independent environment. Requires the ability to work with both the public and private sectors.

**Submit resume and letter of interest to
Clarence Main Street Board, PO Box 44, Clarence, IA 52216**

The mission of Clarence Main Street is to be a partner and advocate for the energizing of our historic main street district; with a focus on small business growth and social vitality of the community.

**CLARENCE
MAIN STREET**



Tree Planting Time in Clarence

BY KEVIN KELLY

It is tree planting time again in the Clarence area and this is our last year of the Clarence American Legion Remembering Our Veterans by planting trees destroyed from the 2020 Derecho and ash disease recently. There are many streets that need tree cover so please consider planting some trees at no cost to you this year. We will recommend a location, mark where the tree is to go, do an Iowa One call, plant the tree and provide information on future care of your trees.

We have some very nice Oak, Maple and Hackberry trees that will grow for over 100 years and stand up to the derecho winds that can come again. Talk to your neighbors and let's get together and cover the streets in Clarence with tree cover. Contact Kevin Kelly, Phone or text 563 210 6300 to get on the list this spring.



Questions?

Contact Kevin Kelly

Phone/Text: 563-210-6300

CLARENCE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

Please join the Clarence American Legion Post 286 on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26 at 10 am for a program honoring those from Clarence who served and died. There will be a program at the Clarence American Legion which will include guest speaker, Carl Plaisted, who will speak about his time in the Air Force during the Cold War. A roll call reading of past Legion members will follow. A light luncheon will be served in the basement following the program. All are welcome.

Prior to the program, there will be services at the three cemeteries in the area.



Cemetery Service Times

The honor guard will pay respects starting at
Dayton Valley Cemetery at 9am

St John's Cemetery at approximately 9:15am

City of Clarence Cemetery at
approximately 9:30am



Clarence Volunteer Fire Department Breakfast



The Clarence Volunteer Fire Department pancake breakfast brought out hundreds of residents and visitors, Sunday, April 27.

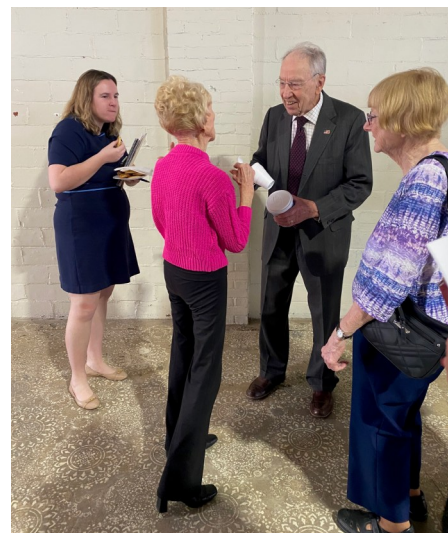
SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY VISITS CLARENCE MAIN STREET



Senator Grassley gave particular attention to answer the questions of the North Cedar High School students in attendance.



Clarence Main Street volunteer Shirley Geadelmann delighted Senator Grassley with a surprise delivery of his favorite Dairy Queen ice cream.



Clarence Cemetery Highlight

Exploring the Clarence Cemetery brings so many personal stories to life, with just a little digging online. This particular headstone was placed in memory of P.B. "Bent" Sylvester Jr., after losing his life aboard a steamship near Alaska.

No Word of Bent Sylvester

Months of Suspense and Patient Waiting Bring No Encouragement

P.B. Sylvester has received a letter from Nome, Alaska, forwarded by friends in Seattle who have been helping in the search for word from his son Bent, which brings intelligence that is nearly the last blow. The Nome letter states that a portion of the hull of the little steamer Discovery had been found and that other people who had friends or relatives on the boat had given them up as lost, the steamer having no doubt gone down with all on board.

Sadly, the Clarence Cemetery has seen a great deal of vandalism in the last few years. In an effort to bring awareness to the sanctity of this very special place, the Clarence Cardinal will feature a personal story from the cemetery each month in the newsletter.

Many letters have been written by the Sylvester family and their friends to get some intelligence as to the fate or whereabouts of Bent, but to no avail, and they are now about convinced that they will never see him

again. Some slight relief of mind would come with positive proof of his death, but it seems that even this is denied the family and friends. Particularly has the suspense been a burden to the father and mother, who have received encouraging words from their many friends ever since they received their last letter from Bent dated Unalaska, Oct, 19, 1903. The heart of everyone is touched by this sad conclusion and will extend sympathy to the family. With the letter received from Nome came a few small personal belongings of Bent and later a trunk will come, all of which he had left behind at his boarding house in Seattle when he went to Alaska.

A review of that which has appeared in The Sun and a little additional information may be of interest, so we add it. Bent was employed in electrical work and had been at Nome, Alaska, during the summer of 1903, but left there on the steamer Discovery in early October to return to Seattle for the winter, and should have arrived there about the middle of November. The steamer was wrecked and never reached its destination. Hope that he had not perished in the ocean was revived when the following story appeared in the Seattle Daily Times of Dec. 24th: No passengers were carried on the little steamship Discovery at the time she was wrecked on the Alaskan coast several weeks ago and went down with all on board. Those on board included only the twenty-two members of the crew and four men who were working their passage to Unalaska to Seattle. This information was brought from the north by Water W. Benner of Frederick City, Md., who arrived recently from Unga on the steamship Portland. Benner was a passenger on the Discovery from Unalaska to Unga, together with a number of other persons, but left the steamship at the latter place, refusing to continue with it further on account of the unseaworthy condition of the boat.

At the time the Discovery sailed from Unga she carried but two passengers and they were going only as far as Kodiak and landed those two passengers and as she took no others on at that port, it is now conclusively known that no revenue paying passengers were on her.

Continued on the next page



Memorial of Bent Sylvester continued

"Thirty-four passengers and four work-a-ways boarded the Discovery at Unalaska," said Mr. Benner to The Times this morning. "But the vessel had no sooner left port than they discovered the unseaworthiness of the vessel. While crossing Unimak Pass the vessel encountered a gale in which she suffered severely, even springing a heavy leak.

At one time the captain called all the passengers and crew on deck to lower the small boats, and for a few minutes a panic was threatened. However, discipline prevailed and the boat rode out the storm.

"When the vessel reached Unga thirty-two of the thirty-four passengers left her, eight of them demanding the return of thier passage money, which was refused them. The remaining two passengers were bound only for Kodiak and remained with the vessel until she reached the port.

"Several of those who landed at Unga proceeded on to Valdes. I went to Kodiak and thence came to Seattle on the Portland. The passengers who left the Discovery at Unga did so because they appreciated that she was in no condition to withstand a storm of any kind."

Mr. Sylvester tried to communicate with Mr. Benner but heard only from his mother who said he was in Seattle. Efforts to find him were unsuccessful although his boarding place was located. The mother, who was found at Harrisburg, Pa., refused to answer later letters and it is known that she received letters from others interested in the disaster but does not answer them. The action of the Benners has led to the belief that either Benner's story is untrue or the steamship company are seeking to conceal further information by keeping Benner out of sight and thus avoid possible damage suits. Bent's habit of always keeping his parents posted as to his whereabouts is one strong piece of evidence that he was on the boat when it went down. A letter has been written to the postmaster at Unga, Alaska, a reply to which may bring additional information concerning the wreck.

Published in the Clarence Sun, August 11, 1904

CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS WELCOMES ALL

Chair Exercise Class

Location: Clarence United Methodist Church, 316
7th Avenue

Time: 9:30am

Cost: \$2/week

Contact: Terry Hoy, 319-560-8190



A Note From Terry

A bottle of water is given in each class for all attendees.

Coffee and snacks with fellowship after class most Mondays and Thursdays. After Saturday class we go to Demeter's Market for fellowship.

If classes need to be cancelled, I will try to post on Facebook, call, text and place a note on the church door, weather permitting I am able to get to the church. Reasons to cancel class include snow or ice overnight, temperatures below 10 degrees or severe weather.

Class Schedule

May 2025

5, Monday

8, Thursday

10, Saturday, Fellowship at Demeter's Market after

12, Monday

15, Thursday

19, Monday

29, Thursday

31, Saturday, Fellowship at Demeter's Market after

June, Class on Monday, June 2 and Thursday, June 5

CLARENCE
MAIN STREET



Farmers MARKET

JUNE 12-SEPT 11

EVERY THURSDAY 4:30-6pm | CLARENCE, IOWA

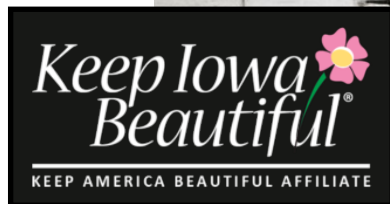
CLARENCE PARK

Pick Up Iowa Event Held by Clarence Main Street

The Clarence Main Street Design Committee kicked off the spring clean with a Pick Up Iowa/Downtown Cleanup event, April 9. Seventeen volunteers swept, spruced and got the main street district ready for the summer months.

Miller Construction donated hours of time drilling holes into the concrete sidewalk for placing the custom Lincoln Highway lamp post bases.

The work was rewarded with a community supper at Mill Creek Café.



Harmony Hustlers 4-H Club

Harmony Hustlers held their April meeting on April 6 at St. John's Church. The meeting was hosted by Easton Clemens and Odis Choate. Thank you to all who supported our Red Wheel Fundraiser, it was decided at the meeting that our club would pay for all of King Kelly's videos to be digitized. Easton gave his presentation on gaming consoles and Odis gave his on reptiles. For our activity we created a club story four words at a time. At the end of April several members of the club helped at the Clarence Fireman's Breakfast.



Our May meeting was held on May 4 at St. John's Church. This meeting was hosted by Boyd Schroeder, Sidney Miller, Luke Pruess and Brant Pruess. Boyd gave his presentation on different products made from cattle, Sidney gave hers on how to make slime and Luke gave his on his first turkey hunt. Aiden Clemens gave a presentation on mini horses. Lots of fair information was shared and our club also decided to perform a share the fun again at fair. Our next meeting is June 1st. Reporter Levi Pruess

FROM THE CLARENCE ARCHIVES

INTERESTING TIDBITS FROM CLARENCE HISTORY

Clarence's Fine New Store

The Clarence Clothing Co. opened for trade last Saturday and did a very satisfactory business both to themselves and their customers. The firm has created a good impression with the manner in which they treat all their goods and the way they display them. The consideration is that they get some good advertising from all their customers. The room has been refitted and with the new up-to-date front and fixtures and well selected stock makes a better clothing store than will be found in the surrounding towns. It is a store that would do credit to any Iowa city, and it is doing the business too. And why shouldn't this be so? Here you can find the goods you want, and with low expense compared with stores in larger places prices can and are made low. No need to go away for clothing, furnishing etc, you can do better in Clarence.

Clarence Sun, September 14, 1911



FROM THE DIARY OF ELSIE PRUESS

May 19, 1951:
Armed Forces Day. B-36 flew over the country.

May 8, 1954:
Coonie and Gottschalk took over Cities Service.

May 5, 1961:
Man rocketed into space this morning— Alan Shepard.

May 8, 1971:
Dale Schroeder's bought motel \$42,000.

May 31, 1988:
Arlo started duplex.

Elsie Pruess, Clarence, kept a detailed journal for decades. Portions of this journal were donated to the Clarence Cardinal. Excerpts from this wonderful collection will be included each month in the newsletter

CLARENCE MAIN STREET

Downtown Beautification Investor Form

The Clarence Main Street Board of Directors invites you to join us in energizing and revitalizing our historic business district by making an investment in Clarence Main Street. Please consider a contribution to help Clarence Main Street in our ongoing goals to beautify and strengthen the overall social and economic health of our community. Clarence Main Street is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and your donation is tax deductible.

Investor Information

Name _____

Business Name (if applicable) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Website (if business) _____

Phone _____

Privacy Option: Name Listed _____ Anonymous _____

How Your Investment Will Impact Clarence Main Street



This year investors have the opportunity to contribute to the Downtown Beautification Project. We are pursuing funding opportunities for solar lamp posts, trash cans and large flower planters to keep Clarence Main Street looking beautiful. With your help, Clarence will continue to be a standout on the historic Lincoln Highway!

Your Clarence Main Street Investment

Investment \$ _____

Please submit your payment with this form (*make checks payable to - Clarence Main Street*)

Payment Method:

Payment Included: _____

Payment online via the Clarence Main Street Website: _____

www.ClarenceMainStreet.com

*Thank you for
your support!*