

- ▶ HISTORY WALK
- ▶ ROAD PAVING
- ▶ FARMER'S MARKET



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.

Showcasing the Lincoln Highway

The wheels rolled into eastern Iowa June 19 as the Lincoln Highway Middle Third Tour made Clarence a highlight of their Thursday route. The tour, which features a third of the original Lincoln Highway route, every three years, was journeying from Joliet, Illinois to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Clarence Main Street invited the tour to stop in Clarence, including a welcome reception at Highpoint Event Center hosted by volunteers Mike Bixler and Shirley Geadelmann. Our guests

"We had a delightful visit to Clarence!"
Jim Cassler, Lincoln Highway Association Middle Third Tour Director

were encouraged to shop and dine in the main street district, visit our historic spots and enjoy some of our quirki-er highlights like Freida Bixler's Elvis Museum (which was definitely a crowd pleaser!). Tour director Jim Cassler, remarked "We had a delightful visit to Clarence! From the time we arrived at Highpoint Event Center, the people couldn't have been nicer. We visited several shops in town, then walked down the street to see the museum with the Elvis collection. It was impressive to say the least. Thanks for opening your town to us!"



Reception hosts, Mike Bixler and Shirley Geadelmann



Visitors arriving at Highpoint Event Center

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.

July is National Picnic Month

*If the sky beyond the clouds is blue,
Be glad, there is a picnic for you.*

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!

Gerry Stamp
President
Marcia Syring
Vice President
Terry Hoy
Treasurer

CLARENCE
MAIN
STREET
BOARD

Fritz Drexler
Becky Corbett
Jamie Wilhau
Lori Dennis

CLARENCE
MAIN STREET



July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  RECYCLE PICKUP	2	3 Farmer's Market 4:30-6pm	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Promotion Meeting 3pm Farmer's Market 4:30-6pm	11	12
13	14 City Council 6:15pm	15  RECYCLE PICKUP	16	17 Farmer's Market 4:30-6pm CMS Board Meeting 6:15pm	18	19
20 Articles due for August Cardinal	21	22	23	24 Farmer's Market 4:30-6pm	25	26 Clarence Park Days
27	28	29  RECYCLE PICKUP	30	31 Farmer's Market 4:30-6pm		

{submit calendar items to ClarenceNewsletter@gmail.com}

Clarence Main Street Meetings and Events

July 3, 4:30-6pm: Clarence Farmer's Market

July 10, 3pm: Clarence Main Street Promotion Committee, Clarence Park

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

July 10, 4:30-6pm: Clarence Farmer's Market

July 17, 4:30-6pm: Clarence Farmer's Market

July 17, 6:15pm: Clarence Main Street Board Meeting, Clarence Main Street office

July 24, 4:30-6pm: Clarence Farmer's Market

July 31, 4:30-6pm: Clarence Farmer's Market

Clarence History Walk Debuts



Main Street America has recently undertaken an initiative aimed at “quantifying the potential of vacant and idle spaces in downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts” throughout the Main Street America network. The BOOMS Tracker, “Building Opportunities on Main Street” collection tool allows Main Street affiliated communities to upload a variety of information including vacancy, use, ownership, conditions, and other characteristics,

as well as photos into this “interactive, map-centric tool.”

Clarence Main Street is undertaking the project of inputting this information for every building within the boundaries of our designated Main Street Iowa district. This area officially includes the historic downtown business district, as well as stretching to include the Hound Dog Rock Shop building.

This initiative sparked an interesting and exciting project to illuminate some of the history we have gathered while inputting the data into the BOOMS Tracker. The Clarence Main Street History Walk includes six spots that highlight a bit about the building and business histories in our district. Next summer we plan to highlight more spots as our information gathering continues.

Main Street America noted, “We hope the BOOMS Tracker will illuminate opportunities hidden in plain sight in Main Streets across the United States.”

READING FROM AFAR?

The History Walk graphics can also be found on the Clarence Main Street website at :

www.ClarenceMainStreet.com

History Walk Sponsored by Diamond Cutter Graphics



The idea of the Clarence History Walk was born from a combination of information gathered for the BOOMS Tracker and the much anticipated visit from the Lincoln Highway Middle Third Tour. Gerry Stamp, Clarence Main Street President and owner of Diamond Cutter Graphics, jumped on board immediately, offering to sponsor the entire project for 2025. The graphics, designed by Jennifer VanOort, were professionally printed on Roughmark matte white vinyl at Diamond Cutter Graphics, then carefully adhered to the sidewalk locations, with heat, by Gerry Stamp. This unique product allows for a temporary installation of graphics, which can then be removed and replaced.

Clarence Main Street will be choosing more locations to highlight next summer, as well as offering this opportunity for investment by a new sponsor. Information regarding investing in the Clarence Main Street program and projects will be highlighted in the August issue of the Clarence Cardinal.

Clarence Cemetery Highlight

Exploring the Clarence Cemetery brings so many personal stories to life, with just a little digging online. The tragic story that ties these monuments together is as follows:

Four Killed By Train At Stanwood Sunday

The most awful accident that has ever moved this community to sorrow occurred at Stanwood Sunday afternoon at about 3 o'clock when a Ford automobile driven by Ira G. Miller and carrying also Mrs. Miller and three children, Lois, Ruth and Paul, and Clarence Finkey, was struck by an east bound stock freight and all but Ruth and Paul killed.

The family had started out for a pleasure drive their destination being presumably at Luther Baker's northwest of Clarence. The Millers resided on a farm four miles southwest of Clarence. To make the drive a little longer they went around by Stanwood.

When they reached the railroad crossing near the Stanwood depot a westbound freight had the crossing blocked. They waited till this freight pulled by and then started to go over the crossing, failing to notice the approach of an east bound stock train. The auto reached the north (east bound) track just in time to be struck squarely by the locomotive. (**a graphic description of the

accident scene followed and has been omitted**)

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.



Mrs. Miller, being a sister of Luther Baker and Mrs. I.G. Cashman these two were called immediately to the scene of the accident and with the help of many willing hands did what they could for the living and dead.

Dr. D. T. Nicoll of Clarence, Dr. Seward White of Olin and Dr. C. G. Stookey of Mechanicsville were called to assist Drs. Baker and Tilden of Stanwood. Mr. and Mrs. Miller were beyond any aid from them but Miss Lois and Mr. Finkey lived about an hour and a half after the accident, but did not regain consciousness. The twins were taken to Cedar Rapids, Paul being the most seriously injured and the announcement of his death has been expected at any time since. Miss Ruth was able to come before the funeral yesterday, accompanied by a nurse, and see her departed loved ones once more. She was then taken to Stanwood where she will be in the care of a nurse until she fully recovers. Both the children were badly bruised, especially about the head and upper part of their bodies. There were no serious bone fractures.

We read about similar accidents nearly every week, but it takes one coming close at home to realize the horror of them. Here was a happy family that with years of hard work had begun to feel that they could take a little ease along with their prosperity on the farm that they had purchased two years ago, and it took but few seconds to reduce the family to two young children and also carry another life out.

Continued on the next page

Memorial of Millers/Finckey continued

Ira G. Miller was born Oct. 21, 1873 at Oakville, Penn., and died July 30, 1916 in his 43rd year of life.

Blanche Baker Miller was born Dec. 3 1873, at Shippensburg, Penn., and died July 30, 1916 in her 43rd year of life.

They were married in 1898 and came to Iowa in 1901. To this union were born the children who were with them at the time of the accident, Mildred Lois, who was also killed, and Ruth and Paul, 11 years old, who survive.

Mildred Lois Miller was born Oct. 5, 1900 at Oakville, Penn. and died July 30, 1916 in her 16th year. She was an attendant at the Clarence High School.

Clarence Finkey, who was employed on the Miller farm, was born at Shippensburg, Penn., about thirty years ago, and came to Iowa with Luther Baker and John Miller about fifteen years ago and has worked in this vicinity since. He has people and but little more than the above is known of him. It was at first intended to bury him at Stanwood, but the North Western bought a lot in the Clarence Cemetery for him and his remains were laid to rest here.

Published in the Clarence Sun, August 3, 1916

** Please note there is a discrepancy in the spelling of Mr. Clarence Finckey's name. The newspaper lists Finkey and the headstone lists Finckey.*

CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS WELCOMES ALL

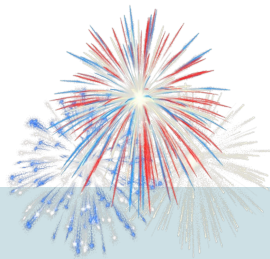
Chair Exercise Class

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

July 2025

3, Thursday

5, Saturday, Fellowship at Demeter's Market after

7, Monday

10, Thursday

14, Monday

17, Thursday

21, Monday

24, Thursday

28, Monday

31, Thursday

August, Class on Monday, August 4

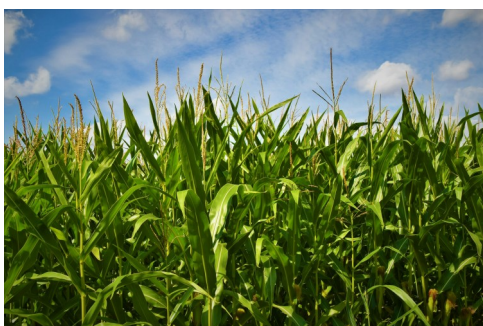
Clarence Farmer's Market

The Clarence Farmer's Market is in full swing this summer. 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

How High is the Corn?



Knee-High By The Fourth of July – This is an old saying once used by farmers to measure the success of their corn crops—if it had grown knee-high by Independence Day, it was a good sign and meant they could count on high yields for the year. Today, due to the advancements in agriculture, growing techniques, and better disease and pest control, corn farmers can expect plants to reach 8 feet by July, according to the Iowa Corn Growers Association. Now, knee-high doesn't quite measure up!

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**



Seventh Avenue Project Progressing

Due to aging infrastructure, Seventh Avenue, also known as the original route of the Lincoln Highway through Clarence, is in the process of reconstruction this summer. Demolition of the road began in April, with progress moving quickly since that time. The water mains have been replaced and a majority of the road bed has been paved, along with curb and gutter. A surprise arose at the corner of 7th and Lombard with the discovery of oil tanks from the time of the auto garage, where Victory Lane is now located. Remediation is underway and progress will soon resume.



Clarence Main Street to Participate in Accreditation

The Clarence Main Street program is accredited by Main Street America. Biennially, the program participates in a process with Main Street America to gauge the strength of the program, along with studying the indicators of support from the City of Clarence, as well as the community at large. Clarence Main Street is currently preparing for this process, which begins this summer and culminates in a visit from Main Street America Program Officer of Revitalization Services, Jonathan Stone on September 10.



Harmony Hustlers 4-H Club

Harmony Hustlers 4-H club had a meeting on June 1st at St. John's Church in Clarence. The meeting was hosted by Emily Wright, Jacob Ratliff, and Grayson Armstrong. Emily's presentation was on painting rocks, Jacob's was on the viola, Grayson's was on deer sheds, and Brant Pruess had one on how to drive a skid steer. We will be doing a share the fun skit at the fair. We will also have a silent auction basket at the fair. We will not have a July meeting so see you at the fair!!!!

Reporter Levi Pruess



FROM THE CLARENCE ARCHIVES

INTERESTING TIDBITS FROM CLARENCE HISTORY

The Celebration

The celebration of the Fourth, in Clarence, proved a pleasant success. It is estimated that there were between three thousand and four thousand people present. The weather was most favorable. The procession formed shortly after 10 o'clock, and marched to the school grounds where the exercises were held. Mr. Thomas B. Miller acted as president of the day, and Mr. James Davis as Marshal. The procession was led by the Mechanicsville Silver Cornet Band, consisting of twelve pieces.

The exercises were opened with singing by the choir of the M. E. Church under the leadership of Mr. Sam Shuek. A fervent, patriotic prayer was then offered by Rev. W. E. Davis. Singing by the choir followed, after which Miss Nellie Spaulding was called upon to read the Declaration of Independence, which she did with clear and distinct voice. Next came music by the band; after which President Miller introduced Hon. J. P. Ferguson as the orator of the occasion. The oration was a very able one, and showed the orator to be well versed in our country's history, and in the theory of our institutions and laws. At its close Mr. Ferguson received many compliments, and the general expression was that there is no need of sending abroad for speakers when such good talent can be found at home. After a song by the choir, and the Benediction pronounced by Rev. N.M. Downing, the audience dispersed.

In the afternoon the sporting program was carried out on the race track.

In the horse race for purse of \$30, the running horse owned by Ed Blaney of Newport, took first money; "Lengthy," owned by W. D. G. Cottrell, second money; and a horse won by James Peterson, third money.

In the foot race, for the purse of \$4.00, Fred Grim took first money; and Orb Stonerook, second.

In the bicycle race, Charles Hecht took first money; and Will Gauger, second.

**Clarence Sun,
July 8, 1892**



FROM THE DIARY OF ELSIE PRUESS

*July 18, 1948:
Kelly's hay caught fire.*

*July 29, 1951:
Thief stole Dale Schroeder's
accordion.*

*July 28, 1952:
5 kids had trial for being on J.
Dettmann's Implement roof.*

*July 19, 1956:
Dad went with Glenn (Pruess)
to unload cattle at Stanwood,
only they didn't come.*

*July 3, 1959:
Had entertainment at band
shell.*

*July 12, 1963:
Went to see corn picker that fell
off freight car.*

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

Clarence Main Street 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



As the Clarence Main Street program continues to grow and thrive, we are constantly looking for ways to assist our business and building owners, enhance the beauty of the district and promote all Clarence has to offer in every way possible. With your help, Clarence will continue to be a stand-out 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!*

CLARENCE
MAIN STREET



Farmers MARKET

JUNE 12-SEPT 11

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

CLARENCE PARK

**CLARENCE SENIOR LIVING - LEEPER ELECTRIC P&H
CLARENCE MENS SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

CLARENCE

**PARK
DAYS**

JULY 26TH

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

KIDS GAMES - FACE PAINTING

BAGS TOURNEY - VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY

BOUNCE HOUSE - BAND - BEER GARDEN

SAVE THE DATE!



CLARENCE
MAIN STREET

Farmers MARKET

JULY FOOD TRUCK SCHEDULE

July 3

Lowden Lions' Club Food Trailer

**First 24 children will receive a patriotic craft & flag*

July 10

1/4 lb. Hot Dogs & Water, \$5

July 17

The Tiny Taco Co. & Christmas in July

**First 24 children will receive Christmas treat bag*

**First 25 adults may choose a Clarence Cash ornament to use July 18 & 19*

July 24

Chuckie's Famous Breaded Pork Tenderloin Truck

July 31

Victory Lane Pizza, Slice & Water \$5

JUNE 12-SEPT 11

EVERY THURSDAY 4:30-6pm

Clarence Park

www.ClarenceMainStreet.com

Clarence Dance & Tumble FALL Classes

Classes start August 18th
\$40 per month
Showcase on Dec 13th
Email:
Kylien2002@icloud.com
to register

Fall Dance & Tumble

Monday:

5-5:30 Princess Age 2/3
5:30-6 Tiny Tumble 2-4
6-6:30 POM 2nd-5th
6:30-7 Tumble 2nd-5th
7-7:30 HipHop 2nd-5th

Wednesday:

4:45-5:15 DisneyBallet
Ages 4-5
5:15-6 HipHop/Tumble
Ages 4-5
6-6:30 Tiny Tumble 2-4
6:30-7:00 Tumble K/1
7:00-7:30 POM K/1



Summer is just around the corner so it's time to get this year's VBS on the calendar and get your kid(s) signed up.

What: True North Vacation Bible School

When: July 14 - 17, 2025 5-8 pm

Where: Zion UCC - 402 Main St. Lowden

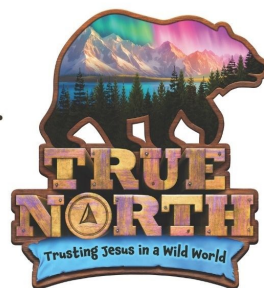
Who: 3 year olds through 5th grade

Why: To learn about Jesus and how we can trust him in life

Please see the QR codes below to register and to check out our amazon wish list.

Please call or text Megan at 563-210-0409 if you have questions.

Scan this QR
code to
register your
kid(s) for VBS.



Scan this QR code
to visit our Amazon
link of things to
help us out for this
years VBS or head
to the link.

