

# Peoria Partyline

## Prologue

**Spring 2016**

**in this issue...**

**Prologue**

**Lower Grove Bible School**

**4-H Update**

**Dutch Media in Peoria**

**During the Caucuses**

**Peoria Hog Roast and**

**Vacation Bible School**

**Roose House Fire**

**Peoria Memorial Service**

**New Neighbors**

**In Memoriam**

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[www.peoriacrc.org](http://www.peoriacrc.org)

Hello, my name is Randall Vos and I volunteered to help coordinate the *Peoria Partyline*. If you have been following the *Peoria Partyline*, you may have been aware that in the previous issue there was some uncertainty about the future of the *Peoria Partyline*. The community has expressed strong support for the work of the *Peoria Partyline*, so we will continue with the publication. I will do what I can to facilitate this.

Everyone involved in the *Peoria Partyline* would like to thank those who have participated in the past. Many have expressed appreciation for the publication, and we know that it takes a lot of people and time for it to continue. I encourage anyone who appreciates the *Peoria Partyline* to support it by providing input, articles, ideas for articles, etc. We have a committee who oversees the details of the publication, which could use a few additional members.

The vision for the *Peoria Partyline* is to continue to foster community relations. The *Peoria Partyline* will continue to provide information on community gatherings, the history of the community, and updates about the residents. Please let us know if there is something that should be featured or if you have any other input.

For those of you that don't know me, I'll give a little bit of background. My wife Nicole and our four children live a couple miles southeast of Peoria on Hwy 102 at the former farm of my grandpa, Ben Vos. Our children are Greta (7), Gerrit (5), Kees (2), and Ben (<1). I grew up primarily in northwest Iowa, though we lived in rural Pella until I was around 6. I work at Des Moines Area Community College, where I am the Horticulture Department Program Chair and I teach.

Those you that drive by our home from time to time have probably seen a lot of changes on the property over the last few years. Our current multi-year project that is viewable from that highway is repairing and adding onto one



*The old red barn on the Vos property, there were two leans on the barn that were compromising the structure that needed to be removed*

of the barns. I'll be the first to admit that I am a barn-lover. The farm I grew up on had a large barn on it that my family restored.

Our barn was in pretty rough shape when we moved to the property and was close to collapsing. The barn was a foot out of level, only a few posts were on solid ground, and the hay mow was stacked full of old hay and straw. We tore down more than 10 smaller buildings on the acreage that were in rough shape, and were uncertain if we would be able to save the barn. However, after some technical and moral support from friends and neighbors, we started working on it in the spring of 2013.

The first step was deciding what could and could not be saved. There was a lean-to on both the west and east sides. These were not structurally sound and were pulling down the main part of the barn (24x32ft) which is post and beam construction. The leans weren't salvageable and were removed to allow the main part

of the barn to be saved. How we got everything level depended on the situation, but eventually we got it level, poured new footings, and decided to add on to it. I appreciate the character of wood barns, but the siding on the barn was in too rough of shape to be water tight, and I don't like painting, so we will be covering it with metal siding.

We started framing the addition with the help of friends and family. The barn is now a mix of old and new. I like preserving old structures, but also appreciate functionality. According to the Mahaska County Assessor's website the barn was built in 1891. As we were removing excess materials from the barn we found the initials 'H.W.' and 'V.H.W.' in several locations that we assume are from the maker or an early owner of the barn. Several dates are listed on the posts with the initials. They are a bit difficult to make out, but they range from 1897 to 1901.

Working on the barn has been a long process. Advice has varied from either encouraging us to save it to comments such as 'light a match'. In the end we are happy that we are saving it and hope to have it completed this summer.

*Randall Vos*



## Lower Grove Bible School

**When:** June 6-10 from 8:30 am to 11:45 am

**Who:** Children from four-years-old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Where:** 1528 168th St., New Sharon, IA 50207

**Program:** June 12 at 6:00 pm



**Everyone is welcome to attend!**

The Lower Grove Church will be hosting its annual Bible School. Any children from four-years-old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to attend. If you have children that will be attending, or have any questions, please call Bonnie Van Wyngarden at 625-4471 or 780-2886, or email Bonnie at [vanwyngardenb@pceagles.org](mailto:vanwyngardenb@pceagles.org). Everyone is welcome to attend!

## 4-H Update: Leighton Strivers & Richland Rustlers

(Adapted, with permission, from the *Leighton Town and Country Newsletter*)



*Tucker DeJong giving his presentation on chickens at a recent 4-H meeting*

In past years when Mahaska County was dotted with smaller farms and larger families, each Township in the County supported a 4-H club. Richland Township was no exception, with the *Richland Rustlers* on the scene, for many years under the leadership of Arvin Roose.

With the consolidation of 4-H clubs, the Townships of Black Oak and Richland have largely joined forces, and meet in Leighton as the *Leighton Strivers* group.

Richland Township has good representation, laying claim to nearly one-third of the membership via residence in the township or Peoria Christian School affiliation: Zach and Dan De Bruin (sons of Jim & Ruth De Bruin), Jayden and Andrew Veenstra (sons of Jayme and Nicki Veenstra), Daniel and Katy Roose (son and daughter of Scott & Kristi Roose), Lincoln Vander Molen (son of Tim and Verna Vander Molen), Brad, Marie, and Calleigh Vander Wilt (son and daughters of Dean and Carol Vander Wilt), and Ethan Klyn (son of Jon and Pam Klyn).

The following is a summary of the club's activities from reporter Keaton Flaherty:

Leighton Strivers 4-H meetings have started for the 2015-2016 calendar year! We have 36 members this year including 8 new members enrolling this past fall. Mahaska County Extension Office personnel came to our January 2016 meeting and informed us that Leighton Strivers will receive a pizza party for having the most new members out of all of the clubs in the county. We are excited!

Our club meets on the second Monday night of each month at the Leighton Community Center. During our monthly meetings we discuss fundraising campaigns, community involvement projects, and donation ideas. Members also give presentations about projects they are working on or topics they are interested in, and,

sometimes we have guest speakers from around the area come teach us new things. We also take turns bringing snacks and drinks to share at the end of each meeting (yum!).

During the Oct. 12, 2015 meeting we held elections and the results were:

- **President-** Alissa Newendorp
- **Vice President-** Katie Spoelstra
- **Secretary-** Ben Vos
- **Treasurer-** Jon Veenstra
- **Reporter/ Photographer-** Keaton Flaherty

For our citizenship donation project, our club voted to donate to the United Way and to the Stephen's Memorial Animal Shelter. We all worked really hard to sell a lot of pies for our Pella Nursery pie sales fundraiser. We were able to help cover some of the cost of club enrollment fees for each member as well as give back to the community. Leighton State Bank also donated to our club. Thanks for your support!

If you or anyone you know wants to be a part of 4-H, the Leighton Strivers club is open to anyone ages 10-18 who would like to be more involved in the community. Contact club leaders Greg or Brenda De Jong or Rob Vos with any questions.

## **Dutch Media in Peoria for the Iowa Caucuses**

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The Presidential election's first test in the nation is the Iowa caucuses, this year held on February 1. This brings world-wide attention to the state, but the spotlight is usually on Des Moines as that is the home to the headquarters for most of the campaigns, has the most motel rooms available, and has an airport located there. This year, however, the media's presidential buzz extended beyond the Des Moines skyline, with Peoria experiencing some international exposure as well.

On the Sunday morning before the caucus, Peoria Christian Reformed church members noticed some

additional activity as they entered the church. Two employees from NOS, the Dutch TV broadcasting organization, were scurrying around the church, one carrying a microphone and the other carrying a video camera. They were creating a story on the influence of religion in politics, and wanted to obtain some footage of an actual Iowa church service. They had been in Pella the week before, doing a story on Pella's Dutch roots and interviewing locals to get their viewpoint of the election. How they found Peoria is a bit of a mystery-- Pastor George Den Oudsten noted that he had received

a call from reporter Wouter Zwart, wondering if NOS could possibly come film part of the church service as some background information for their report. As Peoria apparently scored high on the friendliness/welcoming meter, the crew showed up before the church service began. Following a hearty "geode morgen" from Pastor George from the pulpit and an explanation to the congregation as to what was occurring, the crew filmed the early part of the service, and then left so that the piece could be edited and sent back to the Netherlands for the news broadcast there that evening.

Peoria member Frank Reitsma, whose parents emigrated from the Netherlands to Canada, was

interviewed by the Dutch media. He explained to the reporter that "God calls us to be involved with the political system, and one of the ways we can do that is to vote." Frank actually experienced a bit of a candidate's angst himself, as he noted later that it can be a bit unnerving to have a microphone stuck in front of your face and not have much time to think about your answers! If you would like to watch the video, you can view it at:

<http://nos.nl/artikel/2084007-iowa-trapt-af-met-voorverkiezingen-met-nederlands-tintje.html>

*Calvin Bandstra*

## Peoria Community Hog Roast

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The annual Peoria Community Hog Roast will be held on **July 8<sup>th</sup>** this summer. **The event will begin at 7:00pm following Vacation Bible School Program.** The event will be held at the Peoria Christian Reformed Church parking lot. In the event of rain, it will be housed in the Peoria Christian School Gym.

**All are welcome to attend! All the food and tableware will be provided. If you prefer not to sit on metal chairs, please bring your lawn chairs. If you wish, you are also invited to join us early for the Vacation Bible School program at 6:30 and stay for the meal afterward.**

## Peoria Vacation Bible School: "Go Camp!"

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*The theme for the 2015 Peoria Vacation Bible School was 'Agents of Truth'*

**When: July 5-8 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am**

**Who: Children from four-years-old to 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Program: July 8 at 6:30 pm**

The Peoria Christian Reformed Church will be hosting their **2016 Vacation Bible School from July 5-8, Tuesday through Friday from 8:30-11:30.** The theme this year is 'Go Camp' and the children will be spending the week studying the biblical life of Paul. All children from preschool (age 4) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend. Registration will be available

online at the Peoria Christian Reformed Church website under the 'Ministries' tab (<http://www.peoriacrc.org/>). Paper registration is also available in the bulletin racks at the church.

The Peoria VBS Coordinator Krystal Lefevre explains, "We always have a busy week, with the kids having the opportunity to spend part of each day in a Bible story and lesson, a time of singing, fun games, delicious snack and related craft. Our oldest class, 5-6th graders, will spend a portion of two days in a service project."

Volunteers are always welcome and needed. All questions regarding volunteering and any questions with registration should be emailed to [office@peoriacrc.org](mailto:office@peoriacrc.org).

## Roose House Fire

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Judy Roose was thankful to have a dirty kitchen floor, because that meant they had a kitchen floor. On March 1, a little before 2:00 AM, Arvin Roose was rudely woken by a loud and unfamiliar noise. He soon realized he was hearing the smoke alarm going off. The alarm was going off in the bedroom, but no smoke or fire could be found in the bedroom or the room next to it.

Three years ago Arvin had purchased a smoke alarm system which activated all the alarms in the house, when one of the alarms sensed smoke. Arvin discovered smoke in the porch and the smoke alarm in the lower level of the house had activated all the rest of the alarms.

After investigating the smoke, it seemed to be primarily coming from the door leading to the crawl space below the living room. Not wanting to give the fire more oxygen by opening the door, Arvin went outside to check the chimney from the wood burning stove. What he found outside was a red glow near the base of the chimney.

The glowing chimney would die down after being doused with water, but soon after it would get hot again and start to glow. After three attempts to cool the chimney, Arvin decided it was time to call 911. Both Judy and Arvin tried calling 911 from their cell phones but could not get through. Since the cell phones weren't connecting with 911, Arvin went to a neighbor Greg Renaud, and Judy called neighbor Don Vander Hart. Both neighbors were able to connect with 911 and call for help. (Later Arvin realized that with a cell

phone you need to dial 911 and then hit send. When he called, he forgot to hit send which is why it didn't go through!) In 15 minutes or less the Sully Fire Department was there with four trucks and an ambulance.

Once the firefighters had a water supply established, they opened the door to the crawl space. A firefighter worked his way back to the source of the smoke. No active flames were found, but there were red embers. One of the base boards along the foundation had burned though and there were red embers 18 inches up the wall.

Arvin had decided that if he ever had trouble with the wood burner it would have to go. Since the wood burning stove was going, so would the chimney. It was decided that the best way to get the fire completely out was to take the chimney down since it was going to be taken down eventually anyway. It took a couple attempts to pull it down but they succeeded and were able to put the fire out. Out of caution the firefighters stayed for several hours after the fire was out to make sure it didn't flare up again.

Arvin and Judy are thankful to God that they were still alive and the house was largely undamaged. The smoke alarm system they purchased saved them and the house since it woke them up even though there was little or no smoke in the bedroom. They would like to express gratitude to the Sully Fire Department for the quick response time and care in how well the fire was put out. During the ordeal one of the firemen

apologized to Judy for tracking up her kitchen floor and making a mess. Judy said "You don't need to apologize.

I am just thankful to have a kitchen floor to mop!

*Terry Bandstra*

## Peoria Memorial Day Service

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Everyone is welcome to attend the Peoria Memorial Day Service will be held Monday, **May 30, at 9:00 am at the Peoria Cemetery.** Refreshments will be served following the ceremony. For those that would like to sit, please bring lawn chairs. The service will be held in the Gym of the Peoria Christian School in the event of inclement weather.

## New Neighbors

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*Phil and Sheila Schrauben with their children Isaac, Zechariah, Mary, Ezra, Phoebe, Stephanie and Johanna*

Today we had the privilege of having coffee with two new neighbors on Phil Hill (as they coined it), which is located west of Peoria. The commonality between the

Phil and Sheila Schrauben family and the Phil and Laura Stam family is amazing.

First we will introduce you to the Schrauben Family. Phil and Sheila have three sons and four daughters named Isaac, Zechariah, Mary, Ezra, Phoebe, Stephanie and Johanna, whose ages range from 18 to 4 years old.

Phil is a chaplain at Vermeer and Sheila homeschools the children. Off-duty they also put in a day's work. Sheila bakes and decorates cookies, cakes, and cupcakes in her business, *Sweet Dreams*. If you are interested in any of those items Sheila can be contacted at the information below.

Phil and the boys also supplement their income by trimming trees. The family likes to garden and has been blessed with fruit trees, grapevines, berries and a

vegetable garden. The other inhabitants on their property include 22 chickens and their dog. The boys also like to hunt and process deer. They also spent time remodeling their house for their large family.

Music plays a large role in their family and the whole family is very musical. Some of the boys play in the Pella High School band and run in the cross country team. As a family they make time to bike, play board and card games, watch movies and take road trips to visit family in Michigan and Minnesota. One item of interest is that three of their four daughters are left handed. Wouldn't that make a challenge to arrange seating for nine around the table?



*Phil and Laura Stam, with their children Hannah and Luke*

Phil and Laura Stam have two young children; Hannah is 4 ½ year old and Luke is 2 ½. We learned it was very important to Hannah to include the ½ year.

Phil works at Vermeer as a Project Engineer at Plant 2. Laura is employed PRN as an obstetrical nurse at the Pella Regional Health Center. She also homeschools her children, and Hannah loves school.

Off-duty, Phil likes to build and do 'fix-it' projects. One big project they accomplished was fixing up their house. Phil and Laura are very involved in church outreach. Laura and the children love to learn about butterflies and outdoor life. Laura also enjoys working in her flower beds, vegetable garden and orchard of fruit trees.

As a family they love to explore state parks and take nature walks in their pasture. Having acclimated to country living quickly, the children are thrilled to go on tractor rides. They also enjoy biking, swinging and Legos. For a vacation in April, they recently visited family in Virginia.

You may ask, 'what do these two families have in common?' The both have a strong love for the Lord and a very family-centered lifestyle. They share the same dream of living in the open country where they can see for miles all around and have lots of space and experience nature. Recently Phil Stam shot an opossum, which really excited the kids. Luke said when he grows up he is going to shoot a blue possum. Both families cherish full view of the sky and its magnificent changes.

The Schraubens spent sixteen years looking for their country home and finally found it right in the neighborhood next to the Stams on Phil Hill.

**We want to give these two families a hearty welcome to our community!**

*Ernie and Esther Roose*





## In Memoriam

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Peter Eugene Westerkamp passed away on February 11, 2016. Pete was born on January 12, 1941, on the family farm in rural Peoria. In 1964 he took over the family farm near Peoria and he married Nancy E. Van Wyngarden in 1967, whom he was married to for 48 years.

Pete is survived by his wife Nancy and his sons Brent, Ryan, and Barry and their families. Funeral services were held at the Trinity Reformed Church, in Pella and the interment was at the Peoria Cemetery.



*Scenes from the Township. Page 1: the corner of Elba Ave and 125<sup>th</sup> St. Page 8: dandelions. Page 9: Westerkamp Farm. Page 10: view of Peoria from the church parking lot.*

### Peoria Community Event Dates:

- **Peoria Memorial Day Service:** May 30 at 9:00 am
- **Lower Grove Bible School:** June 6-10 at 8:30 am to 11:45 am
- **Lower Grove Bible School Program:** June 12 at 6:00 pm
- **Peoria Vacation Bible School:** July 5-8 at 8:30-11:30 am
- **Peoria Vacation Bible School Program:** July 8 at 6:30 pm
- **Peoria Community Hog Roast:** July 8 at 7:00 pm

# Peoria Partyline



Peoria Christian Reformed Church  
120 Peoria High St  
Pella, IA 50219

