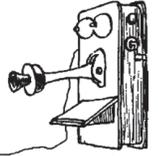


# Peoria Partyline



... connecting the extended Peoria community

Volume I. No. I

April 2005

## Short n' Long of it ...

- Pg. 1 ..... Newsletter aim
- Pg. 2 ..... Neighbors moving
- Pg. 3 ..... Local road update
- Pg. 3 ..... Church celebrates  
100 years
- Pg. 3 ..... Tulip Time eating
- Pg. 4 ..... New babies
- Pg. 4 ..... Classified ads



Page 2



Community Calendar  
Page 4



Recycling in Peoria  
Page 4

## Newsletter Aim: Connecting Neighbors

In the early 1930s most rural homes had telephones. The crude, wall-mounted wooden boxes often hung where families gathered for meals and a jingle from its bells immediately got everyone's attention. Calls went out with a few turns of a side crank as the caller spoke into the mouth piece and held a bell-shaped receiver to his ear. Different combinations of "shorts" and "longs" connected neighbors on the party line. Long distance calls, initiated with one crank, went through the operator, or "central."

"Central," always a woman, proved to be an endless source of information about community happenings and a final say on the accurate time of day. She was also able to send out a "general ring" that signaled an emergency. Such a ring— four shorts— would bring everyone on the party line hurrying to answer their phones.

Before making a call on a party line, it was always necessary to "listen in"—be sure no one else was using the line. Such a check often led to the temptation of secretly listening to the conversations of others already talking. Listening in also offered a chance to chime in with one's own ideas or to ask for exclusive use of the line for an emergency.

Just as those early phones helped connect rural people socially, we hope this newsletter will be instrumental in connecting the community in and around Peoria. It will be our goal to share news, communicate information, offer humor and advice, and in general promote care and support between neighbors.

- Community Newsletter Team



## In the Garden

Welcome to the garden section of our newsletter. My name is Faye Foster and I'm going to share some tidbits about plants and flowers that you can try in your garden. If you have gardening ideas or suggestions for future issues, give me a call.

Spring is an exciting time for gardeners as plans are made for the bounty and beauty of the garden as it awakes from winter hibernation. My spring "to do" list includes:

◆ **Planning your garden.** Try new plants that you've never grown before. It's always fun to check the new seed catalogs or garden magazines when the snow is falling or the wind is chilly outside. My new challenge for the spring is bushel gourds. They grow to be large round gourds that vary in size but can be used for water containers as well as craft items when dried properly. We have enjoyed the apple gourds and the grandchildren love watching gourds grow and develop the produce. How about sowing a wildflower patch or planting a butterfly garden—both so full of beautiful color and easy to grow?

◆ **Cleaning the old plant debris.** Nothing gives you "spring fever" faster than cleaning out old plant debris on a warm spring day. Ah, the smell of spring! Just remember not to uncover the tender new plant growth until those overnight temps warm a little. Wouldn't want a frost to catch your new plant starts.

◆ **Tending the compost pile.** Spring is a good time to evaluate the compost pile. Turn it and see if your efforts have produced the compost desirable for spring planting. If you don't have a compost pile, now is a good time to start one. It's really a plus when you garden. We recycle grass clippings, old plant material, straw, and manure into "black gold." It's fun to see what you can make with your castaway material.

◆ **Prune bushes that bloom in late spring or early summer.** Don't prune early spring flowering bushes such as lilac, pussy willow, or forsythia until their spring blooms

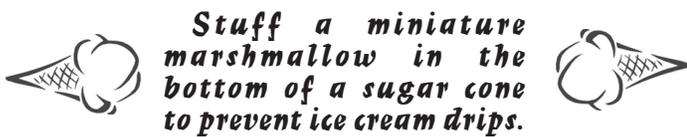
- Continued on page 2

## First Newsletter Goes Out

Hello neighbors! It's satisfying to send the very first Peoria community newsletter on its way and to feel excitement about its potential to build community and caring among its readers. The newsletter team joins me (Marilee Vander Wal) in thanking you for your interest and support, and we invite all of you to regularly submit ideas, articles, stories, suggestions, and information for future issues.

You can contact members of the team at any time. They'll take your input and we'll get it into the newsletter as soon as possible. Here's our names and numbers:

Terry Bandstra: 625-4122	Doug Pleak: 625-4182
Faye Foster: 625-4205	Marilee Vander Wal: 625-4145
Pastor John Gorter : 625-4313	Nicki Veenstra: 625-4244



More cars than usual are going up and down the streets of Peoria on Wednesday evenings. Many of them drive onto the Peoria church parking lot. What is going on? This is a night for youth activities at the church. Three groups meet then. Who are they?

**Cadets** is a club for boys in 4th through 8th grade.

A typical night of Cadets begins with opening exercises, which consists of prayer and the reciting of pledges, codes, and the Cadet verse: John 14:15. After opening exercises, the cadets and counselors spend about 30 minutes in Bible study. The rest of the evening is spent doing crafts such as knots and lashing, first aid, marksmanship, campfire building, campfire cooking, Bible knowledge, and so on.

**GEMS** (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior) is a club for 4th-8th grade girls which meets from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Girls and counselors enjoy Bible lessons, crafts, singing, badge work, and fun activities together. Their evenings are busy and full of laughter and chatter — things girls do best!

**The Youth Group** normally meets for Bible study, fellowship, social activities, and service projects. High school students (grades 9-12) meet in the Youth Building on the church grounds.

These groups are open to all youth in the community. If you are interested or want more information, you can go to the church's website [www.pccr.org](http://www.pccr.org) or call 625-4313. As you drive by, just give a tap on your horn . . . hopefully we'll notice and give you a wave!

-John Gorter

## - Gardening continued

have passed. Want to try making spring arrive a little earlier? Cut and gather branches of flowering bushes or trees such as cherry, pussy willow, or flowering quince. Place branches in a warm water mixture of 1 Tab. of 7-Up soda or 1 Tab. of Listerine per quart of warm water. This should keep the water solution clear for approximately one week. Make spring arrive early with beauty in your home.

◆ **Perk up the soil around your perennials by applying wood ashes generously.** It gives them a “kick in the pants.” Peonies can be lightly fertilized with bone meal or a low nitrogen fertilizer such as 4-12-4. The best time to fertilize is in the early spring when the stems are about 2-3 inches high. Over fertilizing with nitrogen usually results in weak stems and reduced flowering. Remember, transplanting peonies should be done in the fall and they should be planted very shallow. If planted too deep, peonies won't bloom. You might want to try a tree peony for something new in your flower garden. They're becoming very popular and offer many colors to choose from.

As you can tell, there's lots to do in the garden at springtime. I'll have more ideas next issue.

**Happy gardening!**

- Faye Foster

*The seed is hope—the flower is joy.*



## Moving On

On weekday afternoons you'll see a bearded man walking from the Peoria Christian School, past the church, past the parsonage, to arrive at his home. Jim Warden, the principal of the school, has been walking to and from school for the past ten years. But now he is moving on. He has decided to seek another pursuit after this school year.

For the past ten years Jim and Jan Warden, and their six children, have enjoyed life in Peoria. “Life in the country, so close to the school, has been a real blessing,” comments Jim. However, they plan to move to Pella sometime this spring. This decision was based partly on the number of times a week they had to travel to Pella. Miles driving to high school, lessons, practices, games, performance, and Jan's work began to add up.

Living in the country was something fairly new to them. Both Jim and Jan grew up within view of the New York skyline. “In the city,” Jim says, “we could see the George Washington Bridge, the Empire State Building, and Statue of Liberty from our school.” While they miss ‘good’ pizza and ‘real’ bagels, they enjoy ribs and Dutch letters. They definitely do not miss the traffic, tolls, and parking meters.

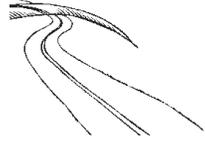


While they look forward to the small town life of Pella, they hope to remain close to the Peoria community. We wish them all the best.

-John Gorter

## Local Road Receives Attention & Award

What's new with Richland Township's county highways? A lot according to Jerry Nusbaum, Mahaska County's engineer. Much time, energy, and money was spent last summer improving highway G5T. The improvements and repaving of the highway earned Mahaska County Road Department the *Best County –New Construction* award from the Iowa Concrete Paving Association.



Jerry knew something had to be done. G5T, affectionately called '102' during the years the road was state-controlled, has the highest traffic count of any of the county's highways. The 3,200+ vehicles traveling the old road's notorious curves on a daily basis, were having to dodge more and more cracks and potholes. Now they are traveling with ease on the newly paved section that stretches from the Skunk River bridge to the county line near Pella.

"G5T and surrounding highways were originally constructed with a combination of Des Moines River sands, certain local aggregates, and cements," comments Jerry. "That chemical combination is not the best for modern concrete paving, but that was not known 40 years ago." The old type of concrete had the unfortunate characteristic of weakening joints in the concrete and causing a problem called 'D-cracking.' The problem shows up most often along centerline joints, especially after a rain.

Jerry continues to have concerns about the miles of G5T that still need attention. Manaatts, from Brooklyn, Iowa, will continue edge-draining a half mile east of the Peoria 'T' to help route moisture from under the roadbed. Then they will do appropriate repairs, patches, and an asphalt overlay all within a 3 year period. "We'd like to redo the Peoria corner too," adds Jerry. "It's a dangerous corner." This could happen if the county can obtain the right-of-ways it needs.

T-33 north of Peoria has recently received attention as well. Jerry hopes the edge draining it received in 2004 will control sub grade moisture and firm up T-33's roadbed to minimize future D-cracking. "When the time comes for that road," he says, "I anticipate asphalt overall as opposed to total reconstruction." Regarding T-33 through Peoria, Jerry says the county has a plan so that further degradation of the roadway will be stopped.

So get ready neighbors, we'll have an opportunity in the next couple of years to slow down and enjoy the views of our township as our county highways receive much needed improvements.

-Doug Pleak

## Country Church to Celebrate 100 Years

The Lower Grove Church will be celebrating their 100th anniversary this summer. Warren Van Wyngarden and others are making plans to have a homecoming and celebration.



1946—Old Lower Grove Church in a corner of what is now part of Bruce Vander Wal's farm.

Located in the southeast corner of Richland Township, the church's location was once known as Hell's Half Acre. After the Civil War, the government awarded five acres to every veteran and some of them moved to the Lower Grove area. It became a very rough and wild place. Word has it that even law enforcement didn't dare to go there.



1974—"New" and expanded Lower Grove Church in its present location.

Along came Ezra Temple, an itinerant preacher from the East. He was warned not to move there—that he would not live. But many people in the area became devout Christians. It changed the community. When Ezra Temple moved on, the church fizzled a bit, but the American Sunday School Union helped get the church going again. For quite a while pre-seminary students from Central College helped too by taking turns preaching at the small church.

Over its 100 years, the church has remained independent. It did not affiliate with any denomination. About 50 years ago, the congregation moved into a country school building, the old Hickory Grove School House. They have expanded the building

## Good Eating at Tulip Time

May 5-7 the town of Pella will be abuzz with crowds because of Tulip Time. If you visit the Memorial Building on the west side of the square, you'll encounter some wonderful smells. You'll see an array of homemade pies and ice cream, plus so much more. There you can purchase some delicious food cafeteria style and sit down for a while.

Over the next couple of months, the Peoria School Circle will be preparing for those three big days. Work bees are planned to make Dutch letters, home made ice cream, and potato salad. Many people will donate hamburger and home made pies. Last year the Circle served 1,000 Dutch letters, 270 pounds of hamburger, 900 cups of ice cream, and 171 pies.

The School Circle, and many volunteers, have provided food and drink to hundreds of Tulip Time visitors for the past five years. Linda Franje is one of the coordinators this year. "Buses like to make reservations for this eating place," she says, "because of its handy downtown location and its delicious food." It is also handicapped accessible. The group serves from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each of the three days.

So, if you get hungry at Tulip Time this year, or if you need some relief from the sun or the rain, stop by to say "Hi" to this cheerful group. Then fill up on some delicious food and drink. See you there!

-John Gorter





# ... heard about it on the partyline ...

## ■ Business Services

**Peoria Trailer Sales**, Dennis Rozenboom at Peoria Repair, new dealer for Calico Trailers, 641-625-4381.

**VAN'S** Electrical and construction services, John Van Wyngarden, 1480-168th St. New Sharon, IA, 50207, Phone: 641-625-4280.

**Tired of Wasting Hay?** Call Dave Lovell and ask about the Hay Miser. 641-625-4449.

## ■ Farm/Livestock

**Bird Dog Kennels**, Rick & Karen Harrill. Available breeds include: Labrador Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, and English Springer Spaniels. Call 641-780-4207 for more information.

## ■ For Sale

**1993 Mercury Sable**, 98,000 miles, clean, runs good, asking \$1,600. Call 641-625-4145.

## KAL Recycling Pickup in Peoria

Did you know that KAL garbage service is offering a recycling pick-up area in Peoria? In cooperation with Dennis Rozenboom, the owner of Peoria Repair, a spot was chosen near his shop to bring items that meet recycling guidelines. KAL will take plastic, glass, and tin cans that are clean, as well as newspaper. Acceptable plastic has the numbers 1, 2, or 3 printed on it. Clip out the guidelines below for your convenience:

- North side of Peoria Repair—lay bags or containers by dumpster
- 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month (have items there by 11:30 a.m.)
- Separate paper, plastic, glass, and newspaper
- Mark any containers you wish to save and reuse. Pick them up later.

## Co-Line Repair Shop Hours

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please call us for all your welding and metal fabrication needs. No job is too small or large. Portable welding services also available. 641-594-2953.



1232 100th St. Sully, IA 50251

## Join our Co-Line team!

Co-Line Welding, Inc., rural Sully, is looking for individuals to join our growing organization. Experience in manufacturing is preferred, but not necessary. If you are looking to join an ever-changing, growing work environment, please stop to fill out an application or e-mail:

[russell@colinemgf.com](mailto:russell@colinemgf.com)

## Community Calendar



- **April 8:** Pancake supper by the Peoria Church Cadets at the Peoria gym. Serving from 5 - 6:30 p.m.
- **May 5-7:** Tulip Time—School Circle serves at the Memorial Building in Pella. Serving from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **May 20:** Peoria Christian School 8th grade graduation
- **May 30:** 9:00 a.m. - Memorial Day Service at the Peoria cemetery. Bring your own lawn chairs. Refreshments served afterwards.
- **July 11-15:** Vacation Bible School at Peoria CRC
- **July 15:** Community Hog Roast at Peoria CRC



## Daffynitions

Intense—Where campers sleep.

Laughing Stock—Cattle with a sense of humor.



Midget—Center engine of a three-engine jet.



## Baby News

\* Rick and Audra Dingeman welcomed 7 pound 4 ounce Avery Lynn to their family on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Her grandparents, Gordon and Connie Dingeman of Pella and David and Penny Lamz of Hedrick, are thrilled with their new granddaughter and enjoy watching Austin, Avery's big brother, get to know her.

\* Harlan and Michelle DeBoer welcomed 8 pound 14 ounce Marleigh Josena to their family on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Her grandparents are Harvey and Delores De Boer of Orange City, and Marcia De Jong of Pella. Siblings Harrison, Gracia, Dalton and Lincoln were excited to welcome Marleigh home.

- *Country Church con't.*

since then. Vacation Bible School has been held many decades there, long before some other churches in the area had VBS. Bonnie Van Wyngarden, Warren's wife, coordinates VBS, which is usually held the week after day school gets out.

Cornie Van Wyngarden, Warren's father, has lived near to the church since he was a boy. For the last 25 years he has been their preacher. He took over from Don Job, who was also a principal at Oskaloosa High School. Having farmed his whole life, Cornie did not have formal education. "I depend on the Spirit and the Word to guide me," he says.

We in the community extend our congratulations to Lower Grove Church for this great milestone. "May God continue to bless you and use you to be a blessing in this area."  
-John Gorter