



Dodge County Historical Society

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www.maymuseum.com

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Plant Sale, May 2

Gardeners Contribute Year Round



Garden Fairies meet for coffee once a week to share casual conversations about a variety of topics, including plants. Pictured from front left and moving clockwise: Helen Lannin, Alice Nott, Jan Pineda, Jan Jelkin, Marlene McClean, Dale Brickell, Karen VandeStow, Deb Spicka, Pat Watson, Linda Ryan, Sylvia Hermone, Jan Lutz, Holly Goldsberry, Linda Wagner, and Deb McCord.

Winter months are a time of dormancy for the plants in the May Museum flower garden. The Garden Fairies, however, are not dormant as they meet every Tuesday and discuss new plant options and the anticipation of getting their hands dirty again.

The Garden Fairies is a group of 20 volunteers who meet year round to discuss and maintain the garden. Preparing for the busy growing season and annual plant sale means the volunteers look for different and unique perennials.

Garden Fairies, continued on p. 2

Director's Column

Jeff Kappeler



These days we are thinking of our sister organization, the Fremont Area Art Association. The recent resignation of Barbara Gehringer, its executive director, was a great loss not only for the Association but the entire community.

We were also very saddened by the news of the death of Barbara Tellatin.

We pay honor and respect to these amazing individuals. We are all the richer for their presence in our lives.

Calendar of Events

Mon., Feb. 10, March 9, April 13, 7 p.m.
ENGS meeting
Library open at 6 p.m. for research

Mon., March 9 and Wed., March 11
Day in the Past (for)
Dodge County fourth graders

Thurs., March 19, 7 p.m.
Quarterly Meeting
Dodge County Historical Society

Tues., April 21, 2 p.m.
Docent Tea

Wed., April 22
Museum Opens for Season

Sat., May 2
Plant Sale

Tues., May 5
Fremont Area Big Give

Fri., June 12
Museum Fundraiser

Memorials & Gifts

In Memory of Marvin Gorden
Paul Marsh

In Memory of Wanda Lambourn
Roger Lambourn

In Memory of Mary Ann
Weinandt
Kay Klevemann

In Memory of Mary Margaret
McGath

Jack & Judy Ekeler
George & Sylvia Hermone
Marion Kline
Gary & Pam Pettitt

Garden Fairies, continued from p. 1

This year the plant sale is Saturday, May 2 and will include, for example: Hakonechloa grass with bright and rich-green leaves; and Heuchera Melting fire, which is a Coral Bells selection with leaves that change from crimson to dark maroon.

Before May 2, volunteers will rake leaves and debris from the garden and dig plants for the sale. "The plants need time to recover from the shock of being dug up," Jan Lutz said. This can begin in March if the weather is decent, but usually it's April.

Jan said anyone who has different perennials growing in home gardens and are willing to donate cuttings can call her at 402.727.5967.

Jan Jelkien said she loves the garden and being with the other women. Before she became a volunteer in 1999, Jan admitted she didn't know a weed from a flower.

Dale Brickell and Marlene McClean took a Master

Gardener class requiring volunteer hours for certification. They both worked at the Museum garden and then joined the Garden Fairies.

All the volunteers said they enjoy the diversity and camaraderie within the group. They help each other in time of need. Last Christmas they also helped others, for example, by donating to the Salvation Army.

Jan Lutz said the Garden Fairies are always looking for others to join them. No gardening experience is necessary — just the willingness to get hands dirty and have a good time doing it.

50 Years Old!!!

This special birthday of the May Museum will be celebrated on June 12. The Nye home was built in 1874-75. The downstairs parlor and upstairs master bedroom directly above were added in the late 1880s. The downstairs and upstairs sunrooms were added about 1916.

Happenings at the May Museum

Big Give

The May Museum again this year will participate in the 4th annual Fremont Area Big Give, led by the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

People can make contributions to the May Museum on Tues., May 5 during this 24-hour online challenge that raises unrestricted dollars for various nonprofits in the area.

Last year, \$300,893 was raised and there was a record 1,856 donations. The fremontareabiggive.org website states, May 5 “is a day to celebrate the power of philanthropy and support the good work of nonprofits who help make the Fremont area a special place to live, work and thrive.”

Donors also can contribute directly at the Museum or give at the Fremont Area Community Foundation office, 1005 E. 23rd St., Suite 2.

Day in the Past

The Museum will host the annual Day in the Past event on Mon., March 9 and Wed., March 11. Dodge County fourth graders hear presentations from volunteers posing as, for example, a librarian, a farmer, a storekeeper, a music teacher, and Annie Nye’s sister.



Sandy’s Dog

Flowers in the May Museum garden are always changing. However, a statue of a dog — Sandy’s Dog — will never change.

Sandy Peterson was a dedicated Garden Fairie volunteer. When she arrived for work, faithful companion, Penny (a golden retriever), would usually accompany Sandy. “Penny became one of the gardeners,” said Jeff Kappeler, Museum director.

When Sandy died in January 2016, the other Garden Fairies wanted to do something to honor her. Someone saw the above dog statue and felt it was the perfect option.

Jeff said shortly after the statue was installed, he saw some people taking pictures in the garden. It was a special moment when Jeff said he saw a young child petting the dog.

Victorian Dinner

Gene and Peg Steffensmeier are the winners of the 2019 Victorian Dinner fundraiser. The meal for eight will be served in the Museum dining room.

Proceeds from the sale of tickets for the drawing will be added to the fund to purchase new oriental carpeting for the front stairway.

Open House

Director Jeff Kappeler said it was a “fabulous evening” on Dec. 3, 2019, for the annual Christmas Open House. Jeff said the estimated 150 visitors seemed relaxed and enjoyed browsing.



This young visitor enjoyed stringing popcorn and cranberries.

Who Remembers Dick and Jane?

Many of us certainly remember Dick and Jane, Spot and Puff. By the end of the 1930s half of America's schoolchildren were learning to read books featuring these iconic characters.

For nearly 40 years, from 1930 through about 1970, more than 85 million American schoolchildren were using the Dick and Jane readers that were part of a series published by the Scott Foresman Company.

According to one Internet source: "So deeply have the Dick and Jane stories been etched into the minds of the Baby Boomer generation and their immediate predecessors that the repetitive phrase 'See Spot run! Run, Spot, run!' is today remembered by millions as the very first sentences they could read on their own."



The pre-primer "Before We Read" was introduced in 1937. A tin schoolhouse from the 1950s is a sucker stand. It becomes a bank when the suckers are gone. A coin slot is at the top of the roof. Stamped on the bottom is the price of 29 cents. The plaid, cloth book satchel is from the 1950s.



"We Work and Play" and "We Look and See" are 1946-47 paper-bound pre-primers. A third book in this series is "We Come and Go."

Reaching the height of their popularity in the 1950s, it's estimated that 80 percent of first-grade students in the United States were learning to read through these stories.

In the mid-1940s, Spot became a long-haired spaniel, and the kitten previously known as "Little Mew" was renamed "Puff."



The stacked books date from 1930-36. They are referred to as the Curriculum Foundation Series. The open book shows a page referring to Baby, who in the mid-1940s became known as Sally.