

Gazette unveils new Web Site

By John Carpenter Gazette Staff

Today the Gazette is proud to announce that it has moved into the electronic age. From now on you will be able to go to your computer and type in www.thecolumbusgazette.com and enter the Gazette's new website. We have thought about a website for some time, but we wanted to be able to offer something more than just a page that gave information on the paper. We wanted to put something out into cyberspace that would provide value to our site visitors, as well as assuring potential advertisers that our site would be visited. After a lot of discussion, research, and questions, we truly now feel that we have put together just such a site.

Each week we will show a facsimile of the current front page. If you click on the page it will open into a readable format. The complete page will be there, so you will be able to have a second source for items that we publish in the briefly section, as well as be able to read the front page stories. We do not include the other pages, as it is still our intention to sell newspapers.

We also have links on the side of the page which will allow you to contact us if you have comments or questions, to obtain subscription information, and get biographical information on Gazette employees. We also have a link for obituaries. We will soon have all of 2007 and 2008 obituaries archived on the site, and plan to go back a year at a time as we have time to retype the obituaries from previous years (if anyone would like to volunteer to help, please let me know). This will be a work in progress, but our goal is to have a user be able to type in a name and the obituary will appear.

In addition, we have a link called community events. This is an area where we will be able to list community happenings that were not able to be published in the paper for reasons such as timing, an error, or a misprint. We will not include items that were published in our briefly section as they are available on the front page of the website. This is an area for items that were made available after our publishing date or were inadvertently left out of the paper. Also, this link will be available for emergency announcements such as community road closings, cancellations of events due to weather or some other reason, and rescheduling of school events. The link is now available, so if you have something to include, give us a call.

We also have a link for pending funeral services. For example, if some community member would pass away on Wednesday, and the service is on Friday, it would not be in the paper as we would have already gone to press. Now we can list the dates and times of the service, with a full obituary appearing in the next paper. This link is also now working, so please visit it if you are looking for a funeral announcement.

And of course, being a business, we are now in a position to accept advertising on our website. We are presently researching this feature, but if you are interested in placing an ad on our website, please contact us. We truly believe our website will be looked at many times during the week, and your product or services will receive a high level of visibility.

There are many other website features that we are working on. Examples are video feeds of school events such as concerts and athletic contests, videos of community events, and possibly important City Council meetings. All of these will take time to figure out, but we will keep you posted. And finally, if you have a website and want to include on your page a link to our site, please feel free to do so.

So for the time being, we hope you will look at our website, and if you have any suggestions, give us a call. This is new to us at the Gazette, but it is something we are excited to offer. I might also mention that our site designer is John Burroughs, and he has been an invaluable asset to us. If you are considering a website, I would highly recommend John. His contact information is on the bottom of our home page. So, readers, hang on to your hats as the Gazette has just soared into the 21st century.



Welcome to The Columbus Gazette.Com Click on the newspaper to read this weeks front page stories. Follow the links to navigate our site. Enjoy your stay and remember to check back weekly for the latest edition of The Columbus Gazette



City feels effect of difficult win'

By John Carpenter Gazette Staff

Thinking through another sharp economic downturn for 2007-2008, city council and agencies have been proactive in response. The economic crisis has impacted a large number of jobs that put workers with a combination of training, experience and education skills.



The remaining unit supply of the City shed.

The Chamber would like to join the rest of the community in congratulating our city employees.

employees they have performed this year under very difficult conditions. Despite a very slowly recovering economy...

School Board to institute 'Distinguished Graduate Program'

By John Carpenter Gazette Staff

At their monthly meeting last week the Columbus Community School Board announced a program designed to better recognize the high school graduates of Columbus Community Schools and share the value of their education with the Columbus Community.

Students who have had high GPAs for the last two years and have been recognized by the school board will be honored at a graduation ceremony. The program will be implemented in the fall of 2008. The board will honor students who have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have been recognized by the school board for the last two years.

City Council reviews request for additional sewage usage

By John Carpenter Gazette Staff

City Council will review a request for additional sewage usage from the Columbus Community School Board. The board is requesting an additional 100,000 gallons of sewage capacity for the school district.

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Civic Society receives \$1,500 Community Foundation Grant

By John Carpenter Gazette Staff

The Columbus Civic Society has received a grant of \$1,500 from the Community Foundation of Louisa County. The grant is for the purchase of a new computer system for the society.



The Community Foundation of Louisa County (CFLC) awarded the Civic Society of Columbus \$1,500 for the purchase of a new computer system for the society.

March Winds Blow to reappear soon

The 40th production of the annual variety show March Winds Blow will be presented Friday, February 29th and Saturday, March 1 in the Columbus Community auditorium. Both shows begin at 7:00 p.m. The show is a production of the high school music department and will feature the high school jazz band, Chanteurs, and many solos and small groups. Former music instructor Paul Duncan as a performance outlet for the show choir and jazz band started MWB 38 years ago. It has grown over the years to become a showcase for the musical talent of the high school music students. There are always a wide variety of musical styles including Top 40, country hits, oldies, Broadway tunes and much more. It is sure to please all types of musical tastes. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. The show is under the direction of Steve Helscher and Jay Hauenstein. Tickets will be available at the door. Come and enjoy the show!

Columbus Junction Senior Center receives \$3,000 Foundation Grant for roof replacement



The Community Foundation of Louisa County (CFLC) awarded the Columbus Community Senior Center \$3000 to go towards replacing the roof at the Columbus Junction facility. Pictured from l-r, Ken Purdy (CFLC), Polly Prior (Senior Center Board Member), Nancy McGill (CFLC) and Rondalyn Weyrick (CFLC). Photo by Vivan Jennings.

Briefly -

After prom meeting scheduled

The Columbus Junior Class parents will hold an After-Prom Planning Meeting today, Wednesday, February 27, 2008 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbus Junction Fire Station. All parents interested in helping with the After-Prom festivities are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information, call Mindy Conaway during the evening at 725-6706.

Alumni Banquet set

Continuing the custom of holding the Columbus - Cotter - Conesville Alumni Banquet on the second Saturday in June, the 2008 Banquet will be held at Roundy Elementary School on June 14, 2008. Make your plans to attend the banquet and to schedule your class events to coincide with the date.

Columbus City Council meeting date

The Columbus City Council will not meet on Monday, March 3rd. The meeting will be moved to Monday, March 10, at 6 p.m.

C.J. City Council to meet today

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a public hearing and regular council meeting today, Wednesday, February 27, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall. The public hearing will be about the proposed 2008-09 budget.

Empowerment Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa County Caring CommUNITY Empowerment Board will be meeting at the First United Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA on Wednesday March 5, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Etude Club to meet

The regular monthly meeting of Etude Club will be held in the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church on Tuesday, March 4, 2008. Members are requested to bring all necessary music and be prompt for this very important chorus rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Marilyn Kilpatrick will present the lesson on "Music That Moves You." The Election of Officers for the 2008-2009 year will be held. Dorothy Orr will provide refreshments. If circumstances prevent your attendance, please notify President, Phyllis Small in advance.

Girl Scout Cookies at Econ-O-Mart

Girl Scout Troop 9010 will be selling Girl Scout cookies at the Econ-O-Mart on Saturday, March 1st from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Troop 9061 will be selling cookies at the Econ-O-Mart on Saturday, March 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday Fun at Great Beginnings

Great Beginnings of the United Methodist Church is having "Sunday Fun Night" on Sunday, March 9 starting at 5:00 p.m. At 5:00 p.m. will be a variety show, followed by a spaghetti supper (free-will donation), and a silent auction. The public is invited. Any questions call the church office. The money raised will be used to supplement supplies for the preschool.

Kindergarten Round-Up

Will your child be old enough to attend school at Roundy Elementary, Columbus Junction, IA this Fall? Roundy Elementary is preparing for Kindergarten--If your child was born before September 15, 2003 and is not currently enrolled in the Columbus Preschool Program, Colonel's Kids Daycare, or the Great Beginnings Preschool Program, please call the school at 728-6218.

¿Usted cree que su hijo/a tendrá la edad necesaria para empezar el Kindergarten en el Otoño del 2008?

¿Tendrá su hijo/a la edad necesaria para asistir a la Escuela Primaria Roundy en Columbus Junction, IA este otoño? La Escuela Primaria Roundy se está preparando para Kindergarten--Si su niño/a nació antes del 15 de Septiembre del 2003 y no está inscrito actualmente en el Programa de Preescolar de Columbus, el Programa Preescolar de Colonel's Kids, o en el Programa Preescolar Great Beginnings, por favor llame a la escuela al 728-6218.

Historical Society Spring meeting

The Louisa County Historical Society Spring Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2008, at 6 p.m. at the Louisa County Historical Society, 609 Highway 61 N, Wapello, Iowa. There will be a soup supper (cost \$6.00), plus a talk by Bev Karagin on Morning Sun artist, Laura Rock. Please plan to attend.

Legion to hold fish and chicken fry

The American Legion will hold a fish and chicken fry on Saturday, March 8th at the Legion Building with serving from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. There will also be a pork loin and furniture item raffle. The furniture item was built and donated by Mark Shear. The public is invited.

Senior Center needs help for roof

The Senior Center building needs a new roof. This project will be done this spring. If anyone wishes to donate toward the new roof, you may drop off your donation at the Senior Center with Judy Stirling. The Senior Center is owned by the Community At Large--we need your help. --Senior Center Board

Craft/Crop for Kids in Ainsworth

Ainsworth Elementary Support Organization will be holding its 4th annual Craft/Crop for Kids on Saturday, March 8th, 2008 in the Ainsworth Elementary Gym. Any teen or adult who is interested in spending the day working on scrapbooks, stamping cards, sewing, knitting, beading, or any other craft project is welcome to attend. Vendors will be on hand with various make and take items, items for sale, and consultation. Participants may also bring unused scrapbooking or craft supplies or tools they no longer need or want for our "Garage Sale" table. Ask for a number when you register. Hours are from 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., and participants are welcome to come and go as they please during those hours. The cost is \$15.00 per person, which includes lunch, snacks, and table space. Bottled water will be available for purchase or participants may bring their own non-alcoholic beverages. Tables will be provided for anyone registered by Thursday, March 6th. Profits from the event will be used to help fund field trips and purchase materials for classrooms that are not part of the school's regular budget. For more information or to register as a participant or a vendor, please call Brenda Bean at 319-657-3151.