

Gazette kicks off annual Spring Anti-Litter campaign

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

It was this time last year when we published a story on the front page encouraging residents to make an effort during the summer to help keep our streets and sidewalks litter free. Well, here it is spring again, and we are once again asking for the cooperation of every citizen to become involved in making our town's appearance attractive to outside visitors.

As with last year, there are a number of events scheduled for this summer, and there will be a lot of people here for the first time. The two annual motorcycle rallies will be held, the first in May, bringing thousands to our town. Also, the Hispanic Festival has been expanded to ten days, which means ten days of visitors. And the Louisa County Fair has a number of new events planned, which will bring new people.

Wouldn't it be great if these first time visitors would leave thinking: "That was sure a beautiful community, its citizens must really care." And it doesn't take much effort, just place your litter in the downtown baskets provided, and if you see litter, please pick it up.

On Friday I will be traveling with Tom Huston and Hal and Polly Prior to Newton to attend a "Keep Iowa



A view of some of the litter under the stairway at the corner of Main and Walnut Streets

Beautiful First Impressions" Seminar. I'll report on any ideas we receive.

Remember, we can't take back someone's first impression. All we

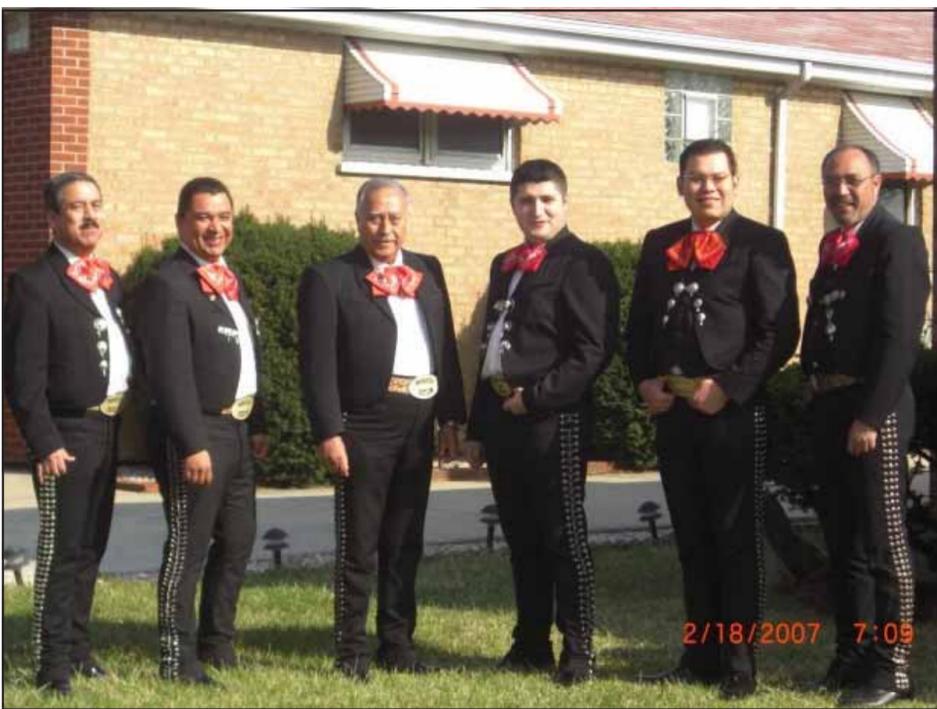
can do is help make the first impression.

Mariachi Ixtlan to perform at Hispanic Festival

Mariachi Ixtlan from Chicago will headline this year's Hispanic Cultural Festival. The group will perform twice on Saturday, May 10 at the festival at the Louisa County Fairgrounds. Their performances are scheduled from noon until 2:00 and 4:00 until 6:00. The Hispanic Cultural Festival is held annually in May, the event showcases the cultural heritage of Louisa County's many Latino residents. This is the fifth year for the festival, which is organized by the Civic Society of Columbus. For more information please contact Nitza Lopez Castillo or Mallory Smith at the Community Development Center 319-728-7971 or cdc@columbusjunctioniowa.org.

This year's festival will run from May 1 to May 9 with various times and locations around town. The Festival will conclude on May 10th in a celebration from Noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Louisa County Fairgrounds.

A number of plans are being finalized for the festival, so be sure to watch the Gazette for details as they become available.



Habitat searches for next partner family

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity is now taking applications for the next partner family. This will be the eleventh house in Louisa County. LCHH has building lots in Fredonia and Wapello.

Anyone wanting to become a Habitat partner family may pick up a brochure with the basic guidelines and criteria for becoming a Habitat partner, at libraries, medical offices, banks, and various businesses throughout the county. This brochure includes a request for an application.

Families are selected by a committee, based on the criteria of: #1: Need of decent affordable housing. #2: Ability to pay, which means a family must be able to make payments for the house, taxes, and insurance, and be at 60% or below the median income level for the county. #3: Be willing to participate as a partner with the Habitat committee.

Volunteers are needed for committees, construction, providing food, and fundraising. For more information, call 1-800-870-2005.

Keck Library receives Foundation Grant



The Community Foundation of Louisa County (CFLC) awarded the Keck Memorial Library in Wapello \$1000 for a digital multimedia projector. The projector will be used for numerous programs, including presentations, family events such as movies and more. Pictured from l-r, Ken Purdy (CFLC), Lewann Bryant (Keck Memorial Library), Nancy McGill (CFLC) and Rondalyn Weyrick (CFLC). Photo by Vivan Jennings.

Groundbreaking set for new jail

A ceremony to break ground for the Louisa County Law Enforcement Center will be held on April 22nd, 2008, at the site of the new jail. This is the site where the former Care Facility was, and is now occupied by the Conservation Department, The Emergency Management Director, and Louisa Development Corporation. At 11:30 a.m., ground will be turned over to begin the building project. The public is invited to come to the ceremony to see the first step for the new jail.

School Reunions

C. J. Alumni Banquet tickets available

Tickets are now on sale for the Columbus-Cotter-Conesville Alumni Banquet. It will be held on Saturday, June 14th in the Roundy Elementary School. Tickets may be purchased at \$10 per person from Sherry Pine at the State Bank (728-2436) and Carol Howell at the Community Bank (728-2226). Questions about the banquet can be phoned to Jerry Bell (728-2505) or Jim Howell (728-7602).

Winfield Mt.-Union annual banquet

The Winfield-Mt. Union Alumni Association is hosting the 99th annual banquet to be held Saturday, May 24, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. The banquet will be held in the Winfield gymnasium. Tickets are \$10.00 per plate for all alumni and guests for the buffet which will be catered by Pork's Restaurant. Reservations may be made to Frances Lowe, P.O. Box 5, Winfield, IA 52659 (Phone: 319-257-6784), or to Wanda Linder, 606 W. Central Ave., Apt. 9, Winfield, IA 52659 (Phone: 319-257-6724). Deadline for receiving reservations is Saturday, May 10, 2008. The Alumni Association would appreciate an update of any name or address changes. A casual coffee will be hosted by the Winfield Chamber of Commerce in the school lunchroom from 3-6:00 p.m., on the afternoon of May 24th. This is a time for visiting and catching up with old friends.

Wyman School Reunion

The Annual Reunion and get-together for all former Wyman School students and teachers will be held July 12, 2008. The school was started in 1912 when 3 one-room school buildings were moved into town. Classes continued there until the school was closed in 1978. The Reunion and Banquet will be at the United Church of Crawfordsville, doors open at 5:30 P.M.; Banquet and entertainment at 6:30. For more information or to make reservations please call Lorraine Frame at 319-257-3401 or John Wittrig at 319-257-3377.

Briefly -

CCIC to meet

CCIC will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 22 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Columbus City United Methodist Church. Kay Perkins will serve as hostess.

Fair Queen meeting scheduled

Please join us for an informational meeting about the Louisa County Fair Queen and Princess Contests in the Columbus Junction State Bank basement (use east door) at 1 pm on Saturday, May 3rd. Special guests include Jessie (Hutcheson) Henning, former Iowa State Fair Queen; Adair Boysen, Louisa County Fair Queen; and Aubrey Duncan, Louisa County Fair Princess. Applications and complete paperwork will be available on-site for interested young ladies. Fair Queen contestants must be between 16 and 21 years old, live (permanent residence) or attend school in Louisa County. Fair Princess contestants must be between 4 and 8 years old and live (permanent residence) or attend school in Louisa County. The 2008 Louisa County Fair Queen and Princess Contest will be held on Monday, July 21st with an orientation meeting earlier in July for all confirmed contestants. We hope you will join us and learn about this great program for the young women of Louisa County. Questions may be directed to Michelle Hunt, Director, via email: michelle@centraliowakfc.com

Fundraiser set for Grandview Park

On Saturday, April 19th, 2008, a Grandview Park Fundraiser will be held at the Grandview Fire Station. A hog roast will start at 5 to 8 p.m. Menu includes: pork sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, sauerkraut, drinks and desserts. A free-will donation will be accepted. This fundraiser is being sponsored by the Grandview Fire Department and Grandview Community Club. Come help support a good cause!

Habitat Flea Market trip planned

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity is taking their annual Kane County, Illinois Flea Market trip on Saturday, May 3. The bus will pick up at the Wapello Sale Barn at 7:30 a.m., and the Muscatine Hy-Vee parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The bus will arrive back at Wapello about 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$55 per person. Please send checks before April 29 to: Ruth Yakle, 110 N. Pine Street, Wapello, IA 52653. Her phone number is 319-523-2381.

Free internet training class

A free internet training class will be offered to customers of Louisa Communications and Mutual Telephone, to be held Tuesday, May 13 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at Columbus Junction City Hall. There will be three very informing topics covered: Online fraud; ebay - getting started; and digital photography. We ask that you call the office at 319-527-7636 to reserve a spot, or if you have any questions concerning this class.

Area 12 Art Show scheduled

The Iowa Artists Area 12 Art Show will be held at the Washington Public Library in Washington, Iowa, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., on April 26, 2008. Artists from Des Moines, Jefferson, Henry, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, Van Buren and Washington Counties will be exhibiting. At 2 p.m., Judge Don Jones from Mt. Pleasant, will be awarding the ribbons and critiquing the work. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served. Any artist wishing to enter may do so at the door or by calling Marilyn Goble at 319-657-4173.

P.E.O. Salad Luncheon set

Washington D.C. may claim to be the Cherry Blossom capital during the spring season, but for one spring day, Cherry Blossoms will be blooming in Columbus Junction, thanks to Chapter CX P.E.O. Mark your calendars for the annual P.E.O. Salad Luncheon on Monday, May 5th at the American Legion in Columbus Junction. This event will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and all who come are in for a real treat! Scrumptious salads, mouthwatering ham balls, drinks and desserts are yours for the taking. (Carry-outs are also available.) Tickets are \$6.00 each and can be purchased from any chapter member or from these businesses in Columbus Junction- Feed Wagon, Plants and Things, Special Effects, DrugTown. All proceeds go to the CX P.E.O. Scholarship Fund. Mark your calendars for May 5th. Come see, smell and taste how sweet spring can be. A beautiful and blossoming buffet will be in bloom that day!

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will meet on Monday, April 21, 2008, at 6:30 p.m., in the Roundy Elementary School Library.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, April 17th, at the La Casa Grande (old Captain's Table Restaurant) in Washington, at 11:30 a.m.

Wrestlers to hold can drive

The Columbus wrestlers will be holding a can drive on Sunday, April 20th. If anyone would like to donate, or has questions, please contact any high school wrestler or leave a message at the High School.

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Civic Center.

Discover Columbus Main Street Open House held last Saturday

The first annual Discover Columbus - Main Street Open House was held Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. in downtown Columbus Junction. Mother Nature tried to spoil the day with cool temperatures, rain, sleet, and snow but it didn't dampen the spirit of the day. A big thank you to everyone who came out and helped us celebrate the day. The Main Street Open House was a joint effort of a group of Main Street merchants to help bring more people into downtown, to Discover Columbus and the variety of businesses we have on Main Street. Those participating in the event were the following: Simply Soothing, Our Shop, Plants and Things, H&P Minerals and Dolls, Santa Ana Bakery, Rey de Reyes Mexican Store, Las Lupitas Restaurant, Take 2 Scene 2 Video, Lulu's Fashion, Sabor a Mexico Restaurant, El Confetti Store, CJ Surplus, and Paul Revere's Pizza, all located on Main Street, Columbus Junction. The merchants would like to thank Carlos Rich for his help in organizing the event. The merchants want to continue to have similar events to help promote the unique variety of shops and restaurants we have in town.