

Let's have a Parade

As I said in my column last week, I am organizing Columbus Junction's first St. Patrick's Day Parade for next Tuesday, the 17th. I got the idea after reading the news reports about the declining economy. This caused me to remember something my Dad said when I was a little kid. We were walking home from a parade together, I don't remember what kind of a parade it was, but Dad said, "You know, there ought to be more parades. They don't cost any money, and a lot of people can have a lot of fun." And that's just what we need now, a chance to get our minds off from the serious stuff for a little while.

So here's the plan. The parade will start in front of the State Bank, and proceed to the viaduct. We'll use the bank's clock as the official time piece. At exactly 4:00 the parade will begin. To be in a St. Patrick's Day Parade you must meet either of three requirements: Be a little Irish; Wish you were a little Irish; or have a desire to be in a parade. If you have something green, wear it. If not, just tell people you are wearing green underwear.

Fred and Mary Brune of Rumors and Excuses said they might have some green beer on hand, so if you want, that will be available at the parade's end. It will be Tuesday, and the papers will be delivered around 4:30, so I'll have to get back. But maybe I'll have time to have one glass in honor of the day. (it's a pretty good possibility that I'll have time.)

So, please come out and take your mind off your problems for at least 30 minutes on the 17th. I think you'll be glad you did, and it should be a great time.

LouisaBuilders Network.com launched

Area residents and business owners have a new tool to help with upcoming building projects. *LouisaBuildersNetwork.com* is a brand-new website with listings of Louisa County contractors from across the building sector.

Website visitors can easily find a local contractor based on the type of work needing to be done whether it's excavating for a foundation, installing drywall, putting on a roof or even landscaping. Contractors are also listed by name and community.

LouisaBuildersNetwork.com is being driven by a group of local contractors, with help from Louisa Development Group. Making connections between consumers and Louisa County contractors is the main thrust of the project, but the results should extend even further.

According to Louisa Development Group director Elias Gutierrez, the network will help Louisa County grow: "Whenever dollars are spent here at home, it helps the entire community. The more money we can keep in our local economy, the more likely we are to keep and create jobs, start new businesses and encourage entrepreneurs."

To find a local contractor or to learn more about the network, visit www.LouisaBuildersNetwork.com. Computers for public use can be found in all Louisa County libraries. In addition, printed copies of the list are available by calling 319-457-0077.

Funding for *LouisaBuildersNetwork.com* has been provided by grants from Community Foundation of Louisa County and Alliant Energy.

Louisa Development Group is a member-supported economic development and marketing organization serving Louisa County, Iowa. Memberships are available at several levels. For more information go to www.LouisaDevelopmentGroup.org or call 319-457-0077.

Here we go again



Over two and a half inches of rain fell on the community over the weekend, adding to the already saturated soil. By Sunday the fairgrounds were again underwater, and several streams were out of their banks. The city received three pumps on Monday from the Emergency Management Agency, and they were put into operation pumping the fairgrounds, and along Highway 92. The one bright spot is that we are not facing a large snowmelt north of us as we did last year. Hopefully the rains will subside and things can start drying out. However, rainfall, some heavy, is forecasted for later in the week. Pictured above is the fairgrounds on Monday morning.

Honor Tour donations continue

The WWII Honor Tour fundraising in Louisa County has been exceptional! Thank you to the Louisa community and to the hard work and dedication of American Legion Post #100 of Columbus Junction, Wapello VFW Post #5166, John Carpenter, and Mike Hodges. They have a complete understanding of what the Honor Tour is about and are passing that on to their community. It is all about respect and gratitude towards the men and women that sacrificed, so that as Americans we could live in freedom.

The first WWII Honor Tour left out of Muscatine, IA in October of 2008. It was sponsored by the American Legion Post #27 and was brought to the community under the direction of Pam Ramer. Four Louisa County WWII Veterans (Bob Lowe, Jack Estle, Dick Salemin, and Cal Bohling) had the opportunity to travel on this trip with 26 other WWII Veterans to Washington D.C. so that they could see the WWII Memorial that was built in honor of their generation. The tour is at no cost to the veterans. Not only did they have the opportunity to view their memorial but also many other memorials and sites while on the three day trip. Any of these men would love to tell you about their trip. It has been quoted as being a "Trip Of A Lifetime!"

On May 13, 2009 the WWII Honor Tour will once again be leaving out of Muscatine to take 30 more



Pictured above, from left to right, are: American Legion Commander, Kenny Martin, Honor Tour Committee Chairman Sam Bell receiving a \$1,000 donation to the tour from Louisa County Farm Bureau member, Chris Buffington.

WWII Veterans. There will be six Louisa County veterans experiencing the trip this year. The money being raised in Louisa County will help pay for these veterans from your county. If enough funds are raised we would like to take another tour in the fall of 2009 with 30 Louisa County Veterans who would be sponsored by and leaving from the American Legion in Columbus Junction. If you are a WWII veteran or know someone who is, please contact Sam Bell at the Community Bank in Columbus Junction or Butch Buster at VFW Post

#5166 in Wapello. It is on a first come first served basis. To make this trip a reality we need your community's help in raising the funds.

Please send donations to Sam Bell at the Community Bank, 229 Main Street, Columbus Junction, IA 52738 or Wapello VFW Post #5166 c/o Butch Buster, 707 Buchanan Street, Wapello, IA 52653.

If you have any questions you may also call Pam Ramer. 563-299-0948

Thank you for supporting our "GREATEST GENERATION".

County receives emergency funds

Louisa County has been awarded federal funds under the emergency food and shelter national board program.

Louisa County has been chosen to receive \$4,232 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a national board that is chaired by the FEMA and consists of representatives from the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities, Catholic Charities, USA, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and the United Way of America which will provide the administration staff and function as fiscal agent. The board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shel-

ter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A local board made up of various entities will determine how the funds awarded to Louisa County are to be distributed under the terms of the grant from the national board, local organizations chosen to receive funds must 1) Be a private non-profit, 2) Have an accounting system, 3) Practice non-discrimination, 4) Have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 5) Must have a voluntary board.

Louisa County has distributed emergency food and shelter funds previously through Community Action.

Please contact Marcy Gerst-Meeker at 319-728-2314 for more information before March 19, 2009.

Heavy rains cause road closings in County

WAPELLO, Iowa -Louisa County Officials have closed County Road H22 (known locally as the "K Road") indefinitely to keep water on the west side of the temporary levee that crosses that roadway. Crews built the levee up another 5 feet over the last 2 days making it impassable to traffic, but better for water control, and it is holding the water back from the Oakville bottoms.

Water on the roadway has caused the closure of Highway 99 just east of Wapello at the Wapello Bridge. This also affects Highway G62 until it climbs east toward X61 in Louisa County. There is no flooding in the City of Oakville at this time.

Briefly -

Alumni Banquet set

Mark your calendar now for the Columbus-Cotter-Conesville Alumni Banquet, June 13th. Due to cancellation of last year's banquet because of the flood, we will be honoring two 50-year (1958 and 1959) and two 25-year (1983 and 1984) classes. If you'd like to be involved in planning the banquet, contact Jerry Bell or Jim Howell.

Legion Fish and Chicken Fry

The American Legion will hold a fish and chicken fry along with a loin raffle on Saturday, March 14th beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Area cooks needed for fundraiser

WAPELLO - Louisa County Habitat For Humanity is seeking local cooks to make or bake tasty treats for a new type of fundraiser. Habitat members plan to have area restaurants and deli's, as well as local cooks serving 50 or more items to taste from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at the Briggs Civic Center. If you like to cook and want to be a part of this event, call Lois Wanfalt at 319-729-2773. This occasion is replacing the annual auction Habitat has held for several years however there will be a silent auction during the tasting hours. Tickets will be for sale soon.

City Council to meet tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

CCHS Class of 1989 plans reunion

Attention 1989 Grads from Columbus Community High School. We are asking for your help. We are in the beginning stages of planning our 20-year class reunion. Time has flown by! The first step is to gather classmate addresses, along with email addresses. Please forward any classmate information to Debbie (Buser) Bunting at debbunting@hotmail.com. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Debbie (Buser) Bunting and/or Jennifer Hills-Dunker at 319-212-0490. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Grandview/Letts Lions blood drive

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center announces that the Grandview/Letts Lions Club will be sponsoring a blood drive on Thursday, March 19th from 1:30-6:30 p.m. in the Grandview Bible Church. If you find that you are often turned away because of iron deficiency, you can start eating foods rich in iron (cheerios, pork, eggs, watermelon, etc) ten days before donating blood. To make an appointment to donate, please call Jack Carter at 319-726-4252.

Great Beginnings Fundraiser

On Sunday, March 29, the Great Beginnings Preschool will be having their annual fundraiser. The event will start at 4:30 p.m., at Columbus Junction United Methodist Church with entertainment. At 5:00 p.m., there will be a spaghetti supper (free will donation) followed by a silent auction of three quilts made by the preschool students. The public is invited to come and join us.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, March 11, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., at the Louisa County Conservation Board Office.

Conservation District to meet

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet today, March 11, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. at the NRCS Office in Wapello. Topics on the agenda will be an update on cost share projects. For more information please contact the office at 260 Mulberry St. STE 2, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

Masonic Lodge to hold ham and bean supper

The Masonic Lodge will hold a ham and bean supper at the Columbus City Masonic Lodge on Friday, March 13th. Serving is from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Free will donation will be accepted.

PEO to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Deb Pullin-VanAuken on Monday, March 16 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be co-hosted by Sherry Humphreys and the program will be "Salad Luncheon Planning." All members are encouraged to attend.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, March 16, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., in the Roundy Elementary School Library.

School to hold tetanus clinic

Louisa County Public Health has 62 doses of Tetanus Vaccine that we are making available free of charge for qualifying Junior High/High School students needing a booster. To qualify, you must meet the CDC (Center for Disease Control) underinsured requirements. Those requirements are: You must not have any health insurance or have insurance that does not pay for the tetanus vaccine or be Medicaid eligible. We will have clinics in the Public Health Office on Highway 61 in Wapello on March 19th and 26th from 1-6 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Call the Public Health Office at 319-523-3981 with questions.

Free coffee groups planned

Our regular 2nd Thursday Free Coffee will be held Thursday, March 12 at the Meal Site at the City Hall in Columbus City, beginning at 8:00 a.m. And a reminder that the 4th Thursday Coffee will be held in the Hope Bible Church Basement on March 26, at 8:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome. Please join us.

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet Thursday, March 19th at 11:30 a.m., at the 92 Roadhouse.