

# Its' time for Spring Cleaning again

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

As we have for many years, the Gazette kicks off a downtown spring cleaning campaign. After the winter thaw, all of the trash that accumulates under the snow and ice becomes again visible. This year is no exception.

However we have help this year. In previous Gazettes there have been articles about a group of University of Iowa students that are planning a series of events for Earth Day that will also emphasize the importance of keeping our town litter free. The schedule of Earth Day events will be published in a later edition of the Gazette, the dates are April 18-23.

But in the meantime, there's no reason we can't get started now. The city has started a program of street sweeping, and it certainly shows. The picture to the immediate right is Main Street on Monday morning. It is nearly litter free, and is an inviting site to visitors. However there is still a lot we can do. The picture at the far right is the area under the steps on the east side of Main Street. A winter's supply of litter has gathered there.



This is only one of the areas in the town that needs attention. So folks, let's make every day Earth Day in Columbus Junction. We have been adopted by the Keep Iowa Beautiful

organization, but they can't be here regularly. It's our responsibility to grow on the suggestions and programs that Keep Iowa Beautiful have

given us. So let's get started, and remember (to borrow Smokey the Bear's phrase) "Only you can prevent litter in Columbus Junction."

# Former area resident recognized by UVA Today

(The following article was published in UVA Today, the newspaper of the University of Virginia. Greg Gerling is an assistant Professor at the University of Virginia. He is the son of John and Donna Carpenter and the late Dave Gerling. He graduated from Winfield-Mt. Union High School and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Iowa.)

March 26, 2010 — Early detection through physical examination is one of the key factors in successfully treating prostate cancer.

Now, health care providers will be able to gain applied training early in their medical education and careers with new simulation technology developed at the University of Virginia that will allow them to experience numerous scenarios that simulate prostate cancer.

The Virginia Prostate Exam Simulator is an interdisciplinary project involving three U.Va. faculty members: Gregory Gerling, assistant professor of systems and information engineering; Dr. Marcus Martin, professor of emergency medicine; and Reba Moyer Childress, assistant professor of nursing.

The interactive tool is capable of simulating more than 100 malignancy scenarios. The simulator consists of an anatomical model with four different prostates that can be altered by the inflation and deflation of small water balloons inside. The simulator models a breadth of physiological conditions that might take years to encounter through traditional patient examinations, said Martin, who is also interim vice president and chief officer for diversity and equity.

The project's goal was to create multiple conditions — situations that were reconfigurable on demand by the clinician, simulating graded stages of cancerous tumors and benign prostatic hyperplasia in a life-like model.

Childress, an expert in simulation education, directs the School of Nursing's Clinical Simulation Learning Center. "Collaboration has helped us develop a realistic and robust simulator for teaching students and practitioners. The simulator is user-friendly, accurate and representative of how an actual patient will present," she said.

A distinguishing feature of the design is that it provides immediate feedback to participants — both the instructor and the health care profes-

sional in training. "It provides a situation where they can make mistakes and learn," Gerling said.

Training begins with supervision, followed by unsupervised scenarios. As it provides a gradation of experience, the simulation builds confidence, Martin said.

Prostate cancer detection is increased by coupling the rectal exam with prostate specific antigen testing, he said. "Early detection is the key, and VPES trains students on early detection."

Each year more than 200,000 cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed and about 30,000 men die from the disease. African-American men are twice as likely to get prostate cancer as white men. It's the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in American men, he said.

According to the American Cancer Society, the five-year survival rate is 100 percent for patients whose prostate cancer is discovered early.

Gerling and engineering graduate students are working to produce a number of the simulators to be used in labs in the Nursing School and the new Claude Moore Medical Education Building.

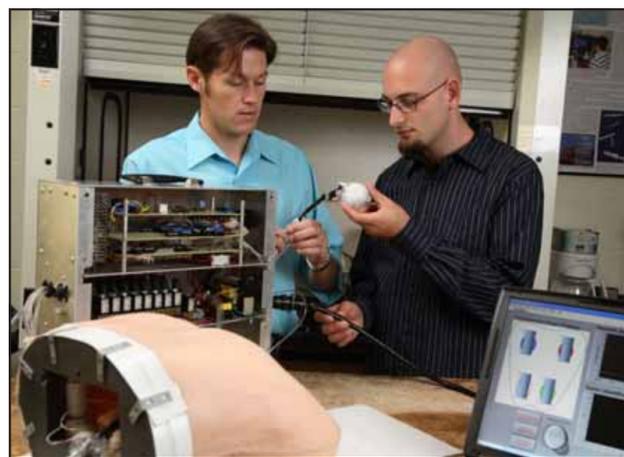
The project is ongoing and will include refinements of the simulator and curricular initiatives are being developed in nursing and medicine to use the new technology.

The U.Va. Patent Foundation has licensed this technology to health care product supplier NASCO International Inc.

"We are delighted that we were able to help move this innovative simulator to the marketplace, where it will fulfill a critical need for enhanced training of medical professionals in detecting prostate cancer," said Miette H. Michie, executive director and CEO of the U.Va. Patent Foundation. "This project is an excellent example of the many U.Va. discoveries that are making a positive impact on patients' lives."

The simulator project began in 2006 with \$50,000 from the Academy of Distinguished Educators in the School of Medicine. Additional funding includes a \$390,000 grant from the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program.

Gerling and engineering graduate students worked on all aspects of project, creating the electronics and software, developing the soft silicon of the torso model that replicates human tissue and refining the techniques for making the balloons work. Former graduate student Sarah



Greg Gerling shows simulator to Ph.D. student Daine Lesniak. (Photo: Tom Cogill)

Rigsbee, now at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, built the first version of the simulator, and Nighuan "Miki" Wang, now at Microsoft, applied her research to the quantification of finger palpation techniques. Isabelle Rivest built the second user interface, and Angela Lee produced the second-generation version, which includes computerized adaptive testing algorithms that allow the simulator to evaluate the user's responses.

Martin and Childress lent their expertise in clinical and medical aspects related to prostate exams, education experience for nursing and medical students, residents and attending urologists and what is desired in teaching medical and nurse practi-

tioners.

The collaborators also called on the expertise of urologists Drs. Dan Theodoresco and Tracey Krupski, prostate cancer experts, to help with development of the synthetic prostate tissue.

Nursing and medical students joined the research study team, providing feedback on skill development aspects of the training device at every level of the project.

"There's truly an art to collaboration," Childress said. "We learn each other's roles to understand each discipline's perspectives. It takes many disciplines to create a simulator."

— By Jane Ford

# City Council holds hearing on \$25 water bill penalty

By Jim Rudisill

The first reading of an ordinance amendment, which would establish a \$25 penalty if a water shut-off notice is posted on a property, was approved by the city council during its regular March 24 meeting.

Mayor Dan Wilson said the council approved the first reading of the ordinance amendment and he expected two additional readings before the new rule would go into effect. He said the fee could start being assessed in May.

Under the new proposal, residents would still have water bills mailed out around the first of each month. The bills would become delinquent on the 15th of each month and automatically receive a 10% penalty. The city would

continue to notify residents if they do not pay their bill. About 10 days after that, residents could expect to begin seeing shut-off notices, Wilson said.

Anyone getting the shut-off notice would be assessed the \$25 penalty, while residents who actually had their water shut off would have to pay an additional \$50 reconnection fee.

In other action, Wilson said city officials were continuing to seek grant funding for improving the levee and conducting other flood prevention work.

He also said that Mallory Smith and Nitza Lopez-Castillo, of the Columbus Junction Community Development Center, provided a report on their activities.

## Briefly -

### Easter Egg Hunt scheduled

The Columbus Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at Chautauqua Park. Ages are 10 and under.

### Conservation Center hours change

The Washington County Conservation Education Center will be changing to their summer hours. Starting April 1<sup>st</sup> hours are as follows: Monday - 10:00 AM - 6:30 PM; Wednesday - 10:00 AM - 6:30 PM; Friday - 12:30 PM - 8:30 PM; Saturday - 12:30 PM - 8:30 PM; Sunday - 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy the park and visit the conservation center to see what it has to offer.

### Alumni Banquet scheduled

The annual Columbus-Cotter-Conesville Alumni Banquet will take place on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at Roundy Elementary School. Reserve the date on your calendar and plan on celebrating with fellow graduates!

### Etude Club Wedding Reception

Columbus Etude will be hosting a "wedding reception," that the public is invited to attend. On Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., Etude will be offering music, cake and a wedding collection from over the years. A free will offering will go toward scholarships to high school music camps.

### 2010 County Fair dates set

The dates for the 2010 Louisa County Fair are: July 24 - Parade and Fair Kickoff; and Fair - dates July 26-31. Dates for the Iowa State Fair are August 12-22.

### Falcon Feed at Pizza Ranch

L-M Schools Team Success will be hosting a Falcon Feed at Pizza Ranch in Muscatine from 5 - 8 PM on Wed., March 31st. Team Success is the JH/HS committee that focuses on building relationships between families, the community, and school. Falcon Feeds allow us to work in the community and earn money at the same time. Pizza Ranch donates 10% of the sales (including take-out orders) for that night to our committee. The money is then used for family nights, conferences (Kids' Corner supplies), and other special events arranged by the group. We would love to see you from 5 - 8 PM on Wed., March 31st!

### Music at Historical Society

WAPELLO — An afternoon of Music will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday April 11, at the Louisa County Heritage Center, 609 N. James L. Hodges Ave., Wapello. The date was incorrectly printed earlier. Vocal musical selections will be presented by the Old Keck Men's Glee Club and a Columbus Junction women's singing group Etude. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

### Benefit for Raul Martinez

A benefit will be held for Raul Martinez on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, from 10 a.m. until 7, at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds Possum Lodge south of Conesville, Iowa. There will be a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, food for \$5 a plate, and band — Room 212 will perform. For more information call Becky Johns at 319-430-3992 or 319-725-6612. Big Raully suffered a stroke and all proceeds will go to help with medical costs.

### Breakfast at Ainsworth Opera House

We will be holding our monthly breakfast buffet on Saturday April 3, 2010 at the Ainsworth Opera House. Time is set for 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Cost is \$7 for adult. Children 10 and under free with adult. We will have biscuits and gravy, sausage links, bacon, scrambled eggs, ham, hash browns, waffles with toppings, Easter bunny special, fresh fruit, birds nest and drinks. This is a fundraiser for the Opera House at 284 Railroad St. in Ainsworth, IA. Come start your Easter weekend with us!

### PEO to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Jill Masonholder on Monday, April 5 at 7:00 pm and co-hosted by Judy Sievers. The program will be Hospice by Jill Masonholder. All members are encouraged to attend.

### Wapello All-Alumni Banquet

The planning committee for the Wapello All-Alumni Banquet needs to know if any graduates did not receive letters regarding the July 17 event. Anyone who did not get the letter is asked to contact Jean Brauns at 319-523-3462 or by email at [bjbrauns@mchsi.com](mailto:bjbrauns@mchsi.com) or Paula Buckman at [pbuckman@louisacomm.net](mailto:pbuckman@louisacomm.net). The letters are needed for making reservations.

# Historical Society receives Community Foundation Grant



Jim Crawford, Community Foundation of Louisa County Board member, presented a \$2,800 grant to Norma McCormac and Gloria Newell of the Louisa County Historical Society, to purchase display cases. Submitted photo.