

City deals with demolition of buildings

By Jim Rudisill

Five Columbus Junction buildings, which were originally scheduled to be included on a demolition project developed by the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (SEIRPC) for Louisa County, will now need to be handled under a new city program. Mayor Dan Wilson updated the council about the change during the city council's April 8 meeting.

According to Wilson, the five properties, which were heavily damaged in flooding last summer, were originally included with inspections, bidding and other work that was done on various properties throughout the county by the SEIRPC. However, that work will now need to be repeated under the direction of the city, which coordinating officials decided was the primary local government for the buildings.

Although the decision is a setback, Wilson said it should not seriously disrupt efforts to demolish the buildings.

"My suggestion is we enter into a contract with regional planning (and) they will take care of (the demolition)," Wilson said, explaining the city could use the previous work already completed by the agency.

He said asbestos had been located on the properties and that would require specialized demolition procedures. Since the bidding for the county projects is already done, Wilson said the regional planning commission could process the additional properties and likely add those to the work that is already scheduled.

Wilson said 90% of the demolition cost will be covered by federal funding while the remaining 10% will be picked up by the state.



A home located across from the fire station that is eligible for a FEMA buy-out

Although this work will demolish the buildings, there will not be any change in ownership. Wilson said a buyout of the properties would involve a separate program and likely be completed in the next year or two.

The council approved a motion to enter into a contract with the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission to coordinate the demolition bidding and other work.

In other action, the council approved the appointment of Cathy Crawford as the city's new librarian.

Crawford will replace long-time librarian Ardee Ostrem, who is retiring. Kathy Moore, a member of the city's library board, said the board had determined Crawford, who has worked for the library for the past several years, was the most qualified individual for the part-time position.

In final action, Wilson updated the council on cleanup activities in the community later this month. The citywide cleanup day is scheduled for April 24, while student volunteers will participate in general cleanup

efforts around the community on April 22.

Wilson also alerted the council to upcoming visits by members of Keep Iowa Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful. The visit will involve a small number of the group members, who will reconnoiter the area in preparation for a larger group that is planning to visit the community from May 6-8. The larger group will inspect proposed entry development areas.

Columbus FFA holds annual banquet and alumni meeting



By Delaney Howell

The annual Columbus FFA banquet was held April 8th. The night started off with a potluck with the meat donated by Tyson, marinade donated by the 92 Roadhouse, and preparation was done by the Columbus Fire Department.

After the meal, the program and awards ceremonies were held. There were many awards and degrees given out that night. Here are the awards and their recipients: Honorary Chapter Degrees were awarded to Michelle Milder, Matt Kingsbury, and Craig Wilson. The Greenhand degrees were awarded to Jara Exline, Kara Exline, Delaney Howell, Anna Lowe, Ruby Noble, Marina Ramirez, Robert Rendon, Travis Ryan and Natalina Sents. The chapter degrees were awarded to Ashley Davis, Austie Hollenbeck, and Rachel Pierce. The outstanding salesperson was awarded to Elyssa McFarland. The Star Greenhand was awarded to Robert Rendon, Travis Ryan, and Delaney Howell. The Star Farmer was awarded to Elyssa McFarland. The Star in Placement was awarded to Jordan Lyon. The Star in Agribusiness was awarded to Ruger Dean. The outstanding member award was awarded to Elyssa McFarland. There was a slide show to review the chapter's year. Then the officers for 2009-2010 were installed. They are as follows: Alex Edwards, President; Ruger Dean, Vice President; Alissa Conaway, Secretary; Rachel Pierce, Treasurer; Delaney Howell, Reporter; and Austie Hollenbeck, Sentinel. We would like to thank the 2008-2009 officer team: Elyssa McFarland, President; Jordan Lyon, Vice President; Alissa

Conaway, Secretary; Brady Milder, Treasurer; Alex Edwards, Reporter; and Ruger Dean, Sentinel for their year of service.

Following the awards ceremony, there was an Alumni meeting held by the student center. Money was raised to offset the cost of FFA members attending the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference April 16-17. If anyone would like to join the Columbus FFA Alumni, please contact Katie Lewis

or Wade Edwards.

The Columbus FFA would also like to thank the Board of Education, Administration, faculty, staff, parents, the Columbus FFA Alumni, and the Community for supporting the Columbus FFA chapter. We would especially like to thank Tyson for donating the meat, the 92 Roadhouse for marinade, the Columbus Fire Department for cooking the meat and our FFA advisor Miss Katie Lewis. Thank

you all for such a great year.

Pictured above left are FFA Honorary Chapter Degree recipients: Michelle Milder, Matt Kingsbury and Brenda Wilson representing her husband, Craig. Pictured at right are the new FFA Officers: Rachel Pierce, Treasurer; Delaney Howell, Reporter; Alissa Conaway, Secretary; Ruger Dean, Vice President; Alex Edwards, President; and Austie Hollenbeck, Sentinel.

Area Lions help clean up road ditches



Columbus Junction Lions Club members met recently to clean the ditches from the Iowa River to Indian Creek, a few miles east on Highway 92. Pictured above from left to right: Ron Baird, John Hein, Mike Pavey, Harold Hunter, Mark Shear, Lamoyne Buser, Warren Woepking, and Don Orr. Also taking part were Gayle Stoller and Verl Lekwa. The group picked up about 30 sacks of trash.

Briefly -

Ainsworth feed sack display and buffet

The Ainsworth Community Center/Opera House will hold their annual feed sack display and meal Friday, April 24th and Saturday, April 25th, 2009. Hours for the display are 10 am to 8 pm. Buffet meal hours are 5 pm to 7 pm both nights. Many buffet items will be offered. We will have items on display made of feed sacks. The stage area will be used for a quilting display of which you may turn a few stitches if you wish. Cost for this year's event is \$1 per person for the display and \$7 per person for the buffet meal. The Ainsworth Community Center/Opera House is located at 284 Railroad St. Ainsworth, IA. This is one of our annual events to raise money for the Opera House. For more information contact Michael Zahs at 319-653-6250.

Columbus Junction City wide clean up

Columbus Junction City Wide Clean Up Day (FRIDAY ONLY) will be held Friday, April 24th. Appliances will require a \$15.00 tag, which can be purchased at City Hall - No appliance will be taken without a tag. Separate Items such as: Metal, Appliance, and Furniture. We will not pick up: Tires, Batteries, Paint, Paint Cans, Hazardous Materials, Chemicals, Spray Cans, Windows or Any Glass Items. No Wood or Building Materials. Do not put anything in garbage bags - they will not be picked up. All items must be set out by 7:00 a.m., the day of clean up. This clean up day is for Columbus Junction Residents Only. Any questions, call City Hall at 728-7971.

Columbus City Clean up Day

Saturday, May 9, 2009 - Have all items at the curbside by 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. There will be a \$15.00 charge for all appliances and a tag must be attached to all appliances. Those include refrigerators, stoves, freezers, microwaves, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, water heaters, air conditioners, and fluorescent light fixtures. **We will not take:** tires, batteries, paint/paint cans, hazardous materials, spray cans, wood/demolition materials, garbage/anything in garbage bags or yard waste. City Hall will be closed on Monday, April 20, 2009. Tags can be bought at City Hall on the following Monday, April 27, 2009, and Monday, May 4, 2009, from 4-6 p.m.

Community Club to meet

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

FFA to host Blood Drive

The Columbus FFA is sponsoring a blood drive at the American Legion on Wednesday, April 22nd, from 1:30-6:30 p.m. If you would like to donate, please call Katie Lewis at: 319-728-2231 x 3621. All proceeds go to Columbus FFA member, Pedro Nunez, whose mother recently passed away. For the first 20 units of blood, the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will give the chapter \$250 and will give \$1 for each unit donated after 20. The FFA members voted to give all of that money to Pedro Nunez and his family.

Thursday free coffee

Our 4th Thursday Coffee will be in the basement of the Hope Bible Church on April 23rd, beginning at 8:30. Then, we are looking forward to being in our newly renovated Senior Center for our coffees beginning in May.

Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County visual support group will meet on the third Thursday of April. This falls on April 16th. We will meet at the sub station on Highway 61 in Wapello at 1:30. Dr. Kevin Jennings, an eye Dr. from Burlington, will talk with us.

L&M Kindergarten and Pre-School Round up

The L-M School District is in the process of identifying next year's kindergarteners. If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 15, 2009, or know of one, please contact the elementary office at 319-726-3634. Kindergarten "Round Up" will be Thursday, April 23rd and Friday, April 24th. This will be a 2-hour session. Teachers meet with students and the principal will meet with the parents. You must be pre-registered, please call the elementary office to set up a time at 319-726-3634.

We are also accepting students for our preschool/childcare program located in the elementary building. Please call Busy Hands preschool/childcare at 319-726-3634 ext. 200. The preschool and childcare have limited space, so sign up soon.

Solid Waste Commission to meet

The LRSWA will hold its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, April 21, at 5:30 PM in the Supervisor's office at the courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

Popcorn and a Movie under the stars

Be sure to mark your calendars for our first Popcorn and a Movie under the stars, this Saturday, April 18th beginning at dusk in the Senior Center parking lot.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, April 20, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., in the Roundy Elementary School Library.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, April 16th at 11:30 a.m. at Jerry's in Mt. Pleasant.

Kidz from Calvary to lead services at Col. Jct. United Methodist

The public is invited to the Columbus Junction United Methodist church this Sunday, April 19, at 11:15 am. Where the Kidz From Calvary will be leading in worship. A special group of 48 kids from Calvary Church in Muscatine, IA. The group ranges in age from 6-18. They will use song and dance to express their worship in what promises to be an exciting and energetic morning of Praise. Invite as many young people as you can to share the love of the Lord in a student led environment. You will not want to miss this!