

## City receives \$2.9 Million for water plant

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

Congressman Dave Loebsack was in town last Friday to deliver the good news to city officials that Columbus Junction has been awarded a \$2.9 million Department of Commerce Grant for the relocation of the city's water treatment facility.

Columbus Junction Mayor Dan Wilson said, "We are very pleased to receive this funding. These dollars, along with a \$900,000 Iowa Department of Development grant that we have already been awarded, will allow us to begin the process of moving the facility out of a flood plain. This will be a big step in our flood control efforts." The city has temporarily leased land along Collins Road that will be purchased to locate the plant. Plans do not include relocating the city's maintenance facilities. "At the present time we plan to leave our maintenance garage in the same location adjacent to the fire station," said Wilson.

"I am very happy to have the opportunity to deliver this wonderful news to your town," said Congressman Loebsack, "your community's flood control efforts have been on our agenda for some



Congressman Dave Loebsack and Columbus Junction Mayor Dan Wilson review the proposed site of new water treatment plant.

time, and you are well deserving of this help."

The city hopes to begin accepting bids for the project by mid to late

summer, with construction beginning this fall or next spring.

## Give a hand, become a part of Earth Day

This is your opportunity to give a hand in helping make Columbus Beautiful by participating in some or all of the following activities planned for Earth Week next week:

Sunday, April 18 - Clean up your garage and yard. Rake up the leaves, mow the yard, pick up litter, sweep out the garage. To dispose of yard waste contact City Hall at 319-728-7971 to schedule an appointment.

Monday, April 19 - Clean up your closets and bedrooms. Donate summer clothing to the United Methodist Church's Clothes Closet. Only clean and folded clothing will be accepted. The Clothes Closet will accept small donations Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For large donations, contact the Church at 319-728-2667 to set a time.

Tuesday, April 20 - Clean up your kitchens and bathrooms. Donate your unwanted food, toiletries and cleaning supplies to Columbus Junction Community Action's food pantry. Items must be unused and unopened and within one year of their "Best if Purchased by" dates. Items can be dropped off at Community Action, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 21 - Clean up your household hazardous wastes. Remove household hazardous wastes from the back of your closets, kitchen, bathroom and ink cartridges and cell phones. Most household chemicals and paints will be accepted. On Wednesday only, citizens of Columbus Junction are invited to drop off their household hazardous waste from Noon to 7:00 p.m. at the City Shop on Walnut Street. Ink cartridges and cell phones can be dropped off at the Library.

Thursday, April 22 - Clean up your Community: Earth Day. Help pick up litter downtown and then join us for free refreshments courtesy of local businesses, informational booths and view Keep Columbus Beautiful student artwork. Meet at the American Legion at 4:00 p.m. to pick up supplies for clean-up. Return to the American Legion at 6:00 p.m. for snacks, informational booths and the Keep Columbus Beautiful poster contest winners! (Rain date will be Saturday from 9-11.)

Friday, April 23 - Columbus Junction City wide Clean up Day. Place unwanted items on the curb that cannot be recycled or donated for pick-up by City trucks. Contact City Hall for more information.

If we all do a small part, we can accomplish a lot in helping to KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL. See you next week.

## Columbus Community Center receives \$20,000 Grant

The Columbus Community Center has received a Strengthen Rural Iowa (SRI) grant as one of 17 nonprofit organizations located within areas 15 and 16 in southern and southeast Iowa. As a result, the Columbus Community Development Center will receive training, technical assistance, and a sub-award grant of \$20,000 as a SRI Partner nonprofit organization.

The Columbus Community Development Center located in Columbus Junction and is directed by Mallory Smith. The mission of the organization is to create economic and community development and to integrate newcomers into the Columbus Junction community.

The SRI project is administered by the Iowa Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, recipient of a two-year \$1 million award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 - Strengthening Communities Fund - Nonprofit Capacity Building Program. A total of \$600,000 will be awarded to regional nonprofit organizations in sub-award grants through two separate nine-month project cycles. Cycle 1 starts in April and concludes in December.

The Strengthen Rural Iowa project will help Partner organizations increase their sustainability and

effectiveness, enhance their ability to provide social services, create collaborations to better serve those most in need, and increase Partner ability to address the broad economic recovery issues present in their communities. Training and technical assistance will aid organizations in critical areas of leadership development, organizational development, program development, collaboration and community engagement, and evaluation of effectiveness.

The project is open to eligible nonprofit organizations located in Appanoose, Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Mahaska, Monroe, Van Buren, Wapello and Wayne counties with independent organizational annual budgets of less than \$500,000. Thirty-four organizations submitted applications and 17 recipients were awarded grants of up to \$20,000 for a total of \$331,000.

A second cycle will exist January-September, 2011 for new regional nonprofit organization participants. Cycle 2-application information will be available at [www.strengthenruraliowa.org](http://www.strengthenruraliowa.org).

SRI collaborating organizations and agencies are the Iowa Workforce Development and the Iowa Department of Human Services and their regional offices, Indian Hills Community College, Southeastern Community College, Ottumwa Chamber

of Commerce, Ottumwa Economic Development Corporation, Iowa State University Extension, United Ways of Iowa, and AmeriCorps\*VISTA, State Office. Chamber of Commerce and Eco-

nomics Development Corporation offices throughout the fourteen-county region will also collaborate in project activity. The project's external evaluator is from the University of Iowa.

## Let's have a Conesville Reunion!!

By Deb Bean

Deciding to become a part of the Social Network of Facebook was a big decision for me. Even though I am a big fan of the Internet I had not connected with any social groups, however I do love my gaming site king.com.

Now 8 months into being on Facebook, I love it. I have reconnected with people I grew up with, went to school with and at some point in my life had worked with. Looking at their profile and pictures in their albums and reconnecting has been great. Reminiscing with everyone has brought back lots of fond memories. A trip down memory lane has made me laugh and brought me to tears when talking about people that made such a difference in our lives. When we were kids we talked about growing up and moving away because we wanted bigger and better things than what we had growing up in Conesville. Now that we are adults

we look back and say, "we had it so good back then, we were just too naive to see it!"

Then an idea was suggested on Facebook, "Why don't we have a potluck or picnic and try to get past Conesville residents to come and share old memories, make new memories, tell stories, laugh and enjoy an afternoon together once again."

"Coming Home and Sharing the Memories." Anyone interested in helping plan this hopefully big event are asked to call me at 563-299-6833 or 319-728-2318 or email me at [mrsbsy06@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsbsy06@yahoo.com) or connect with me on Facebook.

So far our plans are to have the potluck picnic on one of the days during Watermelon Days 2010, which is being held this year on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

So calling out to Conesville families past and present, please help spread the word and let's reminisce and have a big old-fashioned reunion.

## Briefly -

### City Wide Clean Up Day

Columbus Junction City Wide Clean Up Day will be held on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> ONLY! 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, or 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 a.m. the day of clean up. This clean up day is for Columbus Junction residents only. Any questions, call City Hall at 319-728-7971.

### City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a public hearing and regular council meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/ City Hall.

### FFA to sponsor blood drive

Columbus Community FFA is sponsoring a blood drive on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:30-6:30 p.m., at the Columbus Junction American Legion Hall, 99 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Col. Jct. To donate call Katie McWhirter at 319-728-2231. Walk-ins are welcome. Donors who last gave blood on or before February 24, 2010 are eligible.

### Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Visual Support Group will meet on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. in the East Room of the Corner Market, Wapello, Iowa. Dave Gavin, Hy-Vee, Inc., Pharmacy Supervisor from Des Moines, will explain about the Script-Reader program. Anyone having trouble reading his or her prescriptions should attend this meeting. Hy-Vee is considering putting the chip on our prescription bottles that will let the Script-Reader read all the directions and dosages to us. Questions, call Lois Richers at 319-527-2630.

### Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will hold a meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in the Louisa County Conservation Board Office.

### Retired School Personnel to meet

The first meeting of the Louisa County Retired School Personnel for 2010 will be Tuesday, April 20. The meeting and program will be at 11:15 at the Sub Station in Wapello. Connie Lewis will present an informative program on Birth Rite. Please plan to attend.

### J&J Mott to hold open house

J&J Mott Corporation would like to invite the community to view the newly opened MOTT'S Building located at 221 S. Main Street in Wapello. There will be an open house on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-7 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. Come see the newly renovated facility and learn more about what exciting opportunities this project will provide the community.

### P.E.O. Salad Luncheon

If you want to see "Stars" before your eyes and have wonderful food and companionship, come to the P.E.O. salad luncheon. This lovely meal will be served at the American Legion on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Take-out meals are available. Tickets may be purchased at Plants and Things (who has a special bouquet/ticket combo available), Special Effects, The Feed Wagon, or any P.E.O. member. Proceeds from the luncheon go to a senior scholarship.

### PEO to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Melanie DeVore on Monday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. and co-hosted by Nita Abbott. Marie Meyer, Foreign Exchange Student from Germany, will present the program. All members are encouraged to attend.

### School Board to meet

Columbus Community School District Board of Education will hold a special public meeting on April 15, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., in the Roundy Elementary School Library.

### Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m. at Spring Run Church to car pool to have lunch at the Brown Stone in Mt. Pleasant at 11:30 a.m.

### Tennis Anyone??

Any retired senior citizen interested in dusting off their tennis racquet and tennis skills should come to the tennis courts at Columbus Junction at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Bring an unopened can of tennis balls. If the weather does not cooperate, we will try every Wednesday afternoon until it does! Let's have some fun! Questions, call 319-725-6425.

### 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.

### CCHS Alumni Banquet set

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!

### L-M School Kindergarten and Pre-School roundup

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, 2010, or know of one please contact the elementary office at 319-726-3634. Kindergarten "Round Up" will be Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 pre-school / child-care program located in the elementary building. Please call busy Hands Pre-school / Child-care at 319-726-3634 ext. 200. The pre-school and child-care have limited space so sign up soon.