



A Visitor's view of Columbus Junction

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Occasionally in the evening I enjoy driving down to the landing in Fredonia to check on the water level and just watch the river flow by. Since I hadn't been there all winter, last week I left the Gazette early and made a visit. On my way there, I saw the pictured garbage tossed into the weeds on the road to the landing.

Folks, this has got to stop. I have no idea why someone would have thrown raw garbage out, and especially in a place that is so heavily traveled. I'm sure we have many visitors that come to the landing to launch their boats, and this is the impression that we are giving them.

Also, I have noticed an increase in trash on our streets. Primarily it is flyers that have been posted on the outside of buildings and have blown off, but there appears to be an increase in food wrappers and beverage cans also.

But what is concerning me now is that in order to dispose of electronic items they must be taken to the Louisa County Transfer Station and a fee is charged. Charging a fee doesn't seem unreasonable to me as it does cost something to operate the transfer station, but I wonder how many people will actually do this. There is no doubt in my mind that we will soon be dealing with rural



road ditches full of old computers, monitors, televisions along with various other electronic devices. This is going to become a crisis.

The garbage pictured will eventually decay away, or maybe get eaten by some animal, but this won't happen with a computer. It will stay there for years. Many

volunteers have recently devoted countless hours and resources to make major improvements in our community, and their success is very evident. But then, someone can do something like the picture shows, and undo all of this work.

I don't know what the answer is other than common decency,

pride, and respect for our neighbors. Please, let's all come together and make this the year that we take the steps necessary to truly make Columbus a beautiful place to live and visit. To use a phrase from Smoky the Bear: "Remember, only you can prevent litter in our community."

Meet the new CCHS Transportation Director

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

Students have to get to school, and the school buses transport many of these children to get them to school. Dan Vogeler, who retired in December, had been the Columbus School Transportation Director. However when he left, Azure Van Auken assumed those duties for the rest of this school year.

Van Auken is not a stranger to the buses. She has driven one since 2001 to the present time. She started with a route to Conesville and then switched to one south of CJ that takes her on the Old White Way. She still drives this route.

Her new duties, as transportation director, require her to schedule buses for sports trips and other activities in addition to making sure the buses are out on their daily routes. If a regular driver is sick, she gets a sub. Keeping athletic and activity buses going at night and on weekends

is quite a job. Also school cars and vans must be scheduled for smaller trips.

Another duty for Van Auken is making sure all the vehicles and buses are running in "tip top" condition. Routine maintenance checks are made along with any repairs that need to be done.

The Columbus School currently has three students who need wheel chairs. Three different buses must get and return these students. Van Auken reports that the school is now going to buy a new bus that will hold three wheel chairs at the same time, thus making only one trip. There are many aspects to this job.

Van Auken comments, "I really like this job. It is challenging, but that's what I like—it keeps me on my toes."

In addition, Azure works as an associate in the Special Needs room at Roundy Elementary. Plus she has helped in general classroom educa-



tion as well, giving her a wide background.

All in all, Azure Van Auken has a very busy day at Columbus Schools that does not end at 4:00 PM. The

buses and other modes of transportation just keep rolling to meet the many needs of the students, and she must see that they get to their destinations.

Rain doesn't dampen last Saturday's Easter Egg Hunt



Lisa Exline and her Easter Egg Hunt crew had a great turn out on Saturday, April 7 for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt - in spite of the rain.

Corrections

The amount given by Woodrow Shearer totaled \$1,423,428 not \$1,422,342.88 as reported. This amount does not include the \$20,000 given to the Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Twyla Peters was called Twyla Carey in the article on the Columbus Medical Clinic. Carey is her maiden name, and it should have read Twyla Peters, her married name.

Briefly -

Potato Supper in Columbus City

The Columbus City United Methodist Church is having a baked potato supper on Saturday, April 21st from 5-7 p.m. The menu includes: Baked potatoes with all the toppings; salads and several desserts. The public is invited and welcome. A free will offering will be accepted.

City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting on today, Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

CJ Road Clean-up scheduled

CJ Road Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, April 14 at 8 am. Meet on the north side of the CJ Middle School (old high school). Be sure to bring good gloves, wear long pants and good shoes. Reflective vests will be furnished. Adults and high school students only. If you have questions, call the Library 728-7972. Event coordinated by Brian Cummings.

Alumni Banquet scheduled

The Columbus area Alumni Banquet will take place at Roundy Elementary School on June 9, 2012. Social Hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., and Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Special recognition will be given to the 50-year (1962) class and the 25-year (1987) class. Put the date on your calendar now!

Early Childhood Board to meet

The Early Childhood Iowa Area Board Des Moines/Louisa Counties will be meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle St., Mediapolis, IA.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will have a meeting today, Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. at the Louisa County Conservation Office.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Roundy Elementary School Library.

Blood Checks at Senior Center

Tami Nichols, R.N. from Colonial Manor will be doing blood checks at the Columbus Junction Senior Center on **Wednesday, April 25th, 2012** from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Come by and have your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol checked. We hope to see you there!

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, April 19 at 11:30 at the Scone House in Grandview. Meet at the Columbus Junction Methodist Church to car pool to Grandview.

Shooting Stars Potato Bar

The Shooting Stars 4-H Club will be hosting a FREE potato bar for the congregation of the Pleasant Grove Community Church on Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 6 p.m. The group will serve baked potatoes with all the fixings, assorted salads and desserts with drinks as part of their service project. Congregation members and family members of the Shooting Stars are invited to attend.

Titanic at the Library

A Titanic event will take place at the Columbus Junction Public Library on Saturday, April 14 from 4-7 p.m. It will feature a tasting table of the foods served 100 years ago. We will have exhibits, movies, and a model ship. The highlight of the evening will be an appearance of the Unsinkable Molly Brown, presented by our very own Rosemary Harris. Rosemary's presentation will begin at 5 p.m. Come at 4 p.m. to enjoy the food and exhibits and honor the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

Chapter T.T.T. to meet

The April 12th meeting of Chapter R T.T.T. will be held at the home of Kathy Moore with Mary Wilson as co-hostess. Please note: This is a change of location from the printed program.

Washington County Conservation Board to meet

The Washington County Conservation Board will hold its monthly meeting today, April 11, 2012 at 4:30 pm in the Conservation Education Center.

Columbus Junction awarded "Keep Iowa Beautiful" Grant

Des Moines - Diamond Vogel Paint and Keep Iowa Beautiful announced the grant awards for the 2012 "Paint Iowa Beautiful" program. The program provides free paint to a wide variety of public service projects throughout Iowa. The program is administered through Keep Iowa Beautiful with the paint provided by the Diamond Vogel Paint Company.

"This nine-year partnership with Keep Iowa Beautiful allows Diamond Vogel Paint to assist and work with the many local volunteers that help build pride in their communities where they live and work," said Doug Vogel, Vice-President, Trade Marketing, of the Iowa based company. "Our

company has awarded over 6,000 gallons of Diamond Vogel paint to over 275 projects in over 120 communities."

Gerald Schnepf, Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful added, "The Paint Iowa Beautiful program helps us increase our assistance to neighborhoods, communities, historic projects and other public service organizations in improving the attractiveness and beauty of our home areas. These projects definitely improve the beauty of Iowa, its countryside and its communities."

Keep Iowa Beautiful is a non-profit organization affiliated with Keep America Beautiful. Program efforts include litter reduction, pub-

lic nuisance abatement and beautification programs.

Diamond Vogel is an Iowa based, family owned company started in 1926 by Andrew Vogel. It serves 13 states with seven manufacturing facilities and over 60 service center outlets providing Architectural Finishes, Industrial and Original Equipment Finishes and Home Decorating Products.

2012 AWARD WINNERS - The following area town is an award winner for the 2012 allocation of paint from the Diamond Vogel Paint Company: Columbus Junction/Keep Columbus Junction Beautiful; Crosswalk painting and swinging bridge; Mallory Smith.