

# Designing for the Community's Future

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

"Resuscitating Columbus Junction" is almost here. As was reported in an earlier issue, design teams from "Keep Iowa Beautiful," "Keep America Beautiful," and RDG Consulting will be in town in early May to help construct a plan to position Columbus Junction's appearance for the future. The emphasis will be on giving suggestions to beautify areas of our community, with a special emphasis on the entryways. However, suggestions will also be made for Main Street buildings, the viaduct, and various public areas.

A preliminary team will be in town this Friday to lay the groundwork, but the full team will be here from May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup>. The team has a full schedule prepared, but community input sessions are also set aside. On Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, residents are invited to participate in a working session at the Civic Center from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. On Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, a working lunch at the Civic Center is scheduled from Noon to 1:30 p.m. where the public is invited to be a part of the process. At 5:00 p.m. on Thursday an "After-work" public review and workshop is scheduled. A final public presentation is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Everyone in the community is invited to attend any or all of these sessions.

We are still in need of your suggestions. We were somewhat disappointed in the number of surveys that were returned to us, but we are still asking for input. Please, take a few minutes and write down any ideas you may have on a piece of paper. Make it into a list if it is easier. Ideas might include: downtown store



Last Friday afternoon Judy Prior and Marilyn Stapp were cleaning up the small park downtown. These three young boys walked by and offered to help. Between the five a number of large garbage bags of trash were removed from the park. Thanks, Leo, Tony and Abimael for your help and consideration. You have displayed the "Let's get things done" attitude that can accomplish anything that we set our minds to in the Columbus Junction Community.

fronts, more flower plantings, development of public areas, to name just a few. If possible, it would be helpful if some lists could be turned into city hall or the Gazette office by tomorrow so we can present these to the preliminary team upon their arrival. The remaining lists will be given to the full crew when they arrive.

This is truly a wonderful oppor-

tunity for our community. Not only has "Keep Iowa Beautiful" indicated that some funding will be available for this project, but it gives us a chance to have experienced professionals give an outsider's view of the community's appearance, and offer ideas and suggestions. We all have the problem of sometimes not seeing

the forest for the trees, but with a strong commitment from everyone in the community, and the use of these outside resources that are being provided to us, we will be in a great position to set a design for Columbus Junction for many years to come. Please step forward, your help will be invaluable.

## Plants and Things help in raising money for Swinging Bridge Fund



Pictured above is owner of Plants and Things, Sue Johnson holding a picture of one of Michael York's Swinging Bridge photographs.

By Deb Bean  
Gazette Staff

Sue Johnson from Plants and Things is proud to show off the photos taken of our historic swinging bridge by photographer Michael York of Washington. "Michael said he tried several times to capture the beauty of the bridge and is pleased with the beautiful scenic view he was able to capture and display for sale

at Plants and Things," states Sue.

The photos come in post card size as well as many different sizes matted and framed. Special orders of any size can be taken. Johnson is donating the profit from the sale back to the "Swinging Bridge Committee".

These photos or cards would make a great gift or memento of our Historic Swinging Bridge for any resident, past or present.

## United Fund applications now available

The board of directors of United Fund of Columbus Junction invites area non-profits to apply for funding support for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Applications can be picked up at the Community Development Center, 232 Second St., are available online at [www.columbusjunctioniowa.org](http://www.columbusjunctioniowa.org) and may be requested by calling 319-728-7971. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2009.

According to its mission statement, United Fund of Columbus Junction contributes to organizations and projects that serve Columbus Junction area residents and businesses by building a stronger community and improving lives. The organization disburses funds once annually. The current application should be used for activities that will take place between July 2009 and June 2010.

In the past year the board of directors of United Fund of Columbus Junction distributed over \$20,000 to 22 area groups. Recipients included American Legion Post 100, CCHS After Prom Committee, Columbus Action, Columbus City Improvement Club, Columbus Community Heritage Museum, Columbus Community Swimming Pool, Columbus Senior Center, Columbus Softball Association, Conesville Fire Department, Friends of Columbus Junction Library, L & M After Prom Committee, Letts Volunteer Fire Department, Letts/Columbus Girl Scouts, Letts Public Library, Louisa County Area Vietnam Veterans, Louisa County

Fair, Louisa County Responders, Washington Community Chest, Winfield Fire Department, CJ Community Development Center, Louisa County Extension, and Home Caring Services.

The United Fund of Columbus Junction was originally formed to help service organizations fund the valuable work they do for children, families and seniors in the Columbus Junction area. The United Fund serves as a central charitable fund that individuals and businesses donate to creating a pool of money that is distributed annually. The majority of contributions are made through payroll deductions, with Tyson employees being by far the largest donor group. Money goes primarily to Columbus Junction groups however; funds are also distributed to nearby communities where United Fund of Columbus Junction contributors live. Supporting groups in donors' home communities is a top priority.

Contributions to the United Fund of Columbus Junction in any amount are greatly appreciated. Tax deductible donations can be mailed to United Fund of Columbus Junction, PO Box 263, Columbus Junction, IA 52738 or dropped off at the Community Development Center at Civic Center. Contributors to the 2009 fund drive will receive a colorful window cling recognizing their generosity.

For more information please contact Mallory Smith or Nitza Lopez Castillo at the Community Development Center 319-728-7971 or [cdc@columbusjunctioniowa.org](mailto:cdc@columbusjunctioniowa.org).

## 2009 Prom schedule

Admission: \$1 -  
no activity tickets/passes

The past few years the number of people attending grand march has grown. This year we are adding more seating space to grand march to accommodate the overflow of people. We feel the change will be a positive addition to grand march.

Here is how grand march will work this year. The week before prom, each junior and senior signed up for grand march will receive an equal number of tickets. The juniors and seniors will be responsible for distributing their tickets.

6:45 pm doors open - Ticket holders only will be seated in the auditorium. All other guests will be asked

to take a seat in the gym. One set of bleachers will be open to all other guests.

7:15 pm Grand march will begin in the gym and be conducted in the same manner as in the auditorium, complete with announcer. The students will enter the gym first, be announced and then proceed to the auditorium where they will also be announced.

A short reception will follow in the gym. All parents will be asked to leave approximately 8:15 pm. (This time could vary depending upon the time grand march concludes) If you have any questions, please direct them to the school 728-2231.

## Briefly -

### Ainsworth Feed Sack display and buffet

The Ainsworth Community Center/Opera House will hold their annual feed sack display and meal Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### City Wide clean up in Col. Jct.

Columbus Junction City Wide Clean Up Day (FRIDAY ONLY) will be held Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. 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. Tags can be bought at City Hall on Monday, April 27, 2009, and Monday, May 4, 2009, from 4-6 p.m.

### Special Spring Farmers' Market

Join us for a special Spring Farmers Market on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:30 at the American Legion parking lot, 22 Second St., Columbus Junction. This market will feature bedding plants, baked goods and some fresh produce. In case of rain the market will be held inside. The regular Columbus Junction Farmer's Market season begins May 15 and runs until October 9<sup>th</sup>.

### FFA to sponsor Blood Drive

The Columbus FFA is sponsoring a blood drive at the American Legion today, 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.

### Master Gardeners to meet

The Louisa County Master Gardeners will be meeting at 7:00 PM on April 28, 2009 at the First Presbyterian Church in Wapello. Nicole Hoben, Barnyard Blooms, will be presenting the program on Ornamental Grasses. Learn about how to use Ornamental Grasses in your landscape, find which ones suit your yard, and how to care for them to get results all year long. A short business meeting to follow with emphasis on finalizing plans for the Second Annual Plant Sale to be held on May 2, 2009 at the Church. All Master Gardeners and MG Interns welcome.

### Free Thursday 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.

### R.S.V.P. Club Spring Fling

Join your RSVP Club friends for a time of food and fellowship on Wednesday, April 29 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the American Legion in Columbus Junction. A marvelous meal will be served by Vickie Mincer, Mincer Country Catering. You will have the opportunity to sign up for upcoming trips and tours. A grand prize will be given away- must be present to win. For food planning purposes, PLEASE CALL the Columbus Junction State Bank by THIS FRIDAY to reserve your seats. 319-728-2436. Celebrate Spring with a Really Special Variety of People.

### P.E.O. Salad Luncheon set

Signs of Spring are springing up- flowers are blooming, birds are singing, the grass is greening, and the annual P.E.O. Salad Luncheon is springing up soon. Mark your calendars for Monday, May 4 and join Chapter CX P.E.O. for a time of fabulous food and fellowship. This annual fundraising event will be held at the American Legion in Columbus Junction from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The cost is \$7 and all the proceeds support the P.E.O. scholarship fund. Carry-outs are available. Tickets may be purchased at Plants and Things, Special Effects, The Feed Wagon (all in Columbus Junction) or any Chapter CX P.E.O. member. The P.E.O. Salad Luncheon is a super way to celebrate spring.

### Postage rates to increase

Postage rates will increase on Monday, May 11, 2009. The cost to mail a one-ounce letter will increase to 44 cents. Post card rate will increase to 28 cents. The additional ounce will remain the same at 17 cents. This is a smart time to purchase the forever stamp. The forever stamp sells at today's rate is good for one-ounce letter postage forever.

### City Council to meet tonight

City of Columbus Junction will hold their regular council meeting Wednesday, April 22, 2009, 5:30 p.m. at the new Civic Center/City Hall

### Diabetic Clinic at Roundy

The University of Iowa College of Nursing students and Louisa County Public Health are hosting a free diabetic education and screening clinic at Roundy Elementary School in Columbus Junction on April 23rd from 6 pm to 8 pm. Blood sugar testing, foot care, and free information regarding healthy living will be provided. Everyone is welcome to come whether or not you have diabetes. We hope to see you there.