

Chautauqua Park receives Face Lift

From the Community Development Center

Dozens of volunteers showed up on Saturday morning to help make a start on the 2011 renovation of Chautauqua Park. The project is part of the Keep Columbus Beautiful effort, oversight is proved by The Parks and Recreation Commission headed by Jim Gabriel. Wet weather left the construction of new restrooms for an undetermined future date but the prairie planting at the east end of the park, initial development of trails and general clean up went on as planned.

Master Gardener Jim Everett headed up an enthusiastic group that transformed the far end of the park into a beautiful native garden. The garden was designed by Nicole Hoben of Barnyard Blooms and the plants, shrubs and trees were purchased locally at her business in Grandview. Additional plants were donated by Master Gardeners of Louisa County. The wet conditions made planting a muddy job, to cope volunteers made paths in the planting area with mulch. A quarter acre area was planted and mulched. Funds for the planting came for a grant from the Community foundation of Louisa County.

A second group of volunteers focused on general clean up. Using mesh bags provided the Keep Iowa Beautiful and tarps these volunteers cleared the mowed area of the park



of fallen branches, leaves and litter. They were an enthusiastic crew and produced a dump truck full of debris.

Nate Carlson and Paul Duncan focused their energies on trail development. Their work began with investigating former paths and concluded with laying out a trail along the perimeter of the park that begins at the fire pit near the entrance and

winds around the new garden to the east. They marked the new trail with flags and mowed it with trimmers. Work on the trail will continue in the summer and fall.

Dave Duncan and Jose Estrada headed up the food committee. A lunch of grilled hot dogs, potatoes salad, macaroni salad and chips was much appreciated by the hard work-

ing volunteers. A first aid station was provided by Kathy Vance, Iowa State Extension. Fortunately there were no accidents or injuries, the bugs were not bad and everyone was cautious about getting near poison ivy. Kathy was able to spend much of her time taking videos and photos to document the successful event.

City Council discusses employee seat belt policy

By Jim Rudisill

Columbus Junction city staffers will need to remember to buckle up, not only while in vehicles, but when operating machinery and other equipment that has safety belts and harnesses. The city council included those guidelines in a new safety policy it approved during its regular June 8th meeting.

Mayor Pro-tem Mark Huston, who conducted the meeting while Mayor Dan Wilson was out of town, said the city's workers compensation insurance carrier had requested the policy.

Under the policy, all employees

operating official vehicles, equipment, personal and rental cars on official business and other occupants will be required to use seat belts and shoulder restraints. In addition, employees operating equipment with a rollover protective structure (ROPS) shall use seat belts. Employees will also be prohibited from riding in or on parts of a vehicle not designed for human occupancy, including pickup and truck boxes, fenders, steps and bumpers.

Officials will inspect the city's vehicle and equipment fleet to determine if any of the machinery is not equipped with the safety items; and

discuss that issue with the insurance company. Employees who violate the new policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

In other discussion during the meeting, council member Dave Duncan asked if the city or state was responsible for removing vegetation east of the Columbus Motel. Duncan said traffic entering Iowa Highway 92 from Colonels Drive had difficulty seeing approaching traffic. He pointed out clients of a nearby day care center use the access and indicated the vegetation could create a blind spot.

"My understanding is that it's the

state's (responsibility) and they have been contacted," Huston said, adding he was unsure what the consequences would be if the city cleared the area.

The council also learned no volunteers had stepped forward to fill the seat of former council member C.P. Pierce. Pierce submitted his resignation last month after he and his family moved outside the city limits. The council agreed at its last meeting to fill the seat by appointment and began to advertise. Officials hope to make the appointment at the council's July 13th meeting.

Supervisors consider County Precinct changes based on census figures

The Louisa County Board of Supervisors is *considering* changes in the number of Precincts for the Primary and General Elections only. Election law allows a precinct to be up to 3,500 residents to a precinct. If a city is being considered for combining with townships to consolidate precincts, and they have over 2,000 residents, according to the 2010 Census they must form an agreement with the County to allow the city to be combined with another township and/or cities of less than 2,000 residents.

There will be a public hearing in the next several months to allow for public input on these changes. People may also send letters to the Board of Supervisors if they cannot make the public hearing. The hearing will be published in the Wapello Republican and the Columbus Gazette at least 4 days before the hearing.

The changes being considered are to cut costs for the taxpayer for the Primary and General Elections every two years. It is estimated that a minimum of \$3,000.00 would be saved every two years.

Following are the changes considered: Concord-Oakland-Fredonia: goes to West Louisa; Eliot-Oakville: goes to new precinct Southeast Louisa; South Port Louisa: goes to Grandview-North Port Louisa to new precinct name Grandview-Port Louisa.

If the precincts change they would then be:

Columbus Junction City Precinct- no change, census 1,899; Grandview-Port Louisa Precinct (includes Letts) census 2,314; Morning Sun-Marshall Precinct (includes Morning Sun City) - no change, census 1,401; Southeast Louisa Precinct (includes Wapello City, Wapello Township, Jefferson Township, Eliot Township, Oakville City) census 3,344; West Louisa Precinct (includes Columbus City, Cotter, Fredonia, and Townships of Columbus City, Concord, Elm Grove, Oakland, Union) census 2,429.

This will decrease the precincts from 8 to 5. It is a fact that absentee voting increases with every election. Citizens in Eliot and Oakville will drive as far as the current citizens in Union and Oakland townships have done for ten years and longer. Tax money will be saved and that is what we hear the citizens want. We are trying to accomplish saving taxpayer money. The census figures are the total residents and not the number of registered voters. Those numbers are less. The new larger Southeast Louisa Precinct will have two extra election officers to streamline the process.

Signs of Improvement popping up

From the Community Development Center

The Keep Columbus Beautiful logo is starting to be seen around town and on the internet. The logo was designed by Mike Mullinnix of Columbus Junction to be simple, eye-catching and usable as a stencil. The stenciling began last week at Chautauqua Park as Community Development Center intern Jesus Lizarraga led a team of volunteers in painting the logo on the street and at the east shelter. The stencil project is supported by a grant from Keep Iowa Beautiful called Paint Iowa Beautiful. Communities that get grants do not receive cash but rather they are given paint from Diamond Vogel Paints, a family owned company headquartered in Orange City, Iowa. A cash grant to Keep Columbus Beautiful from Lowes was used to buy the stencils and supplies. Volunteers will be painting weekly throughout the summer creating crosswalks and signs to remind residents and visitors to Keep Columbus Beautiful. Please contact the Community Development Center if you are interested in helping. Keep Iowa Beautiful was impressed with Columbus Junction's innovative use of the Paint Iowa Beautiful and has photos of KCB volunteers on their website.



Upcoming Area Tractor Rides FFA Alumni Tractor Ride

The Columbus FFA Alumni will holding their 2nd annual tractor ride on Saturday, July 23, 2011. Registration forms and details can be picked up at the Columbus Junction State Bank, online at www.hs.columbuscd.com/FFA under the "forms" link, or contact Brenda Wilson at 319-212-0529.

Historical Society Tractor Ride

Registration fee: \$25.00 – includes dinner for driver at ride's end, additional meals \$10.00. Will stop during ride for lunch (on your own). Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., driver's meeting at 8:30 a.m., ride starts at 9:00 a.m. Ride length: 43 miles. To register, send check for \$25.00 payable to Louisa County Historical Society to: Hwy 61, Wapello, Ia. 52653. Questions please call Dick McCormac 319-728-8818 or Dwight Schaper 319-728-8961. Tractors must have SMV emblem, rubber tires, and be able to maintain speed of 10 mph. Drivers must present proof of insurance.

Briefly -

Alzheimer's Support Group to meet

The Alzheimer's Association Henry County Caregiver and Family Support Group will meet Thursday June 16th from 3-4 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Winfield. The topic this month will be on Daily Life with Alzheimers/Dementia. For more information you may call Angie Ebeling or Peggy Beaty at 319-257-3303.

City Council meets tonight

City of Columbus Junction will hold its regular meeting tonight June 15, 2011 starting at 5:30 P.M. location will be at the New Civic Center / City Hall in Columbus Junction.

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Senior Center.

Ice Cream Social in Columbus City

Nashville, TN Pianist and Comedian Brian Hanson will be in concert Tuesday evening, June 28, 2011 at the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church, 517 2nd Street, Columbus Junction, IA. Doors open at 5:30 P.M. for an Ice Cream Social (free will donation), with the concert starting at 7:00 P.M. Through the vehicles of beautiful piano music, audience participation and a great sense of humor, Brian's concerts are a unique blend of traditional favorites, the best of contemporary praise and worship and lots of laughs along the way. You won't want to miss this special evening. A love offering will be taken. For further information call the church at (319) 728-2669.

Heritage Arts classes offered

Wanted: People who want to learn Heritage Arts: Needle Tinting, Brazilian Embroidery, Crocheting, Hand and Machine Knitting, Bargello, Needle Point, Etc. Classes for beginner to advanced, the first Monday of the month from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. and every Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information call Our Shop at 106 Main Street, Columbus Junction, 319-728-5648.

Early Childhood Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa Early Childhood Area Board (formerly Empowerment Board) will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA, on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

County Fair Dates set

The Louisa County Fair will take place July 24-30, 2011. Kick-off will be Sunday, July 24th. Fair will start on Monday, July 25 ending on Saturday, July 30. Hope to see you at the fair!

Visual Support Group to meet

Louisa County Visual Support Group will meet on the third Thursday of June at the Keck Memorial Library (119 North 2nd, Wapello). We will meet on the 16th at 1 p.m. Nancy Carter, a 2nd Grade Teacher from Mediapolis, will be our speaker. She will tell us about her class's project called OIC which got National recognition. OIC is a system that could help visually impaired children in the classroom. For more information, call Lois Richers at 319-527-2630.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, June 15, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. at the Louisa County Conservation Board Office.

L-M Youth League Trivia Night

Please join us, June 17th at the Letts Community Building. The L-M Youth League will be hosting a Trivia Night to raise funds for youth sports. Don't miss this fun-filled event! Call us to reserve your team! Limit 15 teams! Doors open at 6 p.m., Trivia begins at 7 p.m., open to ages 16+ with 8 players per team, cost is \$10.00 per player, we will hold a 50/50 raffle and concessions will be available.

Rees Reunion scheduled

The annual John A. Rees reunion will be held at Noon on Saturday, June 18, 2011, at Marr Park west of Ainsworth. We will meet in the first shelter for a potluck meal. Officers are President Tyler Rees, Vice President Jay Greene, Secretary-Treasurer Sharon Rees and Historian Richard Arthur. Table Committee will be Dee Anne Vincent – chair, Chris Leichty and Melinda Rees.

Open House for School Personnel

You are invited to an open house in honor of retirees Kathleen Almelen, Mary Wilson and Cheryl Curtis on Sunday, June 26, 2011. Program begins at 2 p.m. in Columbus Community High School auditorium. Refreshments following in the student center.

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet June 16th at 11:30 a.m. at the Chop House in Mediapolis.

Bank to sponsor Veterans' Float

Iowa State Bank is sponsoring a Veterans float again this year for the 4th of July Parade in Morning Sun and the Chief Wapello Days Parade in Wapello on July 16th. Vets are invited to join us on the floats and support our active duty personnel. Please respond by June 24, 2011 to Iowa State Bank, 319-868-7525 if you can ride on either float. There will be a hydraulic lift with railing to load wheelchairs and people needing assistance. Water and chairs will be provided. Donations for our active duty personnel can be left at Iowa State Bank in Morning Sun and Wapello or sent to Sandra Vanderpol, Family Assistance Coordinator at 7105 NW 70th Ave., Johnston, IA 50131. Please support our Active Duty Personnel.

This week at the Farmers' Market

Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion parking lot, now until October 14th. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, homemade noodles, jams and jellies, and plants. Some vendors accept Iowa Farmers Market Nutrition, WIC and Senior Program coupons. Buy fresh and local and taste the difference. For more information, including how to participate as a vendor, contact Nitza or Mallory at 319-728-7971.

Taco Night in Fruitland

The Fruitland Parks and Recreation Board will sponsor a taco night fundraiser tonight, Wednesday, June 15, 2011, 4:00-7:00 p.m., at the Fruitland Community Center, 104 Sand Run Road. The menu includes tacos, beans, dessert and drink. Cost is \$5.00. There will also be a raffle for donated prizes. Proceeds will be used to support Drake Park improvements. The public is invited to view park plans on display and offer any suggestions for future improvements.