

## LDG learns of future Iowa Economic Plans

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

Members of the Louisa Development Group were updated on future economic plans for Iowa during their annual meeting last week.

Debi Durham, Iowa Economic Development Director, along with Michael Gould, project manager of the Iowa Economic Development's business development division, visited Louisa County during the day to visit county businesses and industries.

They began their day in Wapello where they toured Superior Arms, Grimm Brothers Plastics and S&J Tube.

After lunch they traveled to Columbus Junction where they toured Tyson Foods, Dona Letty Foods, Pride of Iowa Market Place and Simply Soothing.

The duo were accompanied on their tour by Dennis Fraise, director of Business Services and Sherry Humphreys, director of Community Enhancement for the Louisa Development Group.

The day concluded at the American Legion in Columbus Junction where Durham was the featured speaker for LDG's annual meeting and dinner.



Debi Durham, Iowa Economic Development Director addresses LDG annual meeting.

LDG President, Al Muhlenbruck summed up the day by saying, "All in all I'd say LDG took some big steps forward, and we need to con-

tinue to build upon the momentum and energy that was apparent during the day and meeting."

Congratulations to Dennis

Fraise, Sherry Humphreys, and all of the LDG members on a well organized day and a successful annual meeting.

## Big things are happening at the Fairgrounds

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

Progress is the word of the day at the Louisa County Fairgrounds. Although the photo at right may appear to be nothing more than a pile of sand, it is one of the many steps that are in process to make the fairgrounds an even better place to visit this year.

Camping has been encouraged at the fairgrounds for many years, but a lack of space and inadequate electrical service has been a problem. Plans are now in place to relocate the horse arena and free up that space for additional campers. It is hoped that an additional twenty-five camping spaces will become available.

Earlier this spring Alliant Utilities were at the grounds installing an updated electrical service that will give the facility the capacity to not only handle more campers, but allow more service when demand is heavy. Alliant donated a portion of the cost of this new service. The Fair Board also hopes that the campgrounds will be used during the off-season by campers. The community presently does not have a campground for visitors, and this will now provide a year-round location for camping visitors.

Also, plans are in the works for city water to be delivered to the fairgrounds. After the lines are run, it will then be possible to install fire hydrants on the grounds.



Linda Pierce has been in the process of obtaining funds to build a new horse arena (a forthcoming story on the horse arena is now in the works and will be published in the next few weeks). This arena will be north of the grounds along Highway 92. If one drives by today, much of the sand necessary to build the arena is vis-

ible. It is hoped that the new arena will be in use by fair time.

Nearly 600 tons of sand were hauled in last weekend with area contractors volunteering their trucks, time and equipment. Those helping were John Bloomer Construction, Andy Carpenter Productions, Holmes Concrete, Tom Bonnicksen and Bob

Schlutz.

The Gazette will continue to keep you updated on the progress at the Louisa County Fairgrounds. As we have said for many years, "The Louisa County Fair is the place to be," and now with these improvements, the statement rings even more true today.

## United Fund distributes to 24 Organizations

Twenty-four organizations were recently presented checks from United Fund of Columbus Junction to help with expenses. The total amount awarded was \$23,250.00. United Fund of Columbus Junction serves organizations in the Columbus Junction area by providing funds for general programming as well as special projects. Donations from individuals and businesses are collected throughout the year and distributed each summer.

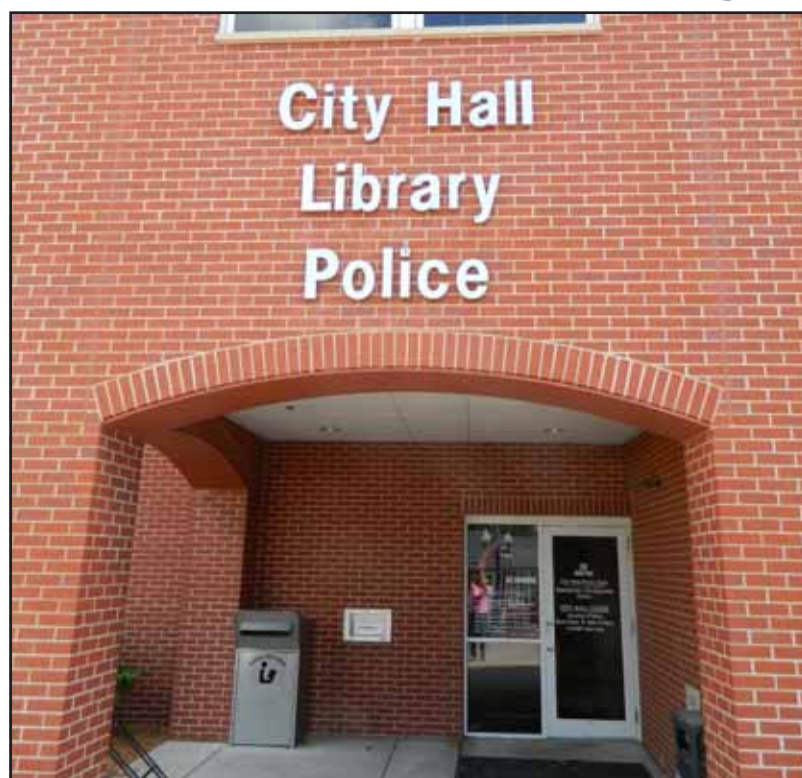
United Fund recipients for 2011 are Community Action of Southeastern Iowa, Columbus City Improvement Club, Friends of Columbus Junction Library, Columbus Community Heritage Museum, Columbus Community School Swimming Pool, Columbus Softball Association, Conesville Fire Department, Louisa County Area Vietnam Veterans, Columbus Junction Fire & Rescue, Letts Public Library, Louisa County Ambulance Service, Storks Nest of Louisa County, Little Racer Car

Club, North Ridge Service/Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Illinois, Louisa County Fair, Columbus Junction Presbyterian Church, Beat for Peace, Easter Egg Hunt, Youth Sports, L&M after Prom, Columbus Community Parents Organization, Roundy Elementary, Columbus Junction after Prom and the Columbus Woman's Organization.

United Fund of Columbus Junction collects money through payroll deductions, as well as individual and business donations. The largest single group of United Fund supporters is Tyson employees. Area businesses that support United Fund are identified by supporter clings displayed on their windows or doors. United Fund of Columbus Junction has served the community since 1960.

For more information about United Fund of Columbus Junction contact Nitza Castillo or Mallory Smith, Columbus Junction Community Development Center, 319-728-7971 or [cdc@columbusjunctioniowa.org](mailto:cdc@columbusjunctioniowa.org).

## Civic Center receives new signs



New signs were placed on the Civic Center last Monday identifying the many offices that are housed in the facility.

## Briefly -

### Talent Show at Crooked Creek Days

This year's Winfield Crooked Creek Days celebration will include a Bill Riley Talent Show on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the high school gym. The contest is open for ages 2 years - 21 years with two divisions, Sprouts, ages 2 yrs. - 12 yrs. and Seniors, ages 13 yrs. 21 yrs. Due to a time restraint the number of entries will be limited, therefore acts will be included on a "first come, first served" basis. For more information and to register contact Sharon Jennings at 319-257-6632 or email [smjen@iowatelecom.net](mailto:smjen@iowatelecom.net). Following the talent show contestants may ride on the Bill Riley Talent Show float in the parade, which will begin at 10:30.

### Early Gazette deadline

Due to the 4th of July Holiday, the Gazette's deadline for news and advertising will be at Noon on Friday.

### CJUMW to meet

The United Methodist Women of Columbus Junction will meet on Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> in Chinkapin Park for a 12:00 p.m. picnic lunch. Hosts are the Program Committee. Program: "Sing-A-Long with Melanie." You all come and have fun.

### Conesville Yard Sales sign up

Anyone interested in selling items during the Conesville Town Wide Yard Sale taking place on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, needs to sign up at Piper's or call Scott Kropf at 319-631-0244 or contact him on Facebook.

### Cruise Nights on the Square

The Corn Country Cruisers from Washington, Iowa are conducting Cruise Nights On The Square, (Washington, Iowa) on July 9<sup>th</sup>, and Aug 13<sup>th</sup>. All dates are 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. There will be a 50/50 Drawing at 8:00 p.m. please enter on southwest side of square/no entry fees. For additional information please contact Randy Farrington at 319-694-5603. The American Legion Post 29 will provide food.

### 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, July 6, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

### 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.columbuscsd.com/FFA](http://www.hs.columbuscsd.com/FFA) under the "forms" link, or contact Brenda Wilson at 319-212-0529.

### Grandview Women's Club

Grandview Women's Club: April-June - Times of learning about identity theft; Civil War woman soldier; First rural mail station. Meetings again in September.

### Fair Books now available

Sew It - Grow It - Show It! Is the theme for the Louisa County Fair July 24 - 30, 2011. Fair books can be picked up at Columbus Junction State Bank, Community Bank, Columbus Gazette, Agriland FS Inc., Special Effects, City Hall and the Library. Hope to see you at the fair.

### Lions Club Tractor Lunch

The Grandview-Letts Lions Club will be serving a luncheon for the 2011 River Junction Tractor Ride at the Letts Community Center on Saturday, July 9, 2011. Lunch will be served from 11:30-1:30 p.m. The cost to eat will be \$9.00 total. The menu includes loose meat sandwiches, baked beans, cole slaw, chips, cookies and bars, and assorted drinks. Come to Letts on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> to view 150 new and vintage tractors, and to support your local Lions Club!

### City Hall closed for 4th of July

City Hall in Columbus City will be closed Monday July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in observance of Independence Day.

### This week at the Farmers' Market

Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion parking lot, now until October 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## July 4th Traffic Enforcement

Coinciding with the Independence Day holiday, Iowa law enforcement agencies will again be out in full force July 1-4, 2011. Officers will work hard to crack down on alcohol or drug impaired drivers and other traffic violators to prevent crashes and save lives.

Baseball games, fireworks, and parades can all be part of Iowans' July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations. Unfortunately some people celebrate by consuming excess amounts of alcohol, and then electing to drink and drive, which can easily lead to tragedy. The Iowa Department of Transportation recorded five fatalities during the 2010 Fourth of July weekend, up from two in 2009. Iowa has been fortunate the past four years with no alcohol related crashes that resulted in a death.

Iowa law enforcement continues to emphasize the importance of buckling up, driving the speed limit and obeying all traffic laws, not only during increased travel periods like holidays but, throughout the year. Iowa's safety belt law has been in effect for 25 years. There is no excuse for not buckling up.

During a similar enforcement effort conducted in July of 2010, 214 agencies had contact with 353 alcohol/drug-impaired drivers, 1,008 safety belt violators and 4,592 speed violators. In all, over 11,228 violations were recorded. In addition, officers assisted 965 motorists, investigated 366 crashes and apprehended 107 wanted persons.

For more information, please visit [www.iowagtsb.org](http://www.iowagtsb.org), [www.StopImpairedDriving.org](http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org) or contact: Randy Hunefeld, sSTEP Coordinator, Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, 215 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA 50309-0248; Phone: 515-725-6124; Fax: 515-725-6133; Email: [hunefeld@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:hunefeld@dps.state.ia.us).