



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

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One Clerk - Two Cities

By Donna Carpenter

There's a familiar face in two new locations these days. Terri Schafer, Columbus City, is the new City Clerk for both Columbus City and Conesville. Multi-tasking is not unfamiliar to Terri, as she taught at Columbus Community School for 33 years. Terri has a strong background from which to draw, as she holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from UNI as well as a Master's Degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Having been an educator for many years, she is naturally interested in learning new things, so is looking forward to the challenge of city government. Although this is a new experience for her, she has been looking for something different than teaching, and enjoys working with the public and flexible hours, which also allows her the opportunity to substitute teach during the school year.

Attending Clerk School from July 15-19, in Ames, training provided by Iowa State and the League

of Cities, will greatly help in the carrying out of duties, including generating and sending garbage and sewer bills for the City of Conesville, and water and sewer bills for the City of Columbus City. Terri also prepares for and attends both council meetings, held monthly, Columbus City's the first Monday of the month, and Conesville's the second Monday of the month.

Terri's hours include: Conesville-4:00-6:00 P.M. on Wednesdays, beginning July 1 and Columbus City-4:00-6:00 P.M. on Tuesdays. If residents wish to pay bills or have questions, they may stop and see her during those hours.

Terri stated that she has "big shoes to fill", but has been assured by Lisa Hills and Joyce Payne that they are willing to "show her the ropes".

Terri, husband John, and son Hogan live in Columbus City, where she's been a resident for over thirty years. We welcome her to her new positions.



Terri Schafer

Letter to Letts, Iowa from France

Dear Lettsvillians,
On the 13th of April 2013, a ceremony took place at the Letts cemetery in memory of Major Lawrence Herrick who died on August 05th 1944, in the explosion of his P38 LIGHTNING in flight, over the village of Reugny, in France. I was born and live in Reugny, and I had the privilege of attending this ceremony. I was very moved when I reflected and prayed on Lawrence's grave.

Following this very moving ceremony, I read a message on behalf of the Mayor of Reugny, Mr Bernard Bardin, and I presented to Mr. Jim Thompson of Letts, a plaque,

"Reugny se souvient du Major Lawrence Herrick" (Reugny remembers Major Lawrence Herrick) recalling the collective memories of the people of Reugny for the sacrifice made by this young man, a young father, who died in action to free our country of the German occupation.

Then, I had the pleasure of showing the presentation "Reugny remembers Lawrence Herrick", in memory of Lawrence who was a citizen of Letts. Following this presentation, you warmly expressed your emotion and gratitude, and I thank you all deeply from my heart.

I will forever remember your kind words and the private conversations I shared with you. Thank you for the beautiful gifts that will forever remain the symbols of the friendship between our two communities. Through this event, a lasting friendship has formed; we are sharing the memory of Lawrence and the great ends for which he struggled and for which he died.

The Vday (Victory in Europe) memorial ceremony on May 08th, 2013 in Reugny, was an intense moment shared with 8 members of the Herrick family. The American Na-

tional Anthem was played by our local musical society. Major Lawrence Herrick's name is engraved on a commemorative marble stone placed at the base of our monument dedicated to the soldiers who died during the two great wars. Lawrence will always be remembered, and generations to come will know of his ultimate sacrifice and the great loss his family suffered.

To all of you, I am forwarding my very warm regards, and I make a wish of seeing you again in Iowa or in France.

Daniel Sellier, Reugny France

A Letter from the Columbus Junction Mayor

A couple of weeks ago the newspaper, The Des Moines Register, published a special edition on the flood of 2008. In the articles, there was no mention of Columbus Junction or the efforts of the people to save the town. Even on a map listing flooded towns, Columbus Junction was not mentioned. Mayor Dan Wilson felt The Des Moines Register needed to be reminded of this oversight, and here is the letter he wrote to that newspaper.

June 18, 2013
Des Moines Register
Newsroom
P.O. Box Box 957
Des Moines, IA 50306-0957
To Whom It May Concern:

I am curious as to why your recent coverage of the five year anniversary of the flood of 2008 does not mention anything about Columbus Junction. Also, your pictures and maps do not include Columbus Junction.

Columbus Junction is at the confluence of the Iowa River and Cedar River and experienced major flooding in 2008. The citizens of this community responded with an amazing volunteer effort and we were assisted by friends and volunteers from many surrounding communities and the state of Iowa. We were assisted by the National Guard, the Governors' Office and the State Emergency Management Department during this time.

We were visited by Governor Culver on several occasions, as well as General Dardis and the Recover Iowa Office. In addition, we were visited by Senators Grassley and Harkin and Representative Dave Loebsack on many occasions to see the effort put forth by our community to prevent flooding and to assist in the recovery. We also received a visit from Senator John McCain during his presidential campaign.

I believe the people of Columbus Junction and the entire area have been insulted by your omission of our community in your coverage. It is hard to imagine a map of the Rivers of Iowa and the 2008 flooding event that does not even show our community. I sincerely hope this can be corrected in your future coverage of such events.

Sincerely,
Mayor Dan Wilson

Community Club Meets

By Donna Carpenter

The Columbus Community Club held their monthly meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2013, with President Joy Lekwa opening, and Rev. Faye Fedlam giving the blessing. Treasurer Earlene Lekwa reported a balance of \$6, 409.92.

Reports were as follows:

City Report-Columbus Junction: Mayor Dan Wilson reported that the city "dodged a bullet" in regard to the flood because of the temporary levee work. Work on the water treatment plant is moving along quickly. The city is currently working on sidewalk improvements and the work on Main St. connects the old area with the newer area. They will also be doing work in the school area. The City wants to begin a recycling program for the downtown

area. The work on the rental code continues. The city also hopes to have a battery and tire recycling program, making this an annual program.

City Report-Columbus City: Mayor Mark Shear informed the group that the water project is about wrapped up and the new sirens are in place. The City will try to have a schedule of siren tests once a month, so citizens will know when they take place. A lot of work continues to take place on the Habitat House going up on Philadelphia Street.

Extension: Kathy Vance spoke in regard to an HIV and STD program that is being planned, as both diseases are spreading in Louisa County. The Extension Office is providing more information to Louisa County residents as a result of this, as both are common in our county. On a positive note, Louisa County is #1 in the state in the success of preventing teen pregnancy. Kathy spoke

of the need for fair volunteers, as well as the fact that they are currently interviewing for a replacement for Tessa Pugh's position.

City Development: Mallory Smith introduced interns Jane Ohde and Jared Todd. Jane is working on wellness and walking programs, while Jared is finishing the city website. Mallory is working on a Keep Iowa Beautiful project that will install receptacles for cigarette butts and is making a trails map. Interns are painting the crosswalks. Marv Prior has volunteered to begin operating the street sweeper and Mallory is working on the Community Garden. The Farmer's Market continues to grow. United Fund will begin their start-up phase.

Colonial Manor: Sarah Hand introduced Brianna Bowen, the new Community Liaison.

Fair Board: Susan Pretz reported that three races have taken place so far. July 11 will be the grand opening of the Youth Center and July 21-27 are the dates of the Louisa County Fair.

New Members: Nick and Sharon Goddard are new business owners, operating N & S Heating and Cooling, with 24 hour service. They've been in business for 20 years previously. Nick is also an EMT and a First Responder.

Rachel Rees, owner of Plants and Things, is also a new member.

Member Update: Freda Sojka told the group that Simply Soothing is growing and is having an amazing year.

Public Information: Rev. Faye Fedlam announced that a Community Bible School will take place July 7-11th. A program will take place on July 14.

State Fair Egg Decorating Contest

Share your best summer creation by entering the Egg Decorating Contest, held at the Iowa State Fair. It's your chance to show off your extraordinary artistic ability and win up to \$500! Any Iowa resident is welcome to enter. Contest rules require that you use a standard large-size chicken egg. There are no limitations

Briefly -

Noon Deadline for Gazette

The Gazette's deadline for next week's paper will be this Friday, June 28, by noon. PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE.

City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Cooks' Night Out

Everyone is invited to our next Cooks' Night Out Supper to be held on July 10, 2013, at the Letts Methodist Church from 5 to 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for the supper. Crafts and games are available for the youth and visiting for adults. The planned menu includes Cowboy Casserole, Salads and Desserts and Beverages.

Farmers' Market at the Senior Center

Farmer's Market coupons are now available at the Senior Center on Thursdays from 10:15-11:00 A.M. until all supplies are exhausted.

Ice Cream Social at Kingston United Methodist Church

The Kingston United Methodist Church, Highway 99 south of Oakville, will be holding a ice cream social on Sunday, June 30, from 5-7 p.m. Bluegrass and western music provided by Hiway 99 Band. Handicap accessible and air-conditioned dining. Menu includes maidrites, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips, pies, beverages and homemade ice cream. Free will donation. www.kingstonumc.org.

Letts Fest

The 2nd annual Letts Fest will take place on Saturday, June 29, 2013. All proceeds will go to the Letts City Park. Events start at 8 a.m. with a breakfast at the Community Center and run until Midnight at the end of the street dance. Check Letts Fest on Facebook for updates. For more information, contact Joy Murphy at 319-330-6063, Jake Shoppa at 563-571-4561, or Monica Bieri at 319-212-1613.

Fun Days at Letts United Methodist Church

Fun Days are being planned for students K-6 at the Letts United Methodist Church. The day will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2. Lunch will be served. Activities, crafts, games, snacks, and music. Registration forms at the church office or call office in the a.m. M-F at 726-3641. Fun Days scheduled for June 27, August 1 and August 8. No fees. For questions, call Pastor Marsha Gerot at 319-725-6722.

McGill/Kemp Reunion

The Annual McGill/Kemp Reunion will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 30th, at Academy Park in Grandview, Iowa. There will be a potluck lunch, a family picture taken, and an auction. Playground equipment is available for the children. All descendants of John Lee and Jesse Belle McGill, descendants of John's grandparents, William and Elizabeth McGill and descendants of Walter Kemp are welcome. For more information, contact Rondalyn K. Weyrick, 13685 105th Street, Wapello, IA 52653; Telephone 319-523-5252.

Morning Sun Methodist Church 4th of July Quilt Show

The Morning Sun Methodist Church will again hold the annual 4th of July Quilt Show. All are invited to display quilts. Those wanting to display their quilts should bring them to the church on Wednesday, July 3 after 4:00. The Quilt Show will be held on the 4th from 9:00 until the parade. Admission is free. Participants should pick up their quilts after the parade. For more information, contact Bev Karagin at 868-7693.

Parent Forum

PARENT FORUM: ALL parents of Columbus Community School District students are invited to attend a **PARENT FORUM** on **THURSDAY, JUNE 27 at 7:00 pm.** in the High School student center. The purpose of the meeting is to generate positive ideas and solutions and to brainstorm ideas on how parents can help their students, how we can increase parent involvement in the school, and to learn what parents would like to see the school do to improve their student's educational experience. Parents will have the opportunity to work in small groups or individually and to share ideas directly with Dr. Johnson. Suggestions will be discussed and analyzed at SIAC (School Improvement Advisory Committee) meetings. A survey will also be available for parents to complete. Please plan to attend this very important meeting to support your student and your school.

Blood Checks at Senior Center

Tami Nichols, R.N. from Colonial Manor will be at the Columbus Junction Senior Center today, **Wednesday, June 26th, 2013** from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Come by and have your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol checked for free. We hope to see you there!

Take 24 Senior Theater Program

A free theater program for students grades 4-12 will be happening this summer every Monday and Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Columbus Community High School Auditorium. High school students can earn silver cord hours. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Ashley Stagner at take24theater@live.com.

IOWAEGG for mailed contest information.

The entries will be judged on Friday, August 9, starting at 11:00 AM in the Agriculture Building on the fairgrounds. First prize is \$500, second prize is \$400 and third prize is \$300. After the fair these unique works of art will make up a traveling egg art display where the hand-decorated eggs will be showcased at local libraries across the state.

