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City discusses flooded basements

By Jim Rudisill

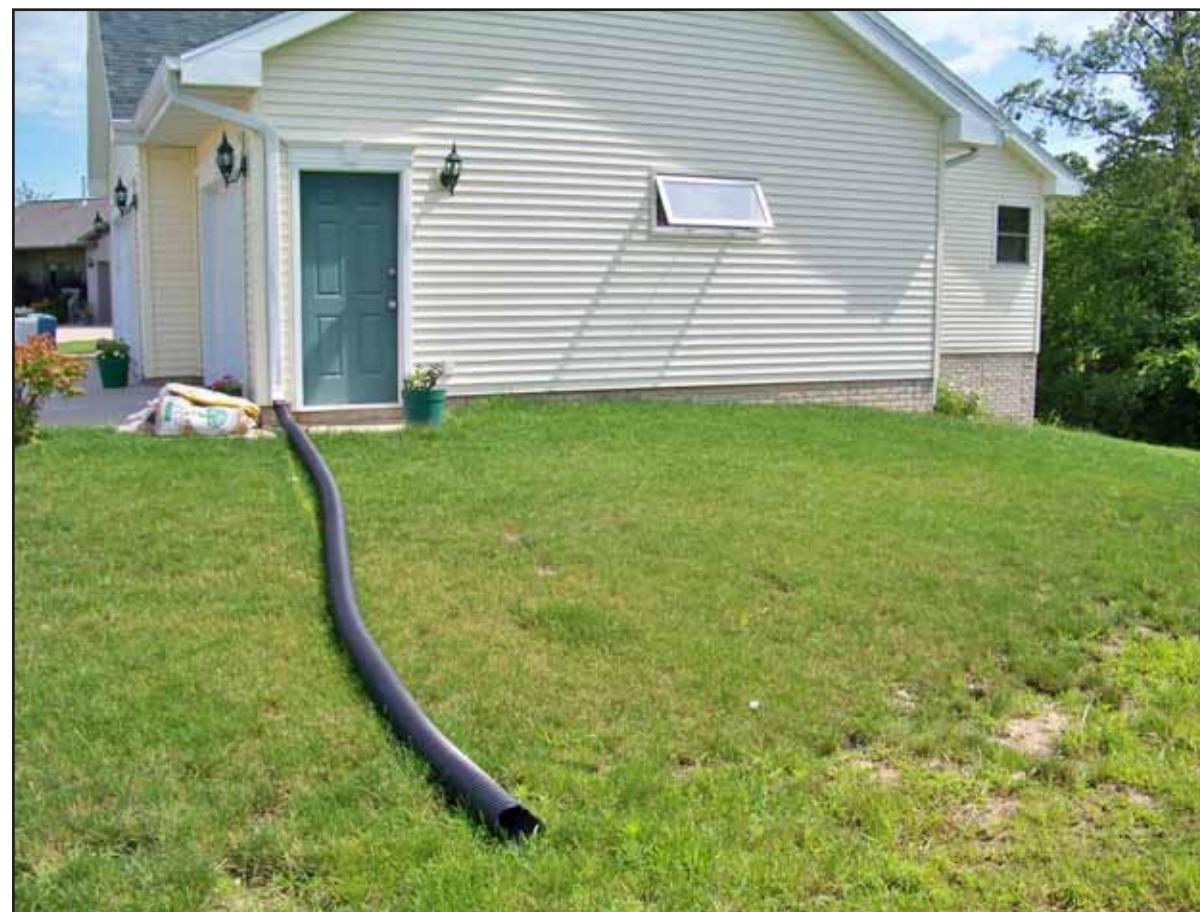
Complaints over flooded basements has prompted the Columbus Junction City Council to authorize an engineering study be completed on sanitary sewer lines in the south end of the community. The council agreed to hire French-Reneker Associates, Fairfield, during the council's regular meeting on July 8, after several homeowners said sewer backups had flooded their basements following a June 21 downpour.

Mayor Dan Wilson said around five inches of rain fell in less than one hour in the community that day and caused street flooding, as well as the basement problems. The street flooding was so severe, volunteer firefighters were forced to rescue stranded motorists from their vehicles. One woman and five children were in a vehicle that nearly slid into a four-foot hole near the intersection of Highway 92 and Western Access Road. "We had water where we've never had it before," Wilson said.

However, local residents Cindy and Keith Milder, 101 Fulton, said there was nothing new about the water that came into their basement that evening. The Milders had complained several months ago about water problems. After officials cleaned some of the sewer lines in their neighborhood, the problem had not re-occurred - until the latest deluge hit. "We got six inches of water," Cindy Milder said, explaining some of it came from the basement toilet bowl overflowing. "It didn't stop," she said.

Twyla and Dan Peters, 920 Main, who live several blocks north of the Milders, agreed and said some solution needed to be found. "I'm tired of pushing water out of the basement, Dan Peters said.

Council member Hal Prior, 125 Springer, who lives just south of the Peters said he also got water in his house. After the water went down, he inspected a nearby manhole and discovered a thick layer of grease near the top of the structure. French-Reneker engineer John Meyer, who attended the meeting, said that could



Proper way to drain downspouts away from your home.

provide a clue for some of the basement flooding.

"When I hear that, it sounds like migrating root or grease balls," he said, suggesting other causes could be illegal roof and foundation drainage going into the sanitary system.

The city experienced similar flooding in the late 1990s, but the problem appeared to disappear after the city jetted the sewer lines. Officials said that might be the solution again, but without knowing more information, any remedial action might be wasted. "It's a bit like chasing the wind," Meyer said, adding he was perplexed over why some residents reported problems while nearby neighbors apparently did not have any problems.

The council agreed and decided more study could help pinpoint the problems. It agreed to hire the engineering firm to conduct a house-by-

house inspection for illegal discharges into sewer lines and take basement elevation readings. The study will not include any smoke tests, after Meyer said the ground was likely too wet to get any good results.

He also suggested Columbus Junction officials talk to Columbus City officials about illegal drainage into the system. The two communities share a water treatment system and Columbus Junction maintenance workers reported a lift station near Columbus City runs more often than expected, causing Meyer to suspect excess water might be entering from Columbus City.

In other action, Wilson announced that although the city has received one grant for a planned relocation of the city's water works, it's still waiting to hear about a larger one that would make the project feasible. The contract for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award of around \$350,000 has been received, but nothing has been heard on a \$3.2 million Economic Development Agency (EDA) award.

penalty or fine for illegal connections might be needed to help control the amount of water coming into the system from the non-public portion of the sewer system. Meyer said Fairfield had run into a similar issue and had helped solve it by enforcing a \$100 surcharge on the water bills of any property with an illegal sewer connection. "That's got people's attention," Meyer said.

Meyer said he would provide a budget to the city, but expected the study to cost around \$5000. He also said if illegal drainage into the system is ultimately determined to be the problem, the city might be forced to get tough with property owners. A

Imagine having your trademark throughout the world

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

When Pat Diveney of West Liberty told his wife, Josefina, that he was going to try his hand at a new hobby, making pool cues she thought like every other wife would, "Yeah it's another middle aged phase he's going through." Little did she know that 15 years later his name would become a trademark all over the United States and Overseas.

That was 1994, and Pat's hobby has turned into another full time job for him. "I played pool a lot in my lifetime. My first cue I paid \$18 for. I always had a love for the game and would keep my cue clean and in good shape being ready for tournaments and sometimes walked away with a little prize money. I then started making a little money cleaning cues and doing cue repair for friends and thought to myself, there might be some extra money to be made actually making cues," says Diveney.

Sixty-one year old Pat has been employed at All Steel in Muscatine for 11 years working full time on the third shift as a maintenance mechanic. When Diveney gets off work he comes home and goes to his one man production shop and works another 8 hours producing custom, one of a kind cues, not only with quality workmanship, but with a real pride in each and every cue. "No cue is alike. You can buy 10 or 12 of the same kind of cue at a department store, they are all turned out by big production, but mine has no duplication they all are one of a kind and stamped with my trademark," states Diveney.

One of the first cues he made are called Bar Hustlers, a butterfly spliced one piece cue design. Now Pat even has Specialty designs. Two of his most prized cues are one he made for his son, Danny, for a gradu-

ation present, complete with Danny's picture on it and his graduation date. The second being for the family of Iowa National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Smith of West Liberty, who died in November 2003 after his CH-47 helicopter he was piloting was hit by a surface to air missile and crashed. "When I give mine as a gift and I see the smile on peoples' faces it makes me feel really good," smiles Pat.

Working the Iowa State Tournament in Waterloo at the Sullivan Convention Center made Pat enough money to purchase his first lathe. Then selling his Bass Boat allowed him to purchase more equipment. Today, Diveney's shop is full with six lathes, three of which are computerized and two mills which are both computerized. His shop is filled with woods like, padouk wood, ebony wood and snake wood from Africa, olive wood from Palestine and hard rock maple from Canada. His shop is also filled with cue orders.

When Josefina was laid off from Louis Rich as a Security Guard, she became a big part in the business. She sells production cues, cases and accessories during the tournaments while Pat is busy repairing cues. "She has been a big help to me, she has given up a lot for me to be able to make a name for myself," smiles Pat.

Accomplishments for Pat was having his name added in the "Blue Book of Pool Cues," and having five pro pool players play with his cues, not to mention having cue collectors admire and purchase his cues. Also, he takes pride in being known around the world for his hand made pool cues, from the US to as far away as Brazil and the Philippines.

Pat is a 1966 graduate of Columbus Community High School. He and Josefina have been married for twenty-four years and reside in West



Josefina and Pat Diveney with some of their hand-made cues.

Liberty. They have one son, Danny. Pat has two other children, Jennifer and Brian.

So the next time you flip through the channels on your TV and you come across a pool tournament, pay

close attention to their cues, they may be made by Diveney. You can check out the Diveney's website: www.diveneycue.com or contact them at 319-321-2012.

City development and beautification committee in need of volunteers

Representatives of the city's development group met last week to discuss plans for the Keep America and Keep Iowa Beautiful revitalization project. Five areas have been targeted for work: the city's entryways, park and recreation possibilities, downtown improvement, creation of pathways, and neighborhood development.

Development committee chairperson Tim Wink urged those in attendance to not limit their vision, "Don't necessarily look at just costs, grants and other funding sources are available and will be researched."

A chairperson will be designated for each of the areas, and that person will then solicit community members to serve on their committee. If anyone has an interest in any of these areas and would like to help, you are encouraged to contact city hall.

The success of these projects will require a great deal of input and ideas, so please step forward and help become a part of the future of the Columbus Community.

Briefly -

Antique Roadshow in Washington

The Washington County Historic Preservation Commission will be hosting an "Antique Roadshow" at the Washington County Fair on July 24, 2009, from 5 to 7 p.m. Interested persons are invited to bring one or two items for the show. Well-informed panelists will be present to help identify and discuss the treasures we have. Value can be determined. There will be a \$3.00 charge. Everyone is welcome.

CCHS Class of 1994 to hold reunion

The CCHS Class of 1994 will be having their 15-year class reunion on Saturday, August 29 at 3:00 PM at the Mary Marr Lodge in Marr Park, Ainsworth, Iowa. The meal will take place at 6:00 PM. Bring the family. There will be a golfing at Cedar Crest at 10:00 AM for those interested. Please contact Vanessa (Van Auken) Proehl at 712-250-2250 or spiritedchic@hotmail.com to sign up to golf. For further details contact Vanessa or Shannon (Story) Hampson at shannon-hampson@uiowa.edu or 319-360-8256.

CCHS Class of 1999 to hold reunion

The class of 1999 will be holding their 10-year reunion this summer. The dates for the reunion will be July 31st and August 1st. There will be chances to get together on both days. Plans for the reunion will be sent to classmates through their email or phone. Class of 1999 members can send their email addresses to kasey_keltner@hotmail.com or phone numbers to 319-728-3032. Otherwise, we will try to contact you. If there are any questions you can send them to the same email address or phone number.

Louisa County Jail schedules grand opening

A grand opening of the new jail is scheduled for July 25, 2009 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The opening ceremonies will be held at 1:00, with public tours to follow. A construction slide show will be going all afternoon. That night invited guests will spend a night in the jail. Refreshments will be served.

Emma Beckman Chapter to hold supper for Masons

The Emma Beckman Chapter 445 OES CC will host a supper for Masonic Lodge members and their wives on Thursday, July 16th at 6 p.m., before the scheduled meeting.

Fair books available

The fair books are in for the Louisa County Fair, July 27-August 1. Locations in Columbus Junction to be picked up are: Columbus Junction State Bank, Community Bank, Plants and Things, Special Effects, Columbus Gazette and City Hall.

Grandview-Letts Lions to hold blood drive

The Grandview-Letts Lions Club is sponsoring a blood drive at the Grandview Community Bible Church on Thursday, August 6, 2009, from 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. To donate, call Jack Carter at 319-726-4252. You can give blood if you last donated on or before Thursday, June 11, 2009.

Great Beginnings Preschool registration

Great Beginnings Preschool is now accepting student applications for the 2009 – 2010 school year. Great Beginnings offers quality care and education for children ages 3, 4 and 5. The school also provides transportation to and from the preschool. For more info please contact the preschool at 728-2669 or Beth Hills at 728-3157.

Fair Kick-Off Supper planned

The Louisa County Fair will hold a kick-off supper on Saturday, July 25, 2009, from 5-7 p.m. Join us after the parade at the Louisa County Fairgrounds for: Grilled tenderized pork loin sandwich, potato salad or chips, baked beans, apple or cherry pie or brownies, tea or lemonade (pop and ala carte items extra). The cost is \$6.00 per meal. The meal is sponsored by St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Columbus Junction.

Solid Waste Agency to meet

The Louisa Reg. Solid Waste Agency will hold its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, 5:30 PM at the Louisa County Courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, July 20, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Roundy Elementary School Library.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, July 16th, at 11:30 a.m., at the Button Factory Restaurant in Muscatine.

Farmers' Market this Friday

Fridays 4:30 to 6:30 at the American Legion parking lot, through October 9. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, homemade noodles, jams and jellies, frozen meat, plants, iced tea and lemonade, crafts and even dog treats! Buy fresh and local - taste the difference. Support the local economy. For more information including how to participate as a vendor contact Mallory or Nitza at 319-728-7971.

Community Club to meet at Civic Center this Thursday

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon. Due to the repairs at the Senior Center, the meeting will be held at the Civic Center.