

Community Development Center honored

The Columbus Junction Community Development Center was recently recognized for successfully meeting the requirements of the Strengthening Rural Iowa (SRI) grant program. The Community Development Center was one of 17 organizations in Southeast Iowa to receive SRI funding in 2010. Grant funds awarded to the Community Development Center provided for training in website development and management as well as small business assistance and finance. The grant also allowed for the purchase of equipment for an Iowa Career Access Point portal (ICAP) and training in how to assist individuals using Iowa Workforce Development's online services. The ICAP project was undertaken jointly with the Columbus Junction Library; services are available both at the CDC and the library. A series of non-profit classes were offered in Columbus Junction in 2010 as part of the SRI grant and improvements to the local access cable system will be made in 2011 with equipment purchased with SRI Funds.

Pictured are Nitza Lopez Castillo (CJ Community Development Cen-



ter) and Cathy Crawford (CJ Public Library) receiving a plaque on December 1, 2010 commemorating successful completion of a Strengthen Rural Iowa (SRI) grant. Representing SRI is project manager Craig Morkert.

Dennis Fraise and Sherry Humphreys named to director positions of the Louisa Development Group

The board of Directors and members of Louisa Development Group are proud to announce that two people have joined the organization's management team.

Dennis Fraise, Burlington, has been named Director of Business Services, and Sherry Humphreys, Columbus Junction, has been named Director of Community Enhancement.

Both assumed their positions last week.

Dennis Fraise is a lifelong resident of Southeast Iowa, having grown up on a farm in rural Lee County, and is a graduate of Fort Madison High School.

Following high school, Fraise earned a degree in photography and worked as a commercial photographer for Sheaffer Pen Company in Fort Madison.

In 1985 he opened his own

business, Images and More in Burlington.

A national award winner in both photography and marketing, he has presented programs on photography and marketing throughout the U.S.

His passion lies in helping others develop marketing and business concepts to help their organizations succeed.

Fraise lives in Burlington with his wife of thirty-two years, Sharon. They have a daughter, Laura, living in Chicago and will soon add a son-in-law, James, following their May 14 wedding.

He noted that, "I'm very excited to help assist the Louisa Development Group develop a plan for success and to help them reach new heights."

Sjerry Humphreys, and her husband, Wayne, are long time residents of Louisa County and live on a farm south of Columbus City.



Dennis Fraise

Humphreys notes that, "I like the small communities in the county and have found Louisa County to be a great place to live and raise a family."

Active in many county and community organizations, Humphreys currently serves on the Louisa County Planning and Zoning Commission,



Sherry Humphreys

Board of Adjustment, and the County Conservation Board.

Recently retired from the Iowa Department of Revenue, she looks forward to serving Louisa Development Group and promoting the economic growth of the county.

Girl Scout Cookies - a community tradition

Girl Scouts offer new cookie, new packaging, direct sales without ordering

Girl Scout Cookie sale time arrives in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois in the coming weeks with a new cookie, new environmentally friendly packaging and a new twist to the delivery process in some areas.

Always the buzz when a new Girl Scout Cookie arrives, this year's new addition is called the Shout Out. This classic little treat is a light and crisp Belgian-style caramelized cookie that is perfect with a cup of coffee or tea in the afternoon or with milk as a bedtime snack.

Shout Outs have no artificial colors, zero trans fat per servicing and no hydrogenated oil. In addition, this cookie has no high fructose corn syrup and no artificial preservatives. Most will agree that this is a delicious, yet sensibly sweet treat and a great addition to the Girl Scout Cookie lineup.

Also new this year is new packaging for the Thanks-A-Lot cookie. The package doesn't use paperboard, just a wrapper around the plastic container holding the cookies. Through a nationwide project to change this packaging, 150 tons of paperboard and countless trees will be saved through the initiative. Also, about 35,000 gallons of gasoline will be saved from transporting the smaller cookie packages, which will hold the same amount of cookies as last year.

Something else new to this year's Girl Scout Cookie sale in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois is a trial project to see how direct sales work in the council's territory. A total of 25 Girl Scout troops have been chosen to participate in the test to deter-

mine whether it works better to conduct door-to-door sales of cookies, as opposed to order-taking and then delivery as done in the past.

While most Girl Scouts will be going door to door to take orders for cookies from Friday, Jan. 14 to Sunday, Jan. 30, girls in the 25 troops participating in the direct sales pilot will be able to sell cookies on the spot to those homes they visit.

Like last year, your local Girl Scouts will offer you an opportunity to support the annual sale without having to purchase cookies for yourself, if that is your preference. You can donate delicious Girl Scout Cookies to our military soldiers through the Troop 2 Troop program. Last year, Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois gave 15,000 boxes of cookies to Iowa's Bravest and River Bend Troop Support for distribution to soldiers from Iowa and Illinois. That number was up from the 4,400 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies shipped from the region in 2009.

Iowa's Bravest, of Waterloo, Iowa, supports Iowa soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. They helped ship cookies to 550 different troops last year. River Bend Troop Support, of Baldwin, Iowa, sends care packages to Iowa and Illinois soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, too. Cookies for soldiers is possible thanks to the generosity of those who elect to assist Girl Scouts in the initiative.

Girl Scouts taking orders for cookies also can donate boxes to local organizations selected by girls such as food pantries. Persons who don't wish to purchase cookies for themselves or as gifts have the option for them to be donated by their local Girl Scout troop to organizations in their own community. Cookies also offer Girl Scouts the

ability to raise funds to send girls to life-changing experiences at summer resident camp when they can't afford to attend or help fly older girls to Washington, D.C., for a tour of our nation's capital and perhaps have one of them return one day as a senator or congresswoman.

Nevertheless, Girl Scout Cookies offer that great familiar taste year after year - from the top-selling Girl Scout Thin Mint to the popular Caramel deLite - but they also allow you to help contribute funds for the premier leadership program for girls. No other program offers girls so much in developing courage, confidence and character - and it all starts with a box of cookies. Every cookie has a mission - to help girls do great things. Girl Scout Cookies are the ultimate comfort food and are a family tradition, with many purchasing multiple boxes every year to enjoy not only their favorites and new cookies year after year, but also to support girls in our communities.

As simple as the cookie is, the snack offers Girl Scouts the funds needed to provide highly touted programming that offers a life-changing experience during their girlhood. Proceeds from cookie sales fund activities of individual troops as well as Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois, including financial assistance for girls to participate in events, program fees, volunteer recruitment and training and maintenance of four camp properties.

Girl Scout Cookies have been an American tradition for more than 90 years - and for good reason.

"When you purchase Girl Scout Cookies, you get a great tasting product and you support the premier leadership program for girls," Diane T. Nelson, chief executive officer of Girl

Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Iowa said. "Because all Girl Scout programs such as cookie sale activities are girl-driven, girls make their own decisions and run the sale with the help of adult volunteers. Cookies are one of the reasons why Girl Scouting is successful at building leadership."

Girl Scout Cookies are sold door to door in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois from Friday, Jan. 14 through Sunday, Jan. 30. Through the spring, Girl Scout troops will be selling cookies at booths set up in areas such as department stores and shopping centers. If you wish to purchase cookies and have not been called on by Jan. 30, look for cookie booths in your community (posted on the council's Web site at GirlScoutsToday.com) or call Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois toll-free at 800-798-0833 to be connected with a local troop.

Girl Scout Cookies have long been a major fund-raiser for girls and their troops, and is an integral part of Girl Scouting's business and economic literacy initiative for girls ages 5-17. The program provides finance, marketing and public speaking skills as well as valuable experiences that develop girls' personal leadership style. Through the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program, girls manage inventory, set goals, learn money management and develop marketing skills. For more information on Girl Scout Cookies, check the Web at GirlScoutsToday.com or call Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois at 800-798-0833.

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois serves 20,000 girls ages 5-17 with 4,500 adult volunteers in 31 counties in Eastern Iowa and seven counties in Western Illinois.

Briefly -

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 5:30 p.m., in the New Civic Center/ City Hall.

Legion Fish and Chicken Fry

The American Legion will be holding a fish and chicken fry on Saturday, January 15th at the Legion Building. Serving will be from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The price is \$8.00.

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, January 19, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Flu shots available

Flu cases are being reported across Iowa. Protect yourself and your family by getting your flu vaccine now. Louisa County Public Health has a limited number of discounted vaccine doses available to adults and children who do not have insurance to cover the cost of the vaccine. The cost is \$10 per dose and will be available at the public health office in Wapello every Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m. If you require special times to get the vaccine please contact public health at 319-523-3981. To be eligible for the discounted vaccine the applicant must sign a statement stating that they either have no insurance or that vaccinations are not covered by their insurance plan. Medicare will pay for the vaccine.

Grandview-Letts Lions Club to hold soup supper

The Grandview-Letts Lions Club will hold their annual soup supper on Saturday, January 22, 2011, from 5-7 p.m. at the NEW Community Center and Library in Letts. The all-you-can-eat menu includes: Chili and Wisconsin Cheese soups, homemade pies, celery, carrots, pickles, crackers and drinks. The cost for tickets is: (Advanced from any G-L Lions member) \$5.00; (At-the-door) \$6.00; (Ages 6-12) \$3.00; (Ages 5 and under) Free.

Junior Class Parents' meeting

There will be a junior class parent's meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the student center today, Wednesday, January 12th. We will discuss and plan the after-prom party. All junior parents are encouraged to attend. Any questions, call Cindy Johnston at 319-728-5032 or 319-212-0330.

Keep Columbus Beautiful meeting

People interested in helping with Keep Columbus Beautiful efforts in 2011 are invited to a planning meeting to be held Tuesday, January 18th from 5:15 to 6:30 at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to identify projects and committees for the current year. Everyone is welcome! Ideas to be discussed include the Chautauqua Park Makeover, Community Gardens, downtown planters, entryway signs and litter clean up. For more information contact Mallory Smith or Jim Gabriel.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will hold a meeting today, Wednesday, January 12, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., at the Louisa County Conservation Board Office.

Lego Dynamite 4-H Club to shovel snow

The Lego Dynamite 4-H club will shovel your drive and sidewalk for a free will donation. Funds collected will be used for our club's operating expenses. If you would like this done please call leader Tessa Pugh at 319-212-0422 or contact a member of the club.

Senior Center seeks Meals on Wheels volunteers

The Columbus Junction Congregate Meal Senior Center is looking for volunteers to drive meals in the month of January. If interested, please call Judy at 319-728-3148.

Senior Center Board sponsors lunch for area residents

Attention Seniors: January is here and the dreary days of winter so come out on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011 at 1 p.m. and have lunch at the Columbus Community Senior Center. It is sponsored by the Columbus Community Senior Board to have a great lunch and a chance to socialize with friends. Please come, bring your appetite, and bring a friend. Look forward to seeing you on Jan. 22, 2011.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet Thursday, January 20th, at 11:30 a.m. at the Bistro in Washington.

Wapello Fire Department to hold fish and chicken fry

The Wapello Fire Department will hold Fish and Chicken Fry on Saturday, January 15th at 5:00 p.m. A free will donation will be accepted.

Washington County Conservation Board to meet

The Washington County Conservation Board will hold a regular meeting today, Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 4:30 at the Conservation Education Center.