

# Never asked for, but long overdue



The thirty-one World War II Veterans who left Monday on the Honor Tour

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

As Reverend James Braden stated in his address to the thirty-one World War II Veterans who departed Columbus Junction on Monday for the area's third Honor Tour, "This trip is an honor that none of these men asked for, but their service to our country demands it."

Although the day was somewhat blustery, nearly one hundred people were on hand to witness the stirring send-off as these veterans embarked on a tour of Washington D.C. and the World War II Memorial.

The event began with an invocation by American Legion member, James Braden and a welcome by American Legion Commander Kenneth Martin.

The Wapello VFW presented the colors, and the Columbus Junction American Legion Color Guard recognized the veterans with a Twenty-One Gun Salute. A representative from the Wapello VFW and the Columbus Junction American Legion formally saluted the Veterans in honor of their service.

The Veterans then left on a chartered bus where they drove by the Columbus Junction and L-M Schools before departing for the Moline Airport. They were accompanied on the trip by area law enforcement and members of the Muscatine Motorcycle Club.

It truly was a moving ceremony, and as Reverend Braden indicated in his address, it is a tribute to these loyal Americans that is long overdue.

(See Page 7 for more photos from the day.)



The Veterans receive a formal salute from representatives of the Wapello VFW and the Columbus Junction American Legion.

# Plans progress for 2009 Columbus Day

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

Plans are gearing up for a great Columbus Day 2009. This year's theme will be: "A Community of Bridges: bridging cultures, bridging generations, bridging the past with the future."

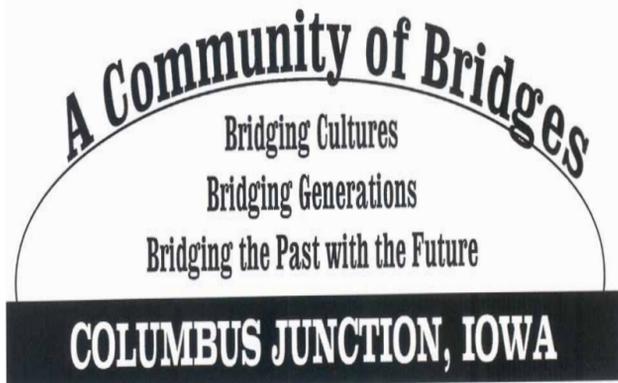
Many of the same traditions that have become a Columbus Day staple will return. The Lions Club will again be holding a breakfast at the Senior Center. There will be a Columbus Day run again. A church service will be held in the Senior Center parking lot during the morning. There will be a car and tractor show. Street vendors will again be in the downtown area, as well as a petting zoo downtown and entertainment on the grandstand. The traditional kiddie parade and Columbus Day parade will be held in the afternoon, with a dance at the American Legion following the parade. A free movie, possibly a double feature, will again

be shown at dusk. The location is yet to be determined.

There will be a change in the traditional schedule this year. The Distinguished Citizens will be honored at the grandstand area at 11:00 a.m. rather than before the parade. There is not enough time to give proper recognition to these individuals as the parade is approaching, so it was felt that moving this to the late morning would work better. The Distinguished Citizens will also be in the parade as grand marshals.

After the recognition of the Distinguished Citizens, free ham sandwiches and drinks will be served in front of the Columbus Junction State Bank beginning at approximately Noon. It was felt that this time change for the free sandwiches would give people an opportunity to enjoy the meal as they waited for the parade.

Also new for this year will be a youth dance in the State Bank's park-



ing lot beginning at 4:00 p.m. Many Halloween events are scheduled for the dance, and kids are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes to the dance. (A description of the dance activities is on page 2 of this week's

issue.)

So get your floats ready, your dancing shoes on, and come enjoy a great 2009 Columbus Day. A complete schedule of events will be in next week's Gazette.

# City moves closer to new water plant location

By Jim Rudisill

The potential site of a new Columbus Junction water plant was settled by the city council during its regular September 23 meeting, when the council approved an offer to purchase a four-acre site along Collins Road. The property is owned by Betty Roudybush and had been one of several identified by engineers as a good location to relocate the facility. City officials began looking for a new site earlier this year after floodwater from the Iowa River inundated the plant in 2008.

The council acted on the land acquisition following a 20-minute closed session. Mayor Dan Wilson said the offer to purchase included a \$65,000 purchase price. Wilson said the land, which is about 1600 feet south and slightly west of the present plant, offered the best features to relocate the plant. "We zeroed in on this area as the best possibility," he said after the meeting.

The city has applied for a \$3.2 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to cover the cost of the relocation. The city has already received

a \$356,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award for the project. However, city officials said final word on the EDA grant would be unlikely until several steps were completed.

Wilson said securing the land was one of the major hurdles. Now the city will need to complete an archaeological study of the area to ensure there is no significantly historic resources on the property.

The council took that step by selecting Wapsi Valley Archaeology to complete a survey of the site. Although the council approved the company, a consultant's fee must still be negotiated. Initial estimates for that work ranged from \$3,000 to \$5,000. The council later selected French-Reneker Associates, Fairfield, as the project engineer. City officials said the long successful history between French-Reneker and the city helped with that selection. However, if the city is unable to negotiate suitable fees from either company, it will be able to choose other consultants.

In other action, the council agreed to submit a \$775,000 funding proposal for Iowa state enhancement

funds to help finance a sidewalk reconstruction project in the downtown area. The city investigated a similar project about 10 years ago, but dropped the proposal after learning a \$7,500 state grant would fund only a tiny fraction of the actual cost.

According to officials, upgrading the sidewalks is costly because several underground storage vaults are still present. The vaults were apparently used to store fuel and other material and many were never filled in after they stopped being used. Officials said an inventory of the vaults in the mid-1990s indicated there might be 10-15, but they were unsure if all the vaults had been found.

Now the vaults are a potential liability for the property owners, but the estimated \$10,000 to fill them has caused many of the owners to ignore the problem. Officials said the enhancement funding, which is part of the federal economic stimulus effort, would be the best opportunity to make the repairs. "It will definitely take a project this size," Wilson said, explaining all the work could be completed under similar standards.

The city council agreed to autho-

rize Matt Walker, an engineer with French-Reneker, to prepare a grant application for submittal by the October 1 deadline. Walker said if the grant is awarded, the city would need to provide a 30% match. He said the proposed improvements would include a new six-foot concrete strip, with a four-foot brick border and new curb and gutter. "If we're going to get downtown Columbus Junction better, this is a way to do this," Wilson told the council.

Council member Mark Huston acknowledged finding the funds to meet the city's match might be difficult, but he agreed the enhancement funding was too good to pass up. "If we get (the grant) we'll figure out the match - it might be bake sales," he joked.

In final action, the council approved the city's FY 2009 Road Use Tax Report and agreed to a contract with the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission to supervise the demolition of five, flood buy-out properties in the community. The council also set Trick or Treat Night for October 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## Briefly -

### CCHS Class of 1974 to hold reunion

The Columbus Community Class of 1974 will hold their 35-year Class Reunion on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at Cedarcrest Country Club. Meal served at 6:30 PM. \$15.00 per person. Please contact Jan Wagoner 319-728-2638, or by mail at 623 2nd Street in Columbus Junction, 52738 with your reservation and meat choice (ribeye steak or chicken breast). I would also ask any parents that still live locally to contact their children that no longer live in the area to remind them to respond. We would love to hear from them even if they aren't able to make the trip.

### CCHS Class of 1979 to hold reunion

Join us for an informal 30-year reunion on Columbus Day October 10th. Watch the parade, meet for dinner at Thirsty Camel Supper Club at 5 pm, and then enjoy the downtown entertainment at night on Main Street, Columbus Junction. For more information please email columbuscommunityclassof79@hotmail.com.

### Breakfast Buffet in Ainsworth

The Ainsworth Community Center/Opera House will hold their Fall Breakfast Buffet on Saturday, October 3, 2009. Hours are 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$7 per person. Children 10 and under are free. Ainsworth Community Center/Opera House is at 284 Railroad Street, Ainsworth, Iowa. This is a fundraiser for the Opera House. Hope to see you there.

### Empowerment Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa County Caring COMMUNITY Empowerment Board will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

### Habitat cancels Trip

Louisa County Habitat For Humanity is now CANCELLING its fall trip to the Kane County flea market on Saturday, October 3.

### Fish Fry at Historical Society

WAPELLO - The Louisa County Historical Society will host a fish fry at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Louisa County Heritage Center, 609 James L Hodges Ave. Highway 61, Wapello. The menu includes pollock and catfish, baked beans, coleslaw, bread and butter, and lemonade, tea and coffee. The cost is \$8 for all you can eat.

### Letts Fire Department Fish Fry

The Letts Fire Department will hold a fish and chicken fry on Saturday, October 3, 2009, from 5-8 p.m. The cost will be \$9.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

### Area Flu Clinics schedule

Louisa County Public Health has scheduled the following seasonal flu clinics around the county: • Louisa County Public Health Office in Wapello every Thursday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. • Columbus Junction Senior Center October 8<sup>th</sup>, 8-11:30 a.m. • Letts Methodist Church October 26<sup>th</sup> 9-10:30 a.m. • Oakville Community Center October 27<sup>th</sup> 3-5 p.m. • Morning Sun Health Fair (at the school) November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1-5 p.m. Medicare Part B covers the cost of the flu shot. You will be asked to present your Medicare card at the clinic for verification. If you do not have Medicare Part B the cost of the flu shot is \$20.00. If you have questions please call the Public Health Office at 319-523-3981.

### Radio Club to hold "Hamfest"

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club and the Washington Area Amateur Radio Club will present the 25 Annual Southeast Iowa Hamfest on Sunday, October 4th at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds in West Liberty, Iowa. The hamfest features a huge flea market with communications, computer and electronics equipment, tools and accessories. There will be ham radio license exams, hourly door prizes, food and drink. Gates open at 7:00 am. Tickets are \$5. Children age 14 and under free. For more information, visit [www.muscatinehams.org](http://www.muscatinehams.org) or call Tom Brehmer, at (563) 263-3097.

### Model Railroad Show

The Washington Model Railroad Club will hold its annual Train Show and Swap Meet on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 606 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Washington, Iowa 52353. All scales represented. Admission is \$4.00 for adults, children 6-12, \$1. Early arrivals \$5.00. Swap tables to rent: \$18 each. A food stand will be available in building. For information, contact Mike Worley at 319-653-3782.

### Winter Hours at Washington Conservation Center

Starting October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, the Washington County Conservation Education Center will be changing to its winter hours. Please come and visit the center. Monday: 8:00-4:30; Thursday: 8:00-4:30; Friday: 8:00-4:30; Saturday: 8:00-4:00; Sunday: 1:00-5:00.

### 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.

### Columbus Day Committee to meet

The Community Club's Columbus Day Committee will meet today at 1:00 p.m. at the 92 Roadhouse. Anyone wishing to attend is welcomed.

### Columbus Junction sets Trick or Treat Night

Trick or Treat Night for the Town of Columbus Junction will be Saturday, October 31st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.