

Honoring a Community of Distinguished Citizens

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Just as the summer of 2008 will long be remembered by area citizens, plans are being finalized to make Columbus Day 2008 one to also be remembered for many years to come.

The Community Club has put together a great slate of activities for the day, see pages 6 & 7 for a full schedule of events. However, the highlight of the day will be you, our distinguished citizens. A special Church Service will start off the day at the Senior Center parking lot to commemorate the heroic efforts of all who worked during the flood, as well as celebrate the recovery efforts to date. There will also be a special program on the downtown stage that is designed to recognize all that was accomplished during the flood, and to thank everyone for their dedication. A plaque will be presented to the citizens, and then permanently displayed in the Civic Center.

Also, many new activities as well as traditional events are scheduled. One special activity will be the return of the free ham sandwiches after the parade. Tyson Foods has donated a lot of ham for the event, so everyone be sure to come with your

Dedicated to the citizens of the Columbus Community who answered the call and helped in so many ways during the flood of 2008. Your actions exemplified the caring spirit that has always existed in the community. They will be remembered by generations of Columbus Community Citizens who follow you, and will always serve as a source of inspiration for these future generations when they are also called on to help. Thank you to Everyone.

From the Columbus Community Club, Columbus Day 2008

The Plaque that will be presented to the Citizens of Columbus Community and permanently displayed at the Civic Center

appetite.

This is a special day to honor ev-

eryone, so make plans to visit Columbus Junction next Saturday for Co-

lumbus Day 2008. There will be something for everyone.

Volunteer Firemen and partners come through in difficult summer

By John Carpenter
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Partnerships are what make small communities not only work, but thrive. And there is no greater evidence of this statement than with the activities of the Columbus Junction Fire Department during the flood of 2008. Crisis brings out many remarkable stories, but they are rarely told because the individuals involved are not seeking publicity or credit, they are only doing their job to help their neighbors and family. But this story needs to be relayed because, with the help of so many people, and the dedication of our local firemen, the community was never without fire protection during this crisis, and damage to the station and equipment remained minimal.

A recent visit with fire chief, Lynn Mincer detailed the extraordinary actions that occurred during and after the flood. According to Mincer, when it became evident that the fire station would be in the flooded area, a call went out and every fireman responded. Along with the firemen many former Columbus firemen and area fire departments came. Two full days were spent at the station loading and removing equipment. However, as Mincer explained, equipment wasn't just piled into trucks and stored, it was recorded, categorized and moved to areas where it could be obtained quickly in an emergency. "We used the school bus barn for much of the equipment, and my brother, Larry temporarily closed down his Alignment shop so we could store items there," said Mincer. "We had everything stored locally, and was able to utilize it immediately if needed."

During the flood the department provided a pumper truck which allowed the city to pump water from another partner, Tyson Foods, to the water tower to keep a water supply for the city. The firemen obtained hoses from area departments to run the water from Tyson to the pumper truck. Until it became necessary to move, the fire station served as the command post for the city. Firemen were on duty 24 hours during this period providing assistance wherever they could.

But after the flood waters receded, the difficult work began. Mincer said that the number one goal was to get the station usable as soon as possible. "We set schedules for three groups of firemen," said Mincer, cleaning, painting, and putting back together." The estimated cost for repairing the bay area was \$30,000, but through the work of the firemen the district was able to avoid this cost. The firemen removed all of the steel and insulation, cleaned the area and replaced the insulation, and reinstalled the steel. After the drywall in the office and meeting areas was replaced, the firemen then



On Tuesday, September 16, 2008, representatives from Tyson Fresh Meats in Columbus Junction, met with Lynn Mincer, Fire Chief of the Columbus Junction Benefited Fire Department, at the firehouse. Once there, the Tyson Team Members presented Mincer with a check for \$11,700 to help replace the department's emergency generator and heating system that was destroyed during the Flood of 2008. Pictured above are (left to right): Fire Chief, Lynn Mincer; Tyson Plant Manager, Mike Grothe; Team Member Elena Reader; Tyson Human Resources Manager, Dave Duncan; and Team Member Andrea Sherwood. Photo by Carmen Lawrence.

Painted the walls. "I couldn't begin to estimate the man hours that the firemen and their wives volunteered to this," said Mincer.

Although all of the equipment was removed, some of the fixtures in the station couldn't be taken out and sustained damage. The department's generator was unable to be removed, as was of course the heating system. These two items were seriously damaged by the water, but the Department's long-time partner, Tyson Foods, came to their aid. Tyson recently donated \$11,700 to the department to help replace the generator and furnace. "Tyson Foods has always been a great partner to us," said Mincer, "they help us at times like this, they donate meat for our fundraisers, and I never recall them turning us down for any request." Also, the Department has received help from other areas. Mincer's daughter, Brittney, was at her dentist in Chicago recently, Dr. Mark J. Humenik, DDS, PC, and he mentioned that he would like to help in the flood recovery. She encouraged him to consider the Fire Department, and he sent a check for \$2,000.00.

"I couldn't be prouder of the actions of our volunteer firemen, their wives and families during this crisis," said Mincer, "they are asked to serve in difficult times, and that's exactly what they did. I am also proud of the

fact that there never was a time when the community wasn't protected from a potential fire, if the roads would allow us to get there, we could have responded to anyone in our district at anytime," said Mincer.

The trucks were returned to the station on July 4th, and today, if you visit the fire station, other than the smell of new paint, you would never know that the flood of 2008 impacted

Letter from Econ-O-Mart to Columbus Community Citizens

To our Valued Customers: Thanks to all of you for your patience during our reconstruction after the flood. We would like to welcome you to our **GRAND REOPENING on Monday, October 13th**. We have made several improvements in order to better serve you. These include a bigger more convenient customer service area. A full service meat counter in addition to the self service meat case you were accustomed to. 33% more frozen food. More variety in dairy and produce, and extended deli hours

Our improvements have created more opportunities for employment. Interested parties should pick up an

application at the customer service counter in Econ-O-Mart. Econ-O-Mart continues to be an equal opportunity employer. We look forward to see you on October 13th. And, as always, thank you for shopping Econ-O-Mart.

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Briefly -

Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet Tuesday evening, October 14 at 7 p.m. Please remember that we are having our meeting at Colonial Manor this month so that the Auxiliary members who have residents there may attend. Dee Gentzler is the hostess.

Antique Tractor Show

The Antique Tractor Show will be held on Columbus Day, October 11th, on the North end of Main Street. Please have the tractors, engines or implements in place by 8:30 a.m., and we will move up to the school for the parade at noon. Registration will be in front of Our Shop. Any questions, contact Lee or Carol Foster at 319-728-2903 (home) or Our Shop (319-728-5648).

City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, October 8, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

CCHS Class of 1988 plans reunion

The Class of 1988 is planning their 20-year reunion for Columbus Day, October 11, 2008. We would like to contact as many classmates as possible. Anyone with knowledge of regular and/or e-mail addresses please contact Shari (Cecil) Vonnahme at 728-2403 or swolfe11@hotmail.com or Sarah (Prior) Davis at 319-254-1111 or tsdavis@farmtel.net.

Chili Taste Off at Farmers' Market

A Chili Taste Off will be held on Friday, October 10th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Farmers' Market at the American Legion. It will be a fundraiser for United Fund, and is sponsored by the Development Center, Buy Fresh, Buy Local and the United Fund. For more information contact the Columbus Development Center at 728-7971

Conservation Board to Meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, October 8, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., in the Louisa County Conservation Board Office.

Conservation District to meet

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet October 9, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. at the NRCS Office in Wapello. Topics on the agenda will be an update on cost share projects and allocation of funds. For more information please contact the office at 260 Mulberry St. STE 2, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

Lions Club Columbus Day Breakfast

The Columbus Junction Lions Club will be serving an all-you-can-eat biscuits and gravy breakfast on Columbus Day, October 11, at the American Legion from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Price will be \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12. Menu will include: biscuits, sausage gravy, jelly, honey, juice and coffee. Start your Columbus Day celebration off right with your friends and neighbors.

Morning Sun Health Fair

It's Fair time! The Morning Sun Care Center's 7th annual Community health, safety and educational fair is set for Monday, October 27th, from 1-5 p.m., at the Morning Sun Community School gym. Any organization wanting to participate or anyone wanting to volunteer, please contact Angie Smith at 319-868-7751.

Harvest Fest dinner in Morning Sun

The Morning Sun United Methodist Church will hold its annual Harvest Fest Dinner and Bake and Sweet Shoppe on Saturday, October 11, at the church. A full menu will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Bake and Sweet Shoppe will begin sales at 10:00 a.m. (There will be no early sales). Homemade candy, pastry and food items will be available.

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet at Turn 2 in Mediapolis on Thursday, October 16th at 11:30 a.m. Please meet at Columbus City Masonic Hall at 10:45 a.m. to car pool.

Medical Clinic to close for move

The Columbus Medical Clinic will be closed on Wednesday, October 15th to move back to Medical Facility.

Trick or Treat Night set

The Columbus Junction City Council has set Trick or Treat Night for Friday, October 31st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Columbus Junction.

White Cane Day scheduled

WAPELLO, Iowa - The public is invited to celebrate White Cane Day at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Wapello ambulance building, 400 S. James L. Hodges Ave. (U.S. Highway 61) in Wapello. The celebration is a national event being celebrated across the country on the same day. The Louisa County Visual Support Group has invited area Lions Clubs to attend as well as visual support groups from Des Moines and Muscatine counties to discuss the rights of the visually impaired and the responsibilities of the public when they see a person with a white cane. Wapello Mayor Ron Durbin will read and sign a White Cane Day proclamation. Susan Howard of the Iowa Department for the Blind will give a presentation on the new digital talking machines that will become available in January 2009. The new machines are easy to use and will have better sound quality than the old audio cassette players they are replacing. Ralph Aufdenkamp of Vision Helpers will explain and exhibit enlargers and other equipment for the visually impaired. Refreshments will be served.

Fundraiser set for Senior Center

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 25, 2008, to attend a great Fund Raiser for the Columbus Community Senior Center. Steve Tomfield and the members of the Circle of Pride Motorcycle Club are sponsoring a fun afternoon and

evening for the family at the Circle of Pride Rodeo grounds. There will be fun activities for the children in the afternoon with a DJ and a Country-Western band in the evening. Tyson has donated food for the evening. There will be a silent auc-

tion during the evening with lots of great things to bid on. This is a great cause to help in the replacement of an asset to our community that was destroyed by the flood. Come out and make a contribution for the rebuilding. See you on October 25, 2008.