

Downtown shows remarkable improvement

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

CONGRATULATIONS, CONGRATULATIONS to everyone who has come forward to help with the downtown litter control. After an article in the Gazette a few weeks ago complimenting the litter efforts in a couple of northeastern Iowa towns, our community stepped forward and over the last weeks we have nearly eliminated Main Street litter.

The process began with Mayor Dan Wilson producing a flyer requesting businesses to help by sweeping up not only their sidewalks, but also the curb area in front of their businesses. Every business responded enthusiastically, as one can witness an arsenal of brooms on many mornings.

But apparently many of our citizens have come forward also, as the amount of litter being swept up in the morning decreases every week. There are still occasional candy wrappers and cigarette butts, but their numbers are small, and hopefully will soon be eliminated.

Also, two areas on south Main Street that have been overgrown with weeds have now been mowed, which has greatly improved the appearance in this vicinity. Some tree stumps will be removed in these areas, and two pipes protruding from the ground will be investigated by the city and removed if they are no longer being used. This will certainly make subsequent mowings easier.

What is now being attacked by the "Keep Columbus Beautiful" Committee are the weeds growing in cracks, and the back of the buildings. The Committee is asking everyone, both business owners and pedestrians to the downtown area, to please take a minute if you are walking in the alleys and pick up any litter you see. Also, if you spot a weed growing in the cracks along the sidewalks



A view of the downtown curb on East Main Street on Monday morning.

or next to buildings, please pull it. They come up easily, and if you get the roots, they are eliminated.

Weeds can be killed with Round-up, or if you prefer not to use chemicals, vinegar. Just a shot here and there can make a big difference in both the appearance and subsequent maintenance.

So to all of the citizens of Columbus Junction, THANK YOU for your efforts, and please keep up the good work. The Downtown Betterment Committee is meeting regularly, and will keep you updated on further plans. Also, if any reader has an idea to help improve our downtown area, please come forward and let us know. We are always anxious to get your input. So, keep moving forward, and let's "Keep Columbus Beautiful."



Clean up work on the Columbus Junction State Bank sidewalk

Columbus Day Halloween Dance, A Great Success

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

A few weeks ago I approached Community Club members, Sue Johnson and John Carpenter, about an idea of having something this year after the Columbus Day parade for the kids. I came up with the idea that since Columbus Day is in October, why not hold a Halloween Dance for the kids, giving them one more day to wear their costumes and have fun?

Once I told my kids the idea of course they were all for it. We needed to come up with a theme and a plan on where to donate the proceeds. We came up with the Halloween theme, "Boost Our Booster Clubs". Since the kids are starting sports and music at school, we decided to help the schools Booster and Music Booster Clubs. The kids and I made posters and flyers and started going from business to business asking them to please hang a sign about the dance, and also for donations towards our party. I have to say the kids and I were pleased with the support we re-

ceived. It showed my kids that adults and business owners in their community do care for the kids and for their school.

Coming up with decorations and chaperones was another agenda for us. But in making calls to family and friends, we found that it wasn't necessary to get down on our knees and beg, as we had a good response from several people who agreed to help and some who had great decorations. We would like to thank those that braved the cold with us and or baked cupcakes, Shannon Abbott, Dustin, Amanda and Tucker Crabtree, Gene and Sandi Slater, Warren and Connie Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Doris Forbes, Tammy Virzi and Dewey, Viki Grau, Marcene Soukup, Joyce Clubb, Doug Forbes, Kevin and Christine Boyd and Kurt Burmeister.

The "Boost our Booster Club" dance went off with a scream and the kids attending really enjoyed themselves. Due to the cold weather we stopped earlier than planned, but still managed to have fun. (I couldn't feel

my toes until Sunday afternoon!) Ethan Abbott was overall winner of the costume contest by winning funniest and overall best costume and Chance Deese won the scariest costume. Dewey Virzi was best dressed animal.

Without everyone coming together as a community to show the kids a good time, we would not have been able to raise and donate \$365.00 to be split by the two Booster Clubs. We would personally like to THANK each and every person and business that donated. We would like to give a special thanks to the following: (If we have left anyone out, it certainly wasn't intentional, and we pass along our heartfelt thanks and apologies for the error.)

Community Club, Bean Brothers Monuments, Pierce Furniture, Rumors and Excuses, BSYBEAN Construction, 92 Roadhouse, Lynn's Hi-Way Service, Wieleo, GIPS, Dwight and Rose Britton, CJ Auto, FS Agriland, Mendenhall Repair, Santa Ana Bakery, Rey De Reyes, New

York Dollar Store, La Hacienda, 3-D Fabrication, Farmers Insurance Group Ins. Company, H & P Minerals, Take 2 Video, Dan Wilson, Columbus Gazette, Rueckert Sanitation, Mincer Ford, H&R Block, Hy-Vee Pharmacy, Jan Rueckert, Integrity Dental, Robertson Real Estate, G & W Auto, Fareway in Washington, Wal Mart in Washington, Hy-Vee in Washington, Tyson, Lowe's Auto Body, Econ-O-Mart, United Vending Food Service, Community Bank, Lee's Alley Café, Reids Mechanical/Main Street Laundry, Colonel's Kids, Paul Duncan Real Estate, Englert Chiropractic, Special Effects, Bennett Equipment in Columbus City and the Columbus Junction State Bank.

Oh, and we Beans have already come up with next year's theme, "A Barn Dance, Hee-Haw style!" The kids asked, "Do you think Mr. Huston will let us have real live animals and hay bales at the Banks parking lot?"

Thanks again to everyone for all the support. Deb, Abbie, Callie, Logan, Sam and Coy Bean.

Council approves replat of Colonial Heights Subdivision

By Jim Rudisill

The approval of a replat of the Colonial Heights subdivision by the Columbus Junction City Council will provide a green light to the planned construction of Louisa County's first assisted living facility. The replat was approved by the council during its regular October 14 meeting.

According to Steve Sents, attorney for Colonial Heights, LC, the replat of the original Colonial Heights First Addition included shifting the location of Colonial Lane south and reducing the number of previously platted lots intended for duplexes and single-family homes. The shift would allow the company to construct a nine-unit assisted living center

Council member Mark Huston, who serves on the board of directors

of Colonial Heights, LC, said the assisted living facility would be connected to the company's Colonial Manor Nursing Home by a breezeway. The Columbus Junction Planning and Zoning Commission agreed earlier in the week to recommend the change to the council.

Although the vote for the replat was unanimous, council member Dave Duncan, who owns a house in the original Colonial Heights Subdivision said prior to the vote that he was concerned about the potential effect of the new facility on sewer and water services in the area.

"I think it's a needed project, but I have personal experience with that sewer and it does make me nervous," Duncan said.

Huston acknowledged that no one could guarantee there would not be a

future problem, but assured Duncan and the rest of the council that engineers had studied the project and concluded there should not be a significant negative impact from the change. Huston also pointed out that the eight-inch sewer line installed in the area had originally been engineered to handle up to 100 homes. He said the replat would actually mean fewer potential homes and possibly less demand on the line.

Sents said no experts had indicated the replat would not work with the existing services and emphasized the company was committed to developing a well-functioning and cooperative project.

"We want to get it right and if some issues come up, we want to work with the people to get it right," he said.

Some street construction has already started on portions of the addition. Work on the building is expected to begin in a few weeks.

In other action, the council accepted an \$8,086 proposal from Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Anamosa, to conduct a Phase 1 archaeological survey of the proposed site for a relocated water treatment plant and other facilities. The city is seeking federal funds to relocate the plant, which was inundated by floodwaters last year.

Relocating the plant is expected to cost over \$3.5 million, with about \$3.2 million projected to come from

City Council.....
Continued on Page 2

Briefly -

Trick or Treat hours

Trick or Treat Night in Columbus Junction and Columbus City will be on Saturday, October 31, 2009 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Legion Auxiliary to host Fall Conference

The American Legion Auxiliary will host the First District Fall Conference beginning Friday evening, October 23rd. Food will be served from 5-8 p.m. at the American Legion Post Home. We encourage our members to attend. On Saturday morning, October 24th, Auxiliary members and First District guests will meet at the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church. Registration and coffee at 8 a.m. The banquet and program at 12 p.m. Adjournment will be at the end of the afternoon session.

FCCLA Canned Food Drive

The FCCLA will be having their yearly canned food drive. On October 21st, we will be collecting the canned foods from Conesville, Columbus City, and Fredonia. We will start collecting at 6:30 and go until 7:30. The food we collect will be donated to our local CAP (Community Action Program) office. We really appreciate all your support and hope we have a good turn out.

Turkey Supper in Lone Tree

Lone Tree - The United Presbyterian Church in Lone Tree will serve a Turkey Supper Saturday, November 7th from 4 to 7 p.m. Roast turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, home grown sweet corn, salads, rolls, beverages and pies will be served. Tickets are \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages 5-10 years.

Fall Supper in Conesville

The Conesville Methodist Church will be holding their annual fall supper on Thursday, October 22nd. Because of water damage to the church basement, the supper will be at the Conesville Community Center. The menu includes: hamballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, chicken and noodles, green beans, salads, rolls, pies and beverages. Serving begins at 5 p.m. There will be a free will offering.

Embroidery Club to meet

Embroidery Club will meet on November 2nd at 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to finish the temari balls. The afternoon group will meet on November 4th, at 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm to do Hardanger bookmarks. There will be a \$7.00 charge for the book and material. You will need one ball or two skeins of Pearl Cotton #8. A magnifying glass may also be helpful. Register before October 23rd so supplies may be ordered at Our Shop. Phone 319-728-5648 or stop in at Our Shop, 106 Main Street, Columbus Junction.

FCCLA Fundraiser

The Columbus FCCLA will be selling personalized cakepans and Klean Kanteen Bottles, as well as, personalized cutting boards, mugs, and photo frames. If you need something special for a Christmas, wedding or birthday gift this may be just what you need. If interested call Lois Mincks at Columbus Community School 319-728-2231 Ext. 3332 or email her at lois.mincks@columbus.k12.ia.us and she can have a member take your order. Orders will be placed on Oct. 30. Orders will arrive in plenty of time before Christmas.

FFA available to rake leaves

The Columbus FFA will be raking leaves on Saturday, November 7th. If your leaves need raking and you are unable to do so, please contact the Columbus FFA or Katie McWhirter at 728.2231 x 3621 after Monday, October 26.

Habitat to host "Taste of Wapello"

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity will again host "Taste of Wapello and Area" in conjunction with Wapello Walk the Block the evening of November 6, 4-7 p.m. at the Briggs Center. There will be both commercial and individual exhibits. This event will have a holiday theme but not limited to that. If you like to cook or bake, call to reserve a spot to set up! We do plan to have more seating arrangements but please remember, this is a TASTE; no item is to be a meal. We just want everyone to get a good sample from all of our good cooks! The cost will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. Everyone welcome! Join the fun and perhaps get some new ideas for your upcoming holiday meals. Please call Lois Wanfalt at 319-729-2773 or Ruth Yakle at 319-523-2381.

JCAB looking for yardwork

The JCAB 4-H club is looking for yard work jobs. It is for donations for our club. Please call 319-657-3054.

Master Gardeners to meet

The Louisa County Master Gardeners will be meeting on October 27, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Louisa County ISU Extension Office (317 Van Buren in Wapello). Business meeting with focus on By-Law preliminary draft review. All Master Gardeners/Interns welcome.

Ruffled Wings Ladies banquet

The Ruffled Wings Ladies DU 26th annual banquet and auction will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2009, at the Briggs Center in Wapello. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., and the auction will start at 7 p.m. Any questions, call Niki at 319-759-9179.

Fall Festival Night at Roundy

A PK-6 Fall Festival night will be held at Roundy Elementary on Thursday, October 22nd from 6:30-7:30. Families are invited to come to Roundy Elementary to visit their child's school and classroom. There will also be an opportunity to receive information about other outside resources to promote learning. Each child will receive a book. Snacks will be provided.

Fall Fiesta at St. Joseph's

You are cordially invited to attend Columbus Junction's St. Joseph's Catholic Church Fall Fiesta on Sunday, November 1, 2009, from 11-1 p.m.. It will be held in the student center of the Columbus Community High School. Lasagna, tossed salad, green beans, French bread, and assorted desserts, iced tea, lemonade and coffee will be served. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 3-13 under 3 are free.

Haunted Hayrack Ride in Winfield

The WMU Facilities Enhancement Committee will be hosting a Haunted Hayrack Ride on Saturday, October 31, 2009. Rides will depart from the Commons (youth baseball diamonds) on the north end of town from 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm. Prices are \$2.00 for children 12 and under and \$5 for adults. There will be glow-in-the-dark sticks and necklaces for sale, as well.