

It's Official - Keep Columbus Beautiful

By Jim Rudisill

Columbus Junction officially became the latest affiliate to the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) program during a short ceremony during the city council's October 13th meeting. Cecile Carson, a representative for the national organization, presented a plaque to city officials, commemorating a nearly three-year-old partnership in the effort to beautify the community.

Keep America Beautiful was formed in 1953 to promote cleanliness in America and assists local efforts to plant trees and other vegetation, control litter and improve entryways. KAB and its state affiliate, Keep Iowa Beautiful, provided funding assistance to Columbus Junction in 2008 to help improve the city's historic swinging bridge and help with corridor improvements and other work. Carson told city officials their affiliation could lead to additional grants and other opportunities. "It's all about what you want to do," she explained.

Carson said Mayor Dan Wilson would be speaking this year at the group's national convention in Orlando, Florida to explain how the program had developed in Columbus Junction. Wilson said he was looking forward to the event. "We're excited with the things going on with enhancements in the community and working with you," he told Carson.

He also said the community recognized that beautification efforts would be a continuing effort and would remain an important focus for the community. Columbus Junction is the fifth affiliate for the KAB program in Iowa.

In other action, the council agreed to work with the Columbus Community Fire Department to locate and repair the city's fire hydrants. Council member Phil Kaalberg, a member of the depart-



Pictured is Cecile Carson, front right, of Keep America Beautiful presenting a document to Mayor Dan Wilson notating Columbus Junction's official recognition as a Keep America Beautiful affiliate. In the back row, left to right, are council members: Hal Prior, Mark Huston, Phil Kaalberg and Curt Pierce.

ment, said the fire fighters had recently spent several meeting nights to survey the hydrants. Kaalberg said the survey revealed a number of hydrants that were inoperative, buried or otherwise unusable. He said some of the hydrants were so isolated or had been neglected for so long that some of the department's older members were the only ones who knew about them. "We had to knock down a lot of weeds," Kaalberg told the council. He said the survey was intended to make the council aware of the problem, repair the hydrants and then set up a regular maintenance

schedule. Wilson requested Kaalberg and council member Mark Huston work with the department to set up a repair and maintenance schedule and report back to the council.

The council also agreed to purchase warning flags to mount on the hydrants to help locate them during the winter. Kaalberg said the fire fighters would install the flags.

The council also approved a resolution supporting grant acquisition efforts by the Columbus Community Heritage Committee. Wilson said the resolution did not identify any specific grant program, but would allow

the committee to develop grant proposals as opportunities developed.

In final action, the council approved Trick or Treat Night for October 30 from 5-7:30 p.m.

Wilson also told council members the city had unofficially received word that its \$695,000 request to upgrade the city's Iowa River levee had been approved. The city had requested funding assistance from two previous programs, but those applications had not been approved. Official word on the grant award is expected to come from the governor's office later.

Louisa County Ambulance - Proud to Serve

(The following article appeared in the Iowa Emergency Services Magazine. It is reprinted with permission.)

By Tom Summitt

Louisa County Ambulance covers approximately 245 square miles, consisting of the western and northern halves of Louisa County and two and one-half townships in Muscatine County. Overall, coverage is provided for nearly 8,200 area residents.

Mrs. Linda Verink is the President/Service Director, and Mr. Sean Salazar is the Operations Assistant

In 1988, when the local Stacey Lewis Funeral Home decided to cease providing ambulance service, what is now called Louisa County Ambulance was formed by a private ambulance company from Iowa City. At that time, the owner provided two Type II van ambulances to operate in Louisa district, with one ambulance in Columbus Junction and the other in Letts.

A group called CARE (Columbus Area Responders and EMTs) was formed with 12 EMT-As and supplied the manpower to run the ambulances. Then, in February 1990, the CARE group decided to take over the services from the Iowa City group and started the Louisa County Responders Ambulance. They subsequently purchased two used Type III ambulances.

In the summer of 1991, the service staff became certified as EMT-Ds and purchased two Phillips defibrillators. Later that year, the first EMT-Is were also added to the service. Louisa County Ambulance became a conditional Paramedic service in the summer of 1993 when six EMTs passed their paramedic course.

Louisa County Ambulance Service is a non-profit organization, consisting of 45 volunteers. The current roster now includes 20 EMT-Bs, four EMT-Is, three EMTs, four Paramedic Specialists, two RN Exceptions and 12 CPR certified drivers. They also currently have one student enrolled in the Basic class and three EMT-Bs taking the Paramedic Specialist class.



Currently, they provide ambulance coverage in the Iowa cities of Columbus Junction, Columbus City, Conesville, Letts and Grandview. They have three Type III ambulances; two are primary response units on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and one is a back-up ambulance. One primary ambulance and the backup ambulance are located in Columbus Junction, and the other primary ambulance is located in Letts.

In 2009, they responded to 520 calls. Their biggest obstacle is that no hospitals are located in our county. Therefore, most of their time is spent transporting to hospitals in other counties.

Louisa County Ambulance continually faces a large variety of potentially dangerous challenges that can jeopardize the personal safety of their volunteers and equipment.

Within their territory, they have a food processing plant, a 750 MW power plant, a gas plant, a rock and sand quarry and a fertilizer plant.

They also border the Mississippi River, and the Cedar and Iowa rivers run down the middle of their territory. With US Highway 61 and State Highway 92 running through their territory, along with the IC & E railway, all function as routes for hazardous materials. They also have two school systems with 2,000 students and a 60-bed nursing facility.

As a result, they have had many motor vehicle crashes, train crashes, industrial accidents, drownings, sporting and recreational accidents over the years.

Their training is done in-house, bringing qualified teaching staff from nearby colleges in Burlington, Iowa City and Muscatine. They also work closely with the fire departments in their primary response area doing mock and disaster drills. They have also participated in disaster drills with neighboring counties.

As a demonstration of their commitment to the communities that they serve, they stand by at many events,

such as youth league and high school sporting events, local stock car races, demo derby, walk and run marathons, as well as the 4th of July parade, county fair and Columbus Day. They also offer CPR classes to the public.

In celebration of National EMS Week, they displayed their rigs and gave tours to preschool and elementary school students, giving out coloring books and crayons to each child present. They also held a coloring contest for our second grade students, awarding a \$50 savings bond donated by Community Bank for first place. The second and third place winners received bicycle helmets.

In recognition of all of their volunteers for National EMS Week, they held a family picnic for them and their family members, acknowledging that it is not just about the EMS providers - it is also about the support given by each family member involved!

As volunteers, they are all so very proud of the outstanding service they provide to their communities.

Briefly -

Trick or Treat hours set

Trick or Treat in Columbus Junction, Columbus City, Fredonia and Cotter will be on Saturday, October 30th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and in Conesville on Saturday, October 30th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

County Flu shot clinics

Every Thursday through November 18 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Public Health Office - 805 J L Hodges Ave N. - Wapello. Sunday, October 24 - 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. St. Joseph's Church - Columbus Junction. Saturday, November 6 - Just 2 Moms - downtown Wapello 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. BP Screening and Flu clinic. Monday, November 8 - Morning Sun Health Fair - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Morning Sun Community Center

Spanish invitation to Congregate Meals

Ay reunion de comida de Lunes a Viernes a las 12 p.m. diario. Estan invitados a venir a comer, precios son adultos de 60 abajo \$3.50 y adultos de 59 arriba \$8.45. Se necesita hacer reservacion por lo menos un dia antes de ir, antes de la 1 p.m. Tiene que pagar en la oficina, localizacion en el Senior Center aqui en Columbus Junction.

Cookies and Kids

Cookies and Kids will meet today, Wednesday, October 20 at 6:30 P.M. at the Senior Center. ALL High School students are welcome to attend. Call Mike or Renea Jay at 319-530-4010 if you have questions.

FCCLA to hold food drive

FCCLA will hold their annual canned food drive in Columbus Junction on Wednesday, Oct. 20th from 6-7 p.m. for C.A.P. The FCCLA members will be going door to door to collect food for the food pantry. Please be generous.

FFA selling fruit and snacks

The Columbus FFA will be selling fruit, meat, snack sticks, cheese and string cheese, snacks, and Casey's Cares Cards until Wednesday, October 27th. All money goes towards sending students to leadership events, local activities, and contests. If you would like to place an order or have questions, please contact Katie McWhirter at 319-728-2231 x 3621.

Firemen to hold Halloween Ball

The C.J. Firemen will be holding a Halloween Bash on Saturday, October 30th at the fire station from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. featuring Trent Avery and Buckshot. A \$5 donation will be accepted.

Fundraiser for Jordan Gourley

PUNT, PASS AND KICK FUNDRAISER FOR JORDON GOURLEY at the Wapello Football Field on Sunday, October 31, 2010 at 1:00 P.M. Open to boys and girls age 3-12. Gates open at 11:00 A.M. A fun filled day for the entire family hayrack rides, face painting, balloons, carnival games, raffles, silent and live auction, field goal competition, cakewalk/bake sale, 50/50 chances, door prize and a few surprises. Raffle and auction items include: Autographed football by the Iowa Hawkeye football coaches and other autographed Hawkeye items, passes to the Iowa Speedway, Quad City Mallards tickets, SnowStar package, Fridley Theater passes, Putnam Museum tickets, Children's Museum Family pass, bicycles, 1 hour airplane ride, Build A Bear, signed Chicago Cubs photo of Kosuke Fukudome, Dream house and furniture, gift certificates to many area businesses and much more. Concession Stand will be open so join us for lunch. Pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, grilled chicken breasts and hamburgers. For questions, donations or to participate contact Laurie Salazar 319-850-2204 or Vicki Frank 319-750-9490.

Health Fair in Morning Sun

The Morning Sun Care Center will hold a Health and Safety Fair on Monday, November 8 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Morning Sun Community Center, 106 N. Main. Food available on site.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, October 21st at 11:30 a.m., at the Chinese restaurant in Mt. Pleasant. We will carpool. Meet at Judy Stout's home or Spring Run Church at 10:45 a.m. Please bring your shoebox filled with items for the Children of Samaritans purse.

St. Joseph's Harvest Fest Breakfast

You are cordially invited to attend Columbus Junction's St. Joseph's Catholic Church Harvest Breakfast on Sunday, November 7, 2010 from 7-11 a.m. It will be held at the Columbus Junction Senior Center, Walnut Street. Sausage gravy and biscuits, breakfast burritos, egg casseroles, ham, scrambled eggs, fruit cups, milk, juice and coffee and more will be served. The cost is \$5.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children 5-12. There will also be a country store and bake sale. Tickets are available at both banks in town and the Columbus Gazette.

Community Bank Halloween Party

Community Bank will again hold their famous Halloween Party Potluck on October 28th at the American Legion. Arrive at 5:30 p.m., costume judging contest at 5:45 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m. and dancing and entertainment by Lyle Beaver from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Please come and bring a dish. Call Carol Ann at 728-2226 to make a reservation.

Ducks Unlimited in Wapello

Plan to attend the Ducks Unlimited night at the Wapello Briggs Center on Thursday, October 28th with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and an auction at 7:00 p.m. Win a Women's Weekend Package at Catfish Bend. Contact Nike at 759-9179 for more information or to make a reservation.

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Senior Center.

Christmas in Branson

Join your friends, make new friends, and experience all the sights and sounds of Christmas in Branson, Missouri. The R.S.V.P. Club of the Columbus Junction State Bank is sponsoring this trip and they would love to have YOU along. You do not need to be a member of the R.S.V.P. Club to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. The days/dates are Monday-Thursday, November 29-December 2. Cost is \$850/person double, \$825/person triple, \$800/person quad. Contact R.S.V.P. Club Coordinator, Ramona Wink immediately to sign up. Email-wink123@lisco.net or phone 319-212-0366. Give yourself a priceless Christmas present-experience Christmas in Branson with a Really Special Variety Of People!