



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

Vol. 125 No. 43

Chautauqua Park sees new improvements

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Columbus Junction has one of the most beautiful small-town parks in the state of Iowa, Chautauqua Park. This park is also packed with history as it was once the location of "The Chautauqua" where many people came to the park, camped for several days in tents and attended lectures, church services, community meals, and other activities such as visiting. In later years, the park became a favorite place for family reunions, especially due to the many shelters, the log cabin, the fireplaces, the ball field, and the wonderful playground equipment. Over the years, the park has declined and now an effort is being made to restore this beautiful area.

The effort began when Jim Gabriel, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board, reported to the city that something needed to be done. Jim then consulted with Mallory Smith, Community Development Director for Columbus Junction, and they began looking for ways to get money to improve the park. Along with the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Committee, a grant application was made to the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP). This group provides funding for natural resources and cultural projects. According to Smith, "This was a natural fit for Chautauqua Park as it is both natural resources and cultural." There was no tax money involved. The money came from people buying the license plates that have the goldfinch, rose, or eagle on them. Columbus Junction received \$75,000 from the

REAP grant.

Thus began a two-year beautification project for the park. Last spring Jim and Mallory led a group that did a planting of flowers and grasses, and people, such as Jim Everett helped with the planning and Sam and Emily Bell and have been watering them. Some broken playground equipment was removed, and some new installed. Also this summer work started on building new bathrooms, ones that were ADA compliant, and this work is almost complete. The bathrooms came as a "prefab" building and city workers, Steve Tomfeld, Jeff Carey and Fred Lukavsky, have been assembling them and installing the fixtures. New drinking fountains are coming.

The stone fireplaces built in the early 1930's by the Work's Progress Administration (WPA) are being examined and two of them are being fixed to be useable again. One is already done. It has been tuckpointed and the center rebuilt with bricks. Also the mortar used to repair them was made to match the mortar used by the WPA, which used fill sand. This work was done by Dale and Travis Hill of Hills, Iowa, whose father, Leonard Hill, grew up in Columbus Junction.

This fall, October 15th, another planting session was held with many Hydrangeas, Hostas, and Goatsbeard (a white flower) placed in "random" groupings around the park. These plants were chosen because they are perennials; they can tolerate shade (which with the large oak trees in the park is needed); and will need little maintenance in the future. Even



Renovated fireplace at Chautauqua Park

though these plantings look random, they are actually the spots chosen for another new feature in the park. Each of these spots will be the place for a new interpretive sign. These signs will go in next spring and are being designed by Verl Lekwa to hold information on the wildlife of the park, the park history, and the history of Columbus Junction. Also there will be a new entrance sign to the park next spring, and the "flagging" has been poured in a river rock to match that used by the WPA.

According to Smith, the REAP grant was \$75,000, but we are actually getting about \$100,000 "worth" of materials and labor due to the generosity of many. First of all, there have been many volunteers throughout this project; some of them mentioned, but many of them not. They

have donated their time and labor for free whether it be planting plants, watering plants, fixing fireplaces, planning signage, or just general cleaning and improvement of the park. Some money has also come from the Roundy Memorial, Community Foundation of Louisa County, and Keep Iowa Beautiful. Also all the plants came from Barnyard Blooms of Grandview, which were paid for, but kept the money in the county, and also gave much free advice on landscaping and planning the plantings.

In the future, it is hoped to get a more useable structure at the entrance area to the park, and Smith also hopes this lays the groundwork for a future park in another location in town—near Monkey Run. Whatever the future holds, Chautauqua Park is deep with history and natural beauty.

Beat For Peace Group wins Chili Taste Off at Farmers' Market



October 14th was the Chili Taste off at the Columbus Junction Farmers Market. There were four entries; Softball Association, Friends of the Columbus Library, Beat for Peace and Dennis Shepard from Grandview. Jim Bartenhagen presented first time winner Polly Prior (Beat for Peace) the traveling trophy for her chili. Thank you to the organizations that participated in this year's Chili Taste off.

Civic Center honors memory of Lisa Ostrem



Mayor Dan Wilson presented a plaque to Ardee Ostrem in remembrance of the contribution of Ardee's late daughter, Lisa to the Civic Center. Through Lisa's estate the upper meeting room was furnished, portable walls were purchased, and a number of other unfinished projects were completed. The plaque will be placed outside the upstairs meeting room as a tribute to everything the Lisa and the Ostrem Family has given to the Civic Center.

The LDG Perspective

By Dennis Fraise

Having A Vision
The world recently lost one of its great visionaries when Steve Jobs passed away.

Steve Jobs was a fascinating larger than life figure that helped change the way we look at technology and product design. Along with Steve Wozniak he co-founded Apple Computer in a garage, made and lost a fortune and famously was fired from the company that he founded. Steve Jobs pulled off one of the most remarkable comebacks in business history when he rejoined Apple and engineered a stunning turnaround. Under his leadership Apple became the most valuable company in the world in terms of market capitalization. The just released Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson is a must read for anyone interested in the power of vision and what it can mean to an organization. "One of my mantras - focus and simplicity. Simple can be harder than complex." - Steve Jobs

Louisa Development Group recently sponsored the "Vision Louisa" process that was facilitated by Jeff Schott from the University Of Iowa Institute Of Public Affairs. Through this process a broad cross section of Louisa County residents came together to help identify the major areas of emphasis to cre-

ate a vision for Louisa County. The process identified three areas of concentration, business development, housing and infrastructure, and recreation/tourism/natural resources. Louisa Development Group was identified as the group best able to coordinate the resources and associations of the area to move "Vision Louisa" forward. Jeff Schott returned to the most recent Louisa Development Group board meeting and assisted us in putting together a road map or "Vision Louisa" action plan. We've identified specific goals and outlined the groups and individual's needed to move those goals forward. Target dates have been attached to all of the actions and plans are being made to turn "Vision Louisa" into a reality. The process has been distilled down to achievable goals and we are working to bring a new vision and ideas to propel Louisa County forward. The process will not be easy but it does represent a real opportunity to make a difference in Louisa County now and for future generations. Louisa Development Group welcomes this challenge and we hope that you will consider lending your time and talents to the process. We'll be using Steve Jobs words to guide us. "focus and simplicity." Simple can be harder than complex." - Steve

Jobs

Dennis Fraise is the Director of Business Services for Louisa Development Group. To become part of the "Vision Louisa" process please contact Dennis at 319-753-0690 or djfraise@gmail.com Louisa Development Group (LDG) is a member

supported economic development and marketing organization serving Louisa County, Iowa. LDG was founded in January 2004 because a group of motivated residents wanted to see an organized effort behind economic development and tourism

Foundation Grant Applications

The Community Foundation of Louisa County is now accepting grant applications for the 2012 Grants. Grants are available for non-profit organizations, schools or government agencies operating in Louisa County. This year there will be an opportunity for an award of up to \$5,000. Smaller grant applications of \$1,000 or less for equipment, training, and building organizational capacity are also encouraged. Grants are awarded for projects/initiatives that improve the quality of life in Louisa County in the following general areas: Arts, Culture and Museums; Community Improvement & Development; Education & Research; Environment/Animals; Health; Human Services (Family, Children & Youth); and Public/Societal Benefit.

Applications are available on-line at communityfoundationlouisacounty.org, or can be requested by sending an email to cflc@louisacomm.net. Completed applications are due December 1, 2011. Applications should be emailed to the address above and a signed copy should be mailed to Community Foundation of Louisa County, PO Box 34, Morning Sun, IA 52640.

This will be the seventh year that the Community Foundation of Louisa County will be awarding grants. Over the prior six years, a total of 263 grants totaling \$478,237 have been awarded to 91 separate organizations. The grant funds come from the State of Iowa as a share of gambling profits and are made available to Community Foundations that reside in counties that do not have gambling operations. The mission of the Community Foundation is to build endowment funds that will benefit Louisa County now and in the future. The Community Foundation of Louisa County is an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Great River Bend. For more information, contact Paula Buckman at 319-868-4240.

Briefly -

Trick or Treat Night set

Please note that Trick or Treat night in Columbus Junction, Columbus City and Conesville has been set for Monday, Oct 31st from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Trick or Treat at Colonial Manor

Don't forget to stop by for some treats on Monday, October 31st from 5:30-7:00. The residents will be ready with candy and they look forward to seeing you in your costumes!

Trick or Treat for UNICEF at UP Church

The United Presbyterian Church of Columbus Junction will hold Trick or Treat for UNICEF on Sunday, October 30, 2011 from 4-6 p.m.

Trunk 'O Treat at CJUMC

Trunk 'O Treat Night on October 31st from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm the CJ United Methodist Youth Group will be hosting Trunk 'O Treat Night in the CJ UMC parking lot. The youth will be giving out great treats from their decorated car trunks. All children are invited to join the fun!

Annual Firemen's Ball set

The annual CJ Fire Department Halloween Ball will take place on Saturday, October 29, 2011 at the fire station from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. Dress up in your best Halloween costume. Cash prizes for first 3 places. \$5 donation at the door. Live band is Cruisin' - can beer \$2.

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold its regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, October 26, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Etude Club to meet

The Etude Club will meet at Colonial Estates on Tuesday, November 1st at 7 p.m. Former and new members are welcome. Bring paper products for CAP. For more information, call Dorothy at 728-2066.

St. Joseph's Harvest Breakfast

There will be a Harvest Breakfast sponsored by St. Joseph's Catholic Church at the Columbus Junction Senior Center on Sunday, November 6, 2011. Serving is from 7-10 a.m. The menu includes: Sausage gravy and biscuits, breakfast burritos, ham, scrambled eggs, assorted rolls and breads, milk, juice and coffee. There will also be a country store and bake sale. Adults \$7, in advance - \$6. Children 5-12 - \$3. Advance tickets available at the Columbus Gazette, Columbus Junction State Bank and Community Bank.

Historical Society Membership meeting

The Louisa County Historical Society will hold its annual membership meeting and meal on Saturday, November 5th at 5:30 pm at the museum in Wapello. The meal will cost \$8.00. To make reservations, call Lois Bonnicksen (523-8451), Norma McCormick (728-8818), Howard Cooley (868-7691), Leota Schaper (728-8961), or Phyllis Houtz (729-2731). Carol and Tim Nixon will give the program.

Minute It to Win It

We will hold our second annual Minute It to Win at the Columbus School It Friday, November 4th. Teams of up to 4 people can sign up in the high school office or with Lori Beenen. Cost is \$20 per team. You are guaranteed 4 games. Admission to watch is \$1. Competition begins at 6:30 pm.

Biscuits and Chicken at Pleasant Grove

Pleasant Grove Church of God in rural Columbus Junction is having their annual chicken and biscuits supper on Wednesday, November 2nd from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. with a free will offering. All are invited.

Ruffled Wings Dinner

Calling All Ladies - the Ruffled Wings Ladies Chapter of Ducks Unlimited will be hosting a dinner at the Briggs Civic Center in Wapello on Thursday, October 27, 2011, at 6 p.m. There will also be an auction at 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Niki at 319-759-9179.

Halloween Dinner at Senior Center

Local senior meal sites, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, will be hosting a Halloween theme meal, Monday, October 31. The meal is open to any person over 60 (and their spouse of any age) on a contribution basis, regardless of income or residency. Reservations by noon the Friday before are required. Call your local senior meal location: Autumn Heights in Burlington at 753-2675, Salem at 258-4111, Winfield at 257-6921, Donnellson at 835-5115, Fort Madison at 372-3147, Keokuk at 524-5464, Columbus Junction at 728-3148, or Wapello at 523-8455. For the Mt. Pleasant area, new senior meal participants are to call 1-800-292-1268.

Shellbark Club 100th Anniversary

Shellbark Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary at the home of Mary Wilson, 831 Colonial Ave., Columbus Junction, Iowa on Nov. 3rd at 2:00 P.M. until 7. All members, former members, or any relatives of the club or neighborhood are invited to attend this open house. If you have memorabilia, bring it; if you cannot attend, you may send a letter to Mary.

Sheriff's Dodge Ball Tournament

On Saturday, December 3, 2011, the Louisa County Sheriff's Patrol will hold its first annual Dodgeball Tournament, at the L-M High School Gym at 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$25 per team. Teams are 4 players, at least one female per team. Players must be 16-years-old or older. To register a team, contact Lindsay or Lisa in dispatch at 319-523-4371 or email louisacounty_dispatch@yahoo.com. Please have your team registered by November 1st. Prize for winning team. Will also have a 50/50 raffle. Concession stand will be open. Tournament will be double elimination.

Regional Trails Public Meeting

You are invited to attend Louisa County Regional Trails Public Meetings on Thursday, October 27. The first meeting will take place from 9:00 - 11:00 am, at the Letts Community Center - 125 E. Iowa St. The second meeting will be from 1:30 - 3:30 pm at the Wapello High School Library - 501 Buchanan St. The last meeting will be from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Columbus Junction Senior Center - 125 Walnut St. This is an opportunity for us to hear your questions and for you to see the vision. This event is hosted by the National Park Service: Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program; Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission; and Louisa County Regional Trails Council.

Muscatine Radio Club to meet

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will meet Monday, November 14, at 7:00 pm in the upper-level conference room at the Musser Public Library, 304 Iowa Avenue in Muscatine. All amateur radio operators, and those interested in learning more about amateur radio, are invited to attend. For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.