

# Council approves beautification project

By Jim Rudisill

A proposed street beautification project received approval from the Columbus Junction City Council during its October 22 regular meeting, but the proposal will be slightly altered from the original plans. Under the original design presented by project organizer Russ Howell at the council's October 8 meeting, three large shade trees, possibly sugar maple and scarlet oak, were to be planted on the east side of North Main, between the former Weber and Huston Feed Mill and the curved intersection of Main and Locust. The plan initially called for the trees to be planted on the shoulder of the street.

Smooth sumac was to be planted on the slope leading down to the parking lot and three beds of perennial wildflowers were proposed to extend along the street curb. A mixed planting of evergreens and flowering crabapples were to be planted near the Main and Locust Street intersection.

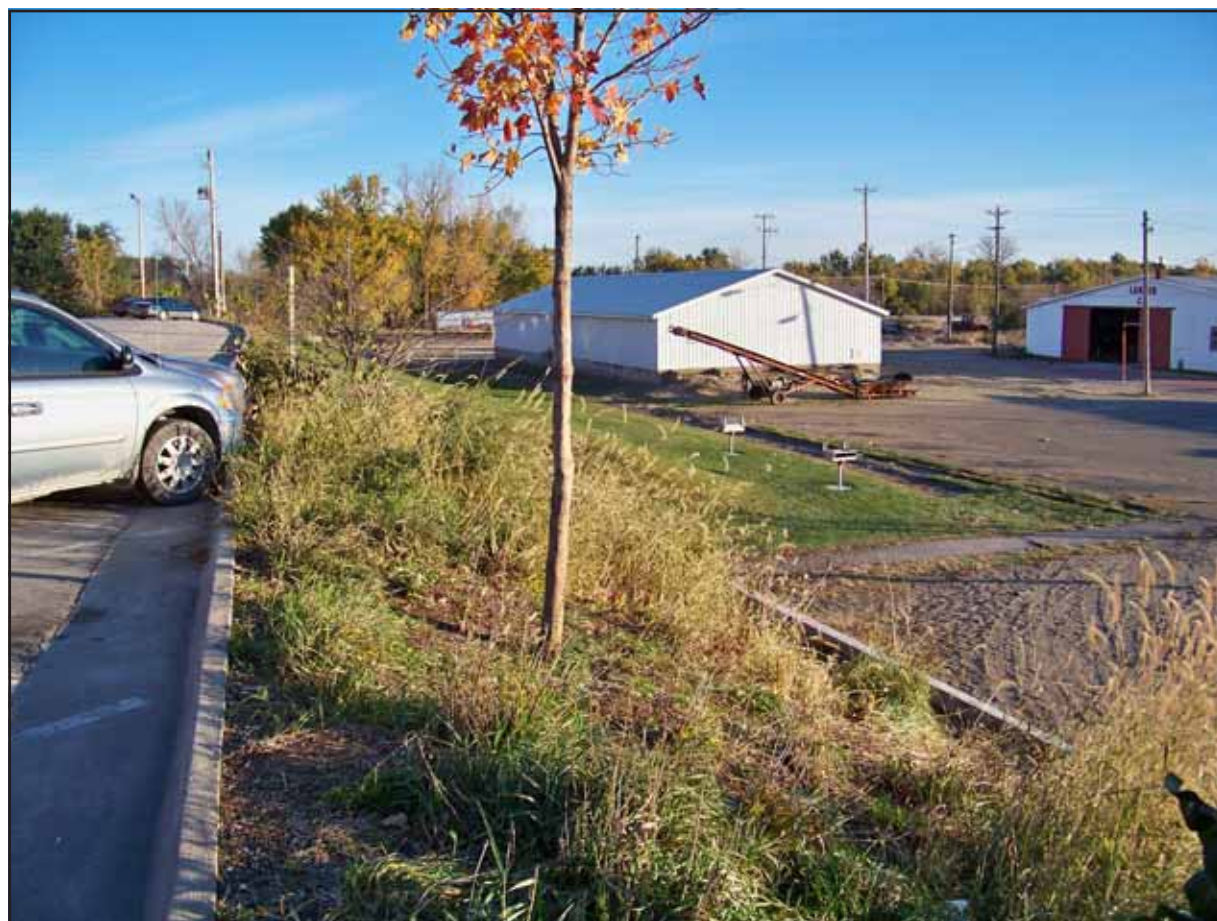
While city officials praised the initial design during last week's meeting, they continued to voice earlier concerns over the potential impact for snow removal. When Howell first presented the proposal to the council at the October 8 meeting, officials had suggested it would complicate street clearing after a heavy snowfall.

According to the discussions at that meeting, city crews push snow from Main Street over the slope at the proposed planting site. That concern was still creating a problem for officials during the October 22 meeting. "That's the only issue. (The city workers) have to put (the snow) somewhere," Mayor Dan Wilson said.

"Would you consider a different area?" council member Mark Huston asked, suggesting an area on Second Street, across from the civic center/library might be a likely candidate.

That area is currently owned by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) and officials said the city had already received permission from the state agency to beautify the site. Howell also said her group had designed a plan for the site a few years ago, but there had never been an effort to implement the proposal.

She said the problem with changing course now and switching from the Main Street planting to the Second Street area was a November 1 grant deadline. Howell said the budget for the proposed Main Street planting is \$3800, with \$2,350 projected coming from a Branching Out grant from Alliant Energy. Applications for that program must be filed by November 1 and Howell said there would not be enough time to



Area of North Main Street to receive new plantings

update the Second Street proposal and complete other details. The grant application for the Main Street planting was almost complete.

"I have everything but your permission," Howell told the council.

"Is there another place to take the snow?" she asked the city officials.

Wilson said the snow could be hauled from that area, but that would increase the city's costs and would slow down snow removal from the downtown area. Council member Phil Kaalberg agreed. "We're pretty limited with snow (dump sites)," he explained.

The council then looked at allowing the planting, but dropping two shade trees from the project. Council member C.P. Pierce suggested leaving the north tree because it would be nearest a concrete stairway that connects North Main to a city parking lot on lower ground east of the street. "We won't dump snow on the stairway," Pierce said.

Huston agreed that was a possible solution, but suggested another alternative would be to locate the shade trees farther down the slope and not place them on the shoulder at the top of the street. He acknowledged planting the trees on the lower ground might be difficult because of an old railroad bed.

However, he said that would alleviate any city concerns over the effect the tree planting would have on snow removal and still allow all the trees to be planted. Snow packing and possible effects from street salt might

still cause some problems everyone agreed, but likely would not be known until the plants had gone through a season.

The council finally approved Huston's proposal and Howell said she would proceed with the grant application. She said it would be spring before any work would begin.

In the meantime, Howell agreed to review the design for the Second Street project with city officials as a possible future beautification effort in that area.

In other action, the council received an update on flood recovery efforts. Wilson announced both the Econ-O-Mart grocery store and Dr. Brian Masonholder had reopened in their former locations. Both were forced out of their buildings because of June flooding. Wilson and Huston also announced the Caseys store should be reopening in early November, although the target date is uncertain. Huston said he had heard it was going to be November 5, but Wilson said he had been told it would be November 15. Wilson also said he did not have any new information on the hotel or Subway restaurant, although he had tried contacting the current hotel owners, which he said was a Chicago bank. The bank however had not returned his call. "We need to know what their plans are, (but) no one is returning my telephone call," he said.

Council member Hal Prior said Muscatine Community College has apparently arranged with the Colum-

bus School District to relocate its educational programs to the local school campus and is trying to sell its old site.

Wilson also updated the council on the state's JumpStart Program and reported the city was still waiting for its federal reimbursement for expenses related to the flood fighting effort. The city hopes to recover around \$140,000 in expenses.

In final action, the council received an update on community development efforts from Columbus Community Development Center (CDC) Executive Director Mallory Smith. Smith reported the CDC has received \$12,000 in funding for staff hours related to flood recovery. The money will be spent in 6-8 months to cover assistant director Nitza Lopez-Castillo, who is also a member of the Rebuild Iowa Task Force. Smith said the CDC was assisting the Senior Citizens with efforts to coordinate fundraising, donations and volunteers.

Smith also updated the council on the 2008 Farmers Market. She said the 2009 market would be held at the American Legion lot. A grant application was submitted to the Iowa Arts Council to fund entertainment in May and June. She also reported the CDC would be meeting with Tim Wink and other development commission members to renew efforts to install entrance signs into the community.

She also presented reports on the United Fund, Community Health Center and other efforts.

## Briefly -

### Trick or Treat hours set

Trick or Treat night for Columbus Junction, Columbus City, Fredonia and Cotter will be Friday, October 31st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and for Conesville Trick or Treat will be the same evening with hours from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

### CJ Speedway rules meeting

Rules meetings for the 2009 racing season at the CJ Speedway will be held November 1st at the Wapello ambulance shed located on Hwy 61 in Wapello. Each class will meet at a specific time. The tentative schedule follows for each of the classes: 4 cylinders will start at noon; Hobby Stocks at 1:00 PM; IMCA Stock Cars at 2:00 PM; Mod Lites at 3:00 PM. At 4:00 the new class for the 2009 season, IMCA and USRA Modifieds will meet. We took everyone's ideas into consideration and we all agreed that this is the best direction for us to go as first year promoters. The stated new promoters are Don and Sharon Wood and Brian and Amanda Tipps. Under these rules it will allow some Mods from West Liberty as well as some IMCA Mods from Burlington to compete together on Fridays. For more information check out [www.cjspeedway.com](http://www.cjspeedway.com)

### 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, November 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

### Election Supper in Ainsworth

Your winning vote for supper will help the Opera House fund raising effort. We will be serving from 5pm to 7:30 pm on Tuesday, November 4th, 2008 at the Ainsworth Opera House. The cost will be \$8 per person. The menu is creamed chicken on biscuit, beef and noodles, smashed potatoes, creamy cheesy crock pot corn, kicked up green beans, ambrosia salad, bing cherry salad, blt pasta salad, cottage cheese, sliced cucumbers, pearl tapioca salad, relish tray, cheese tray, rolls and butter, apple dumpling cake, banana split dessert, pumpkin pie and drink. Hope to see you there!

### Etude Club to meet

The November 4, 2008 meeting of Etude Club will be held in the home of Lorie Hauenstein at 7:00 p.m. with Jill Bowen as co-hostess. The 2008 Etude scholarship recipients will present the lesson.

### FFA to sell fruit, meat and cheese

The Columbus FFA is currently doing their annual fruit, meat, cheese, and snack fundraiser. The money is used to offset traveling costs and registration costs for leadership conferences. If you wish to purchase and have not been asked, please call Katie Lewis at 728-2231 x 3621.

### FFA to rake leaves for people

The Columbus FFA will be raking leaves for people in the Columbus Junction area on Saturday, November 1st. If you or someone you know is unable to rake their yard, please call Katie Lewis at 728-2231 x 3621 to schedule a time. This is a free community service activity to assist those in need.

### Habitat in need of volunteers

Volunteers are needed at the Habitat house at 1303 6th Street in Fredonia. Work is scheduled for each Saturday from 8:30 to 3:30, except holidays, until the house is finished. They will be working on insulation and drywall. Volunteers should call Jeff Everett at 319-728-2346 or Warren Woepking 319 728-2775 for more information.

### Historical Society dinner

WAPELLO - The Louisa County Historical Society will hold its annual membership dinner at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Louisa County Heritage Center, 609 N. James L. Hodges Ave., Wapello. Dinner tickets are \$8. Reservations need to be made by Oct. 29 by calling any of the following: Dick or Norma McCormick, 319-728-8818; Marge Heindel, 319-728-2499; Jan Cooley, 319-868-7691; Phyllis Houtz, 319-729-2731; Leota Schaper, 319-728-8961; or Valeen Ziegenhorn, 319-523-5631. There will be a brief meeting with election of officers, followed by a program by Max Churchill about Norman Baker who claimed in 1930 that he had cured cancer at his Baker Institute in Muscatine. Dues will be accepted at \$10 per person and subscriptions for Louisa's HiStory magazine may be purchased

### P.E.O. to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Jennifer Buffington on Monday, November 3 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be co-hosted by Nita Abbott and the program will be "Can You Trust a Tomato in January?" by Melanie DeVore based on the book by Vince Staten. All members are encouraged to attend.

### Habitat Auction and Bake Sale

The annual Habitat for Humanity Auction and Bake Sale will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 1st at the Briggs Center in Wapello. The Auction will be followed by a spaghetti lunch at noon. There are many gift cards donated by area merchants from the three county area. Also there are donated items including a lift chair, a tree deer stand, a Solo baseball trainer, brush flower arrangements, and gift baskets to name only a few. Please come and pick up a bargain while helping out Habitat for Humanity.

### Trick or Treat at Colonial Manor

Don't forget to stop by for some special treats on Friday evening, October 31 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The residents can't wait to see your costumes!

### Lone Tree UP Church Turkey Supper

Lone Tree- The United Presbyterian Church in Lone Tree will serve a Turkey Supper Saturday, November 8th from 4 to 7 pm. Roast turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, home grown sweet corn, salads, rolls, beverages and homemade pies will be served. Tickets are \$9.00 for adults and \$4.50 for children ages 5-10 years.

### Fall Supper at Conesville Methodist

Conesville Methodist Church will be having their annual fall supper Thursday, November 6. The menu includes: hamballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, chicken and noodles, green beans, peas and carrots, salads, rolls, pies, cake and beverages. Serving begins at 5 p.m. There will be a free will offering.

### St. Joseph's Fall Festival

St. Joseph's Catholic Church will hold its Fall Fiesta on Sunday, November 2 from 11-1 p.m. at the Columbus Community Student Center. They will be serving Pork loin, potatoes and gravy, green beans, rolls, tortillas, rice, assorted salads and desserts, lemonade, tea and coffee. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3-12. There will be a country store, 50/50 drawing and basket raffle.

# Local individual donates 7 gallons of tabs to Shriners

Columbus Junction resident Paul Morgan recently made an unusual donation to the area Shriners which will make a considerable contribution to Shriners Hospitals.

Paul began collecting aluminum tabs from beverage cans twenty-five years ago. He collected tabs from car races in Columbus Junction, from people working on cars at C&M Body Shop, and from friends. To date he has saved over seven gallons of the tabs.

The tabs are made of aluminum, and when donated to the Shriners the aluminum is sold to recyclers, with the proceeds going to the Shriners Hospitals.

Pictured at right with some of the tabs are Bill Juhl, Assistant Rabban of Kaaba Temple in Davenport, Shriners Howard Coil, Paul Morgan and Shriners Shane Morgan.

To date the Shriners' Children's Hospitals have helped over 850,000 kids. Any child in need can go to a Shriners' Hospital at no charge, and the fees are paid by generous donations such as Paul's.



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Be sure to mark your calendars for  
Autumn Leaves, this Saturday at  
7:00 p.m. in the High School gym.