



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

Vol. 126 No. 47

## Thanksgiving 'Thankful's

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Adrienne Corpman, Columbus Community School graduate and the daughter of Doug and Linda Corpman of Columbus Junction, stated on the Internet communication 'Facebook': "I am thankful that I grew up in a small town in Iowa. While I now live in a large city in Minnesota, I remain an Iowan in my thoughts, my sayings, and my actions. I'm proud of where I came from and thankful for all those along the way who helped shape me into who I am." Adrienne Corpman lives in Egan, Minnesota and works for Cooperative Plating as an office manager and human resources person. However, when listing things for which she is thankful, she harks back to her roots, her hometown, her home school, her family, and her childhood right here in Columbus Junction.

What prompted Corpman to make such a statement? Several people, who post comments on 'Facebook', listed daily something for which they were thankful, starting the first of November until Thanksgiving Day. The above quote was one of Corpman's listings. When thinking of things for which you are thankful, do you ever think about your community and what it provides you?

There are many, many reasons to be thankful for your community. Make your own list. However, here are a few.

This past weekend, businesses and vendors opened their doors for a holiday open house. It was a great event with many people milling around, visiting, sipping on coffee, and eating a Christmas cookie. The stores were decorated in the spirit of the season, and Sue Johnson (owner of Plants and Things) reported that 40 people were lined up outside her store before she even opened. It was fun to see people and note that some were even shopping together as families and more than one generation. At the Legion, Kelly Harris, her daughters Rachel Harris and Melissa Granaman, along with Melissa's new daughter, Olivia, were spotted checking out the books for sale. Heather Morrison and her

daughter Gracie were selecting ornaments at Plants and Things. All in all, everyone seemed to be having a good time.

Your city is also always working to improve your surroundings. Mallory Smith, City Development Coordinator, has several landscape projects going to beautify the entry points of our town. Recent plantings are at the quilt garden area and in front of Wiele's car dealership on Highway 92. Also, Steve Tomfeld, city employee, is at work trying to get approval for continuing the trails he has already put in at Chautauqua Park, to meet up with Chinkapin Bluffs, a park on the hillside about a half-mile away that overlooks the Iowa River. If completed, this would be a wonderful addition to our parks and recreational system.

Then look at the progress our local Columbus Community School is making on its building project. Both the addition to the existing school and the new administrative/Muscatine Community College Building are moving along well. Most of all, these buildings are architecturally very pleasing to the eye and "show a lot of class." The brick being used is an exact match to older buildings and the new part looks as if it has always been there. An atrium style entry on the administrative/college building, when completed, will make the area light and airy, a pleasure for students, and a source of pride for the community.

Then look at all the ways small-town businesses work for their customers. Car dealers will pick up your car and bring it back for an oil change or tune-up. Bankers know their customers, and a call could be made from Hong Kong if a traveler from here were having financial problems there. Insurance people can be at your home in no time if disaster strikes, and fireman coming to your house for a fire probably know where you live and maybe even which rooms your children are sleeping. It is the same for many other businesses and services in our community. They know your first name when you walk in the door.

Think about the values taught to children growing up in a small town. Students know the other people in



their classes, know their teachers, and have a lot of fun around town and school being together. The community supports their 4-H projects, school events, and community endeavors. Many local employers hire young people for jobs that teach the midwestern work ethic and skills for later life.

Yes, your community has much to offer and much for which to be thankful. Adrienne Corpman said it best, "I am thankful I grew up in a small town in Iowa...."

## Local Vietnam Veterans visit Washington D.C.

By Brian Cummings

Early on Friday morning, November 9<sup>th</sup>, a group of 25 area Vietnam Veterans, along with 15 family members boarded a bus headed to Midway Airport in Chicago. This was the first leg of a 3-day trip to Washington, D.C.

Upon our arrival at Midway, we were greeted by USO personnel. They assisted us with ticketing, accompanied us through security and escorted us to our departure gate where they had a breakfast set up for us. It was a great way to start our trip.

When we arrived at Dulles Airport in D.C., we were met by our local guide, a Vietnam combat veteran, who was with us during our entire time in Washington, D.C.

Among the many activities we participated in were two, which were of major significance to us, as Veterans. At Arlington National Cemetery, three members of our group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns during the Changing of the Guard Ceremony. Also, on Sunday, a beautiful day to be on the Na-

tional Mall, we had reserved seating for our attendance at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the dedication of "The Wall," the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial.

Other events significant to us were a flag ceremony done by part of our group at The Wall, and "Mail Call" held at breakfast at our hotel. During our time in D.C., we visited most of the major monuments and memorials, as well as touring some of the rest of the District.

Upon our return to Midway on Sunday evening, the USO again had a special event planned for our group. Our welcome included military personnel, Patriot Guards and Naval Cadets, as well as a number of USO volunteers and a large number of people who were flying through Midway and paused to greet us and to welcome us home. It was truly an overwhelming experience for us and our families. Our "official photographer," took many pictures and will be making a CD for each of the Veterans.

This is a weekend all of us will



treasure. We realize it would not have been possible without the support of all of you who contributed to our trip in so many ways. Our wonderful

memories will always include you. Thank you to all who contributed and also participated in our very special weekend.

## Louisa County Sheriff's Office to participate in sSTEP Program

Although 92% of Iowa motorists are using safety belts during the daytime hours, there are plenty of those who aren't especially in the rural communities. Most of the state's police officers, deputy sheriffs, state troopers and DOT

officers will participate in the Thanksgiving Holiday effort urging everyone to buckle up. This one-week enhanced enforcement period, spanning November 19-25<sup>th</sup>, represents another wave of Iowa's special Traffic Enforcement Program (sSTEP). The program joins public information efforts with those of the local enforcement communities geared at convincing

all motorists of the importance of buckling up. In addition to safety belt violations, officers will also pay close attention to impaired drivers and other moving violations.

During the last August-September sSTEP wave, Iowa officers confronted 2,358 seat belt violations, 847 impaired drivers, 13,443 speeding violations, and a total of

over 34,335 contacts with traffic violators. Vehicle assistance was given to 1,980 motorists and 419 arrest warrants were served. The next sSTEP wave is scheduled for March 14-17, 2013.

The Louisa county Sheriff's Office is a participating agency in the special Traffic Enforcement Program (sSTEP).

## Briefly -

### Habitat Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help build the 12<sup>th</sup> Habitat home in Louisa County. The home is located at 2607 Burlington Street, Columbus City. Weather permitting, work is scheduled for Wednesday and Friday mornings, 8-12, and Saturday 8:00-2:00. If you can lend a hand with the work or with refreshments, please call 319-728-2775 or 319-728-2346 or show up at the work site on a scheduled workday.

### Amateur Radio to test for licenses

The Muscatine Area Volunteer Examiners will be testing for all classes of amateur radio operator licenses on Sunday, December 9, at 1:30 PM at the Flickinger Learning Center, 413 Mulberry Avenue, in Muscatine. (Use the 5<sup>th</sup> street parking lot and entrance across from Hy-Vee Drugstore.) For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

### School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will be holding a Special Meeting/Budget Workshop I on Monday, November 26, 2012, at 5:30 PM at the Roundy Elementary Library, 1212 Colton Street, Columbus Junction, IA 52738.

### Winfield Lions Thanksgiving Dinner

The Winfield Lions Club is hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner, Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:30 am-1:00 pm at the Winfield First Presbyterian Church, 302 S. Locust St. in Winfield. This is open to the public. Reservations are encouraged by calling 257-3416 or 257-3273. However, walk-ins are welcome. Free-will donations will be accepted, which will go to help support the Winfield Boy Scouts and to provide glasses to students in our community.

### Master Gardeners to meet

The Louisa County Master Gardeners will meet on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Louisa County Extension Office. Election of officers will be held.

## Community Club meets

By Donna Carpenter

The Community Club met at the Senior Center at noon on Thursday, November 15. Susan Pretz brought the meeting to order and Dorothy Orr gave the invocation. There was no secretary's report. The treasurer's report was read and approved. Mark Huston updated everyone on the pre-construction plans for the water plant and the building on the fairgrounds. The city is interviewing for a new police officer. Codes with rental properties have been discussed.

Mark Shear updated the group on the water main project in Columbus City. New fire hydrants are being installed and that project should be finished in May. The Habitat for Humanity house is moving along well and they are hoping to finish by the first of the year. He also added that Columbus City Christmas festivities will be on December 12, beginning at 5:00. Santa will be arriving at 6:00. There will be a soup supper.

Jeni Laughlin reported that the school's state site visit will be December 18 through 20. There will also be an equity focus to review documents and give recommendations. A report will return to the school in six to nine weeks. Dale Pretz has been hired as a coordinator for the Iowa Safe and Supportive Grant. The school held a Jeans Day, coordinated by Jill Hernandez in order to raise funds to support the food pantry.

Polly Prior reported that the Senior Center has been down on take-out meals and that attendance for meals fluctuates. She reminded people that reservations need to be made the day prior to attending lunch at the Center. Rentals for the facility have been increasing, due to the holidays. Saturday, the 17<sup>th</sup> the Cookies for Kids activities will take place. She reminded us that bloods checks, cholesterol screenings, and blood pressure checks take place periodically, at no charge.

The County Report was given by Paula Buckman. She stated that county road X17 is now open. The supervisors are currently meeting at the county complex. Paula noted that tighter regulations are now being enforced by the Early Childhood Board.

The Trails Group will look for grants for a bike trail, and possibly obtaining corporate sponsorship. The group would like to pursue the possibility of linking Chinkapin Bluff and the fairgrounds. Kathy Vance spoke of training she has completed in emergency preparedness. She also handed out an estate planning seminar flyer and talked about the one day planning session to be held Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Community Foundation reviewed the Community Caring Award presentation to Bob and Marilyn Schlutz recently.

Mallory Smith introduced new intern, Heidi Duttlinger to the group, as well as thanking the Community Club for the donation to United Fund. She reported that the Chataqua Park project is nearly complete. She informed the group of a Fitness Grant received.

Donnie Orr talked about the siren grant, stating that Musco Lighting has donated poles for the siren.

Sue Johnson mentioned that Family Night will be December 5. Businesses will participate with trees, Santa will be available, and there will be caroling. People are encouraged to bring items for the food pantry.

Kip Trader, the new owner of the car wash was acknowledged. With that, the meeting adjourned.



Have a  
Safe and  
Happy  
Thanksgiving  
Holiday

