

## City Council to work on "Safe Routes to School"

By Jim Rudisill

A variety of grant applications being developed by the Columbus Junction Community Development Center (CDC) could provide funding for new sidewalks, playground improvements and other efforts, CDC Executive Director Mallory Smith told the city council during its regular November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

According to Smith, a joint effort between the CDC and the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (SEIRPC) could improve school routes in the community. Smith said she and council member Hal Prior recently met with representatives of the SEIRPC to launch development of a sidewalk plan. The plan would include an inventory of the city's sidewalks, their condition and possible funding sources to upgrade the walks. One potential funding source would be the Safe Routes to Schools program. The city submitted an application in 2007 to the program, but it was not funded.

"We'll write the plan so it (will) be a Safe Routes To School plan" Smith told the council.

The plan will also include an estimated \$10,000 in proposed upgrades and sidewalk repairs, along with a section that identifies fire hydrant locations and community signage. "It's kind of an a la carte plan," Smith said.

Smith also told the council the CDC was also working on other grant applications, including one to the Community Foundation of Louisa



Sidewalk between school and Columbus City that is being considered for improvement.

County. That application, which is due December 1<sup>st</sup>, seeks funding to upgrade safety on the city's historic Swinging Bridge and playground improvements. Smith said if those funds are approved it would complement a recent Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant the city was awarded for improvements at Chatauqua Park.

Smith said the center was also

working with the park board to hold a volunteer day at the park. She said the target date for the event was May 1<sup>st</sup>.

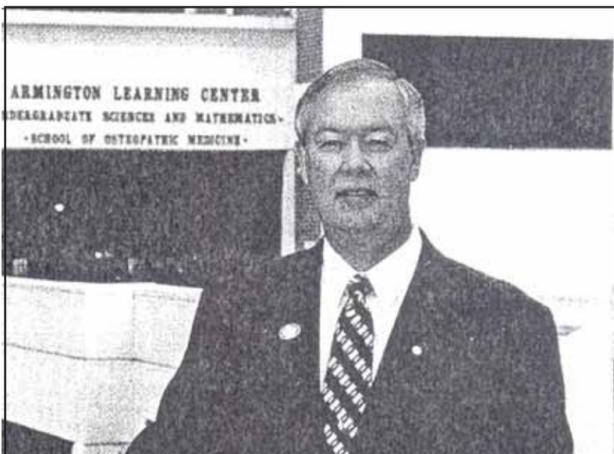
In other action, the council approved a law enforcement repayment agreement with new city police officer Andy Fry. Under the agreement, Fry will repay the city a portion of his training costs at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, if he resigns

from his city position within the next four years.

City officials said if Fry leaves within the first year after his training he would repay 100% of the estimated \$10-\$15,000 cost. The repayment would fall to 75% in the second year, 50% in year three and 25% in the last year of the agreement.

In final action, the council met in closed session to discuss litigation.

## Dr. Boyd Buser earns top Osteopathic honor



Dr. Boyd Buser

(Reprinted from the Osteopathic DMU Magazine)

Once upon a time, Boyd Buser planned to become a small town Iowa physician. That all changed in his final year in the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, now DMU, when he served as an osteopathic manual medicine fellow.

"That fellowship, without a doubt, was the biggest decision I ever made and influenced everything that happened in my career," says Buser, D.O. '81, FACOPF. "Not only did I learn I had a natural knack and enjoyed osteopathic manual treatment, I enjoyed teaching as well. That got me into education."

It also launched him on a career of professional leadership and service that earned him the 2010 Andrew Taylor Still Medallion of Honor, the highest award conferred by the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO). The medallion is presented to AAO members who have exhibited an exceptional understanding and application of osteopathic principles.

"It's great to be recognized by your peers, but it's also humbling when I look at the people who have been given the award in the past," says Buser.

A former faculty member at DMU and the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, Buser has been vice presi-

dent and dean of the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine since 2007. That year, he became the first D.O. to be elected to the Current Procedural Terminology Editorial Panel by the American Medical Association (AMA) Board; that's key, he says, because the panel has the "final say" on the most widely accepted medical nomenclature used to report medical procedures and services under public and private health insurance programs.

"My work on the panel and with the AMA is driven around ensuring that D.O.s get paid appropriately for what we do," he says. "It's in the name of advancing our profession."

That goal has motivated Buser since his DMU days. Past president of the AAO, the New England Academy of Osteopathy and the Maine Osteopathic Association, he has served on the American Osteopathic Association Board since 2004. He has taught extensively around the world and has represented the American osteopathic profession in several World Health Organization initiatives.

"I believe more people should have access to osteopathic medicine. We provide the best medicine and the best way to work with patients," he says. "We're more completely trained than any other physicians. It's important that our profession survive and thrive."

## Representative Tom Sands appointed to leadership role

(DES MOINES)—Speaker-elect Kraig Paulsen (R-Hiawatha) has appointed Rep. Tom Sands (R-Wapello) as Chairman of the House Ways and Means committee. "Without fail, Rep. Sands has consistently stood up to protect the pocketbooks of Iowa taxpayers and small business owners," said Paulsen. "Under his hard work and leadership Iowa will move forward and we will put Iowans back to work."

Sands, who is serving his fifth term, will also serve on the House Public Safety and Environmental Protection committees.

The Iowa Legislature convenes January 10, 2011.

## Learn about Medicare Part D at the Columbus Senior Center

Every Fall Medicare prescription drug plans (Part D) announce changes to their premium, co-pays and the drugs they cover. Stay on top of these changes. You may be able to save money by choosing a different plan. November 15 through December 31, 2010 you can change your Medicare Part D plan for 2011 or enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) if you haven't done so.

Columbus Junction Senior Center is hosting two Medicare Part D Check-Up events on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. A SHIIP volunteer will be available to help you compare Part D plans for 2011. Appointments are required.

Call SHIIP at 800-351-4664 to schedule your appointment. You will need to bring your Medicare card, current Part D plan card and a list of your medications from your pharmacy which includes drug name, quantity and dosage.

## Columbus Superintendent rescinds previous resignation

By Jim Rudisill

After leaving their resignations on the table for almost a week, Columbus Superintendent Rich Bridenstine and his wife Maureen agreed late last week to rescind their action. Bridenstine announced in a November 23 email that he and his wife had decided to pull the resignations they had submitted during a November 15 school board meeting. In his email, Bridenstine said he had notified the school staff on November 19 of the couple's decision. Maureen Bridenstine teaches the district's Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program.

Although the two had submitted their resignations at the November 15 meeting, the board had tabled action after local attorney Steve Sents had asked it not to accept the resignations. Bridenstine had agreed then to talk individually with board members, but had left the resignations on the table. The board had been expected to make a final decision on the resignations at a December 6 meeting.

In his email this week, Bridenstine said his discussions with the board members, along with encouragement from teachers and community members to stay, had swayed the two to reconsider.

"We both appreciate all of the kind words. Maureen is looking forward to continued work with her TAG students; and I am looking forward to continued work with the faculty, staff, students and board of Columbus Community Schools," Bridenstine wrote.

Bridenstine never disclosed why the two had decided to retire at this time, explaining last week only that both were looking forward to the next adventures in their lives. In Tuesday's email, he continued to be vague about what their future plans might have been. "The issue is behind my wife and me, and we look forward to the continued work," he wrote.

## Briefly -

### Christmas Potluck at Colonial Manor

Family, friends and guests – Please join us for a Christmas Potluck on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at Noon in the Resident Dining Room. Meat, rolls, beverages and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish of your choice. We hope you are able to celebrate with us!

### Columbus City Family Night

Columbus City Family Night will be held on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge. A soup supper will be held, and Santa Claus will be in attendance.

### FFA Pancake Supper

The Columbus FFA will be having a pancake and sausage supper on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Student Center at the high school. Cost is \$6/person.

### Historical Society Christmas Concert

On Sunday, December 5, 2010, the Port City Pearl Chorus (Sweet Adelines – Muscatine) will be providing a half hour Christmas concert at the church in the Louisa County Historical Museum complex. The event starts at 2 p.m. with refreshments afterwards in the museum's dining room. Come and celebrate.

### Santa Claus to visit Morning Sun Care Center

Morning Sun Care Center is excited to announce that Santa Clause will be visiting the care center on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00. The community is encouraged to join Santa and his elves as they welcome in the holiday season. There will be music and holiday treats for all, and donations of gifts for the residents are always appreciated. For more information, contact Terri Smith at 319-572-3017.

### PEO to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Cristin Wellington on Monday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and co-hosted by Jill Masonholder. Bring (new) mittens, scarves, and hats for our holiday donation. All members are encouraged to attend.

### Elvis Presley and Patsy Cline to be at Library

You are invited to attend an evening of special entertainment by Elvis Presley and Patsy Cline. Be sure to mark Tuesday night, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. on your calendar. The entertainment will be held in the resident dining room. We look forward to seeing you!

### School Board to meet

The Board of Education for Columbus Community School District will hold a Special Meeting/Budget Workshop I on Monday, December 6, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. in the Administrative Office "White House", 1210 Colton Street.

### Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Dick and Anna Fullerton's home in New London for a Christmas potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to pass. We will car pool from Spring Run Church at 10:45 a.m.

### Soup for lunch at CJ United Methodist Church

Good ole soup! Especially after big turkey meals. The Methodist Church on Second Street, C.J., will serve soup that will satisfy your taste buds. There will be chili and potato soup, veggies and desserts - All You Can Eat. Good will offering. See ya, 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Fine Wine and Good Food at Two Rivers' Lodge

Enjoy fine wine and good food with a touch of classical violin music by Amanda Drish on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Two Rivers' Lodge (formerly the Main Bar at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds), Hwy 70 South, Conesville, Iowa. The cost is \$20.00 per person at the door. All wine samples and food are free. Please RSVP by December 9, 2010 by calling 319-726-5322 94 319-725-6180.

### Celebration set to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe

We have put together a beautiful program honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Celebration is scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup> we will begin at **6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.** with the traditional man anitas with mariachi at St. Joseph's Church. Then at **7:45 a.m.** moving downtown Columbus Junction, the stores of Take2 and Rey de Reyes will be serving coffee, hot chocolate and bread while the mariachi plays and dancing happens on Main Street. At **8:15 a.m.** the pilgrimage will journey from downtown Columbus Junction accompanied by the image of the virgin and will be going toward the high school. Remember that we will be praying Rosary #46. If you are able to cooperate by praying and singing, please do so, for this is a devotion of faith and also a tradition in gratitude to given favors, or those expected. Then at **9:30 a.m.** a bilingual mass will be held in the high school gymnasium followed at **11:00 a.m.** by a musical performance from the students of Columbus, Beat for Peace. This will conclude our celebration activities. Please join us in our Celebration. Our Lady Guadalupe Committee 2010.

