



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

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Columbus Junction Library Soars

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

In 1953 when Anna Robertson, local Columbus town librarian, gave the report for the previous year's (1952) library usage, she told that there were "178 persons who regularly used the library and in all, 2,179 books were loaned." The library then was located in what was called the Community Building. Now this building houses the Columbus Junction Museum.

On February 13, 2006, seven years ago now, the ribbon was cut on a new building at 232 Second St., to house a new library, city hall, and various other city offices. This building is referred to as the Columbus Civic Center, and the architect designed the structure to "mirror" the former Community Building/Library.

Anna Robertson, in 1953, was probably proud of the number of people who used the library and checked out books. Now, in 2013, talking to Cathy Crawford, the current librarian, the statistics for library use is almost staggering.

There are 2015 people who hold "cards" to the library for the purpose of checking out materials on a regular basis. The number of items circulated per year is 14,750-15,000. The library also has 13 computers for locals to use, and on the average, 35 computer users come per day.

The library has more than just books that can be used. There are 1200 DVD's; 400 audio books; 3 newspapers, 36 magazines; and yes, there are books—15,500 of them. For computer use, there is wireless access; and online there are the following: on-line classes; Mango Lan-



Library Patrons use many of the facilities that have become available

guage; EbscoHost, Wilbor—check out; E books/Audio books; Wilbor.lib.overdrive.com. There also are ICN classes; FAX; Scan, a color copier; and the Gazette on microfilm.

Then there is the computer "Learning Centers". Some of these are GED Preparation; Job Search and Workplace Skills; Jobs and Careers; Skill Building for Adults; and U.S. Citizenship. "Each of the Learning Centers offers the practice tests, exercises, skill-building courses, and information you need to achieve the results you want—at school, at work, or in life." Information is also here to help individuals with unemployment sign-up and job searches online.

The library has held some extravagant and enjoyable programs. Rosemary Harris has often been featured in these with such programs as Civil War in Iowa, The Titanic, and Downton Abbey.

Crawford also gets the library staff out into the community doing various programs, fundraisers for the library, or assisting with arts and crafts, author and book presentations. Some of these are sponsoring Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre and Breakfast with Santa crafts at Roundy Elementary; projects and presentations at Colonial Manor and Senior Center; and weekly readings at Colonel's Kids and Great Beginnings preschool. The library is also the

venue for the Columbus Community School spring art show.

The staff at the Columbus Public Library is Cathy Crawford—Director; Employees—Doreen Fuller, Anita Braden, Sue Reid, and Hillary Bausch; Trustees—Emily Bell, Marcia Pavey, Diane Olson, Kay Duncan, and Larry Prior.

Anna Robertson would indeed be surprised if she could see the Columbus Junction Library today. Not only would she be amazed at the number of books and the number of people using the library, but computers and DVD's would be beyond her imagination. I only wish she really could see it. She, like other residents of the town, would be very proud.

Keep Columbus Beautiful earns National Recognition

Columbus Junction's new crosswalks, designed and painted by Keep Columbus Beautiful volunteers, recently earned the organization national recognition. Columbus Junction received an Innovation Award at Keep America Beautiful's 60th annual conference held January 29 to 31 in Washington DC. Making the trip to receive the award was Mallory Smith, Keep Columbus Beautiful coordinator and her husband Mike Mullinnix who designed the KCB logo which is used in the crosswalk design. The award was presented to volunteers who painted the crosswalks at last week's city council meeting.

KAB Innovation awards recognize Keep America Beautiful affiliates that create new and innovative programs and partnerships to further the mission of Keep America Beautiful. One winner is chosen for each of the organization's major focus areas: beautification, waste reduction, and litter prevention. Columbus Junction won in the area of



Beautification. Phoenix took the honor for waste reduction and Angleton, Texas was recognized for their efforts in litter reduction.

Photo: Mayor Dan Wilson, Crosswalk painting volunteers: Dylan Perez, Abby Acosta, Christine Milder, and Community Development Director

Mallory Smith. Photo taken by Jim Gabriel on February 13, 2013 at the Columbus Junction City Council Meeting.

It's Parade time in Columbus Junction

On Saturday, March 2nd, Columbus Junction will host the first ever St. David's Day Parade and Feast of St. David. The parade will start under the viaduct at 1 pm and end at the American Legion where participants celebrate the Feast of St. David with Lobsnows. Please wear red for Wales and either carry banners with your Welsh name or put them on the vehicle you are riding in. Welsh flags would also be nice. This event is only for people of Welsh descent, relatives of people of Welsh descent and people who wish they were of Welsh descent. If anyone can help, or donate food or money, please contact Troy Pugh as soon as possible at 563-299-2472 or troyugh@machlink.com. Please R.S.V.P. to Troy so he can get a head count for the food. A lluman glân Dewi a ddrychafant!!!

And then, next will be the Famous St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Columbus Junction. The parade is scheduled for Friday, March 15, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. This should allow the banks to be closed and allow everyone to be in good spirits when the parade begins. As before, we will begin the parade in front of the Columbus Junction State Bank and march to the viaduct. After the parade has ended, it is acceptable, and actually traditional, for everyone to stop in and enjoy a glass of green beer, or possibly two.

So folks, here you have it, two great parades will now be available for your marching or viewing enjoyment. Hopefully everyone will have a great time at both parades. I know that I will.

One Historical Mystery Solved

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Well, Readers, I think we can safely put to rest who the painter/wallpaper hanger was who papered the Don and Judy Wilson bedroom. Wilson's live in the rural area south-

west of Columbus Junction. If you remember, they removed some wallpaper and found drawn on the wall a bird with ribbons and the name C.J. McWilliams drawn on the wall. We asked readers if anyone knew who C.J. McWilliams was.

Judy Swailes called the other day and said she had been talking to Jean Allen, who used to work in the library at Columbus School and was married

to the late Jim Allen, local barber and also quite a musician.

Judy asked Jean if she knew of a wallpaper hanger by the name of C.J. McWilliams. Jean answered right away, "Yes, it was Charlie McWilliams. He was the brother of Dr. Edgar McWilliams, the chiropractor here in Columbus Junction." She went on to say, "He was quite an artist. He would often entertain children by drawing or painting birds for them."

So there you have it, folks. I believe this story to be true. Thanks to all who called or sent information on this. It has been fun.

Now, I have heard no solution to the question of who the Columbus City Humphreys girl was who married the Egyptian prince about a hundred years ago. Surely someone would like to claim her as a relative. Just think, there might be a fortune in Egypt just waiting for the next of kin!

Briefly -

Community Club to meet on Thursday with the Junior Class as guests

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at noon at the American Legion. The CCHS Junior Class will be guests.

CCHS to hold benefit concert

A benefit concert will be held at the CCHS Auditorium on Thursday, February 21, 2013, at 7 p.m. The concert will feature Heartland Harmony Barbershop Chorus and 3 Guys with Soule singing with CCHS Chorus, Vocal Jazz and Jazz Band. A goodwill donation will be taken to benefit the CCHS students' trip to NYC. Come enjoy our guest artists and a fun filled night of music.

Blood checks at Senior Center

Tami Nichols, R.N. from Colonial Manor, will be doing blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol checks at the Columbus Senior Center on Wednesday, February 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This is a free service – be sure to stop in and get your health information updated!

FFA to hold blood drive

Columbus Community High School FFA will host a community blood drive from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Thursday, February 28th in the School Gymnasium, located at 1004 Colton Street, Columbus Junction. To donate, please contact Julia Townsley at 319-728-2231 or e-mail her at: julia.townsley@columbuscsd.org. Walk-ins welcome! Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission form available through www.bloodcenter.org) and weigh more than 110 pounds. A photo I.D. or MVRBC Donor Card is required to donate. To schedule an appointment for donation, please call the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center at (800) 747-5401. Donors who last gave blood on or before 1/3/2012 are eligible to give blood at this drive. Blood donation is a safe, simple procedure that takes about 45 minutes to one hour. Individuals with diabetes or controlled high blood pressure may be accepted as eligible donors. Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is the provider of blood and blood components to 81 hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin. In your area, MVRBC is the exclusive provider to Washington County Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City VA, and Mercy Iowa City.

Master Gardeners to meet

Louisa County Master Gardeners will meet on Tuesday, February 26th at the Louisa County Extension office at 7 P.M. This is our first meeting of the new year. Come and see what's happening in 2013. The Art of Gardening in Muscatine at MCC is March 16th and the cost is \$40.00.

Louisa Longbeards banquet

The thirteenth annual Louisa Longbeards Banquet is being held Saturday, March 2. This event is being held at the Briggs Community Building, Wapello. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for guests to participate in games, raffles, review items for silent and live auction, etc. Supper is served at 7 p.m. Any questions concerning the banquet or becoming a member, please contact Todd Shutt at 319-572-1522. New members are always welcome.

Ham and Bean Supper at Masonic Lodge

There will be a Ham and Bean supper at the Columbus City Masonic Lodge on Friday, March 1st, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. A free will donation will be accepted.

Iowa Youth Survey

ALL PARENTS OF COLUMBUS 9TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS are invited and ENCOURAGED to complete the Iowa Youth Survey from now until March 1, 2013. The survey can be found on the school's homepage at www.columbuscsd.org under Parent Links. Columbus is participating in the Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools grant and parental completion of the survey is a requirement. Please go to the website and complete the 20 minute survey today. Call Dayle Pretz, Grant Coordinator, at 728-2231 ext. 9403 with questions.

Port City Coin Club to hold coin show

The PORT CITY COIN CLUB will hold its annual coin show on March 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at THE RENDEZVOUS, 3127 Lucas Street, Muscatine, IA. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call 563-264-8148.

School to hold SIAC meeting

Columbus Community Schools will hold a SIAC meeting on Monday, February 25, 2013, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, February 21st, 2013, at 11:30 a.m. at the Panda Place Chinese Restaurant in Washington.

Early Childhood Area Board to meet

The Early Childhood Iowa Area Board Des Moines/Louisa Counties will be meeting today, Wednesday, February 20, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle St., Mediapolis, IA.

Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Visual Support Group will meet on the third Thursday of February (21st) at Corner Market, 340 North 2nd. We will eat a "dutch treat" lunch and then have our meeting in the east room at 1 pm. Lori Short from Kidsight in Iowa City will be our guest speaker. She will tell us about the visual screening being done to help prevent blindness in young children. She will also question if we are doing enough to address the needs of older Iowans who are visually impaired. We hope to see some new faces at this meeting. For more information, contact Lois Richers at 319-527-2630.

Alumni Banquet scheduled

The Columbus area Alumni Banquet will take place at Roundy Elementary School on June 8, 2013. Social Hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., and Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Special recognition will be given to the 50-year (1963) class and the 25-year (1988) class. Put the date on your calendar now! Tickets are \$10 and are available at both Columbus Junction Banks.

