

CJ gets new traffic headache

By JIM RUDISILL
Staff Writer

COLUMBUS JUNCTION – Increased traffic and other aggravations generated by an Iowa Highway 92 detour route has been a thorn in the side for Columbus Junction area residents and city officials for the past several months. However, they soon will be facing a new pain in the neck, members of the Columbus Junction City Council learned during the council’s Sept. 24 meeting.

Mayor Mark Huston and other city officials reported that patching crews will be working on two sites on Second Street, a key link in the detour. An exact date has apparently not been determined.

While there will also be other areas involved in the patching plan, Huston predicted the two Second Street sites would be the most troublesome. “These are the hard ones, because we will knock the detour down to one lane,” he said. “It will take a little more organization.”

“The DOT (Iowa Department of Transportation) is providing flaggers,” Assistant Public Works Director Jeff Vonnahme said. “It’s going to be one day for each of (the sites), but I haven’t got the official (date) they will do it,” he said.

City officials were already aware the detour and Highway 92 work would impact the Oct. 11 Columbus Day celebration. Reading from an email from a DOT staffer, event volunteer and council member Kenan Todd reported the state agency had agreed to assist the city with the parade, which will require an alternate detour through Wapello during the parade time.

That assistance will apparently include additional detour signage to be installed at state expense. Todd said state representative Taylor Collins had helped get the additional state assistance, pointing out the city had initially been expected to cover the additional signage expense.

Todd also discounted rumors of a cover charge to get into the evening dance. “Not that I’m aware of,” Todd said.

Huston reminded the council that the Columbus Day celebration is conducted by the Columbus Community Club, although the city does help.

Question over bidding process

Council member Tracy Harris said he believed the proper procedure for opening sealed bids had recently not been followed. He said the bid totals for cleanup work at Chautauqua Park following a timber harvest had been read to the council but had apparently been opened prior to the council meeting.

According to previous discussions, Todd had provided that information during the council’s Sept. 10 meeting.

Harris said the sealed bids should have been at the council meeting and opened before the council. Huston did not disagree but said there had been changes in the threshold required for obtaining sealed bids. Although he mentioned \$75,000, he was unsure if that was the current threshold.

According to reports of the Sept. 10 meeting, the council accepted a \$5,500 bid from Goose Creek Services, Columbus Junction, to conduct the work.

Following that discussion, city officials agreed additional mowing and other cleanup will likely still be needed in the park.

Trick-or-treat update

Columbus Junction’s scheduled trick-or-treat Oct. 31 may conflict with a Columbus Wildcats playoff game.

The Columbus Wildcats apparently will receive two district forfeits this season: the New London and Highland games. Because of the two forfeits, the football team will be in the playoffs, officials said.

If the team wins its first playoff game, the second playoff game is scheduled for Oct. 31, the date set for trick-or-treat night.

Officials did not indicate that the date needed to be revisited at this time.

OBITUARY

Sherry Hohenadel

Sherry Renee Hohenadel, 72, of Wilton, Iowa, passed away on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, with beloved family and friends by her side.

Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 3, 2025, at Weerts Funeral Home in Davenport, Iowa. Visitation will be an hour prior to the service. Her burial will be at Wapello Cemetery following the service.

Sherry was born on July 18, 1953, to Charlie and Irene Hohenadel in Muscatine, Iowa. Her life was a testament to the strength of the human spirit, marked by her unwavering love for her family, her kindness, and her adventurous soul.

Sherry grew up in LeClaire, Iowa. She graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in 1971 and studied at St. Ambrose University. After graduating high school, Sherry worked as a fashion and runway model and served as the vice president of public relations for the Quad Cities Professional Models Association. Following her modeling career, Sherry served as an executive secretary at John Deere, as the executive secretary to Dr. Baker at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, and for the mayor, city administrator, and city attorney of Bettendorf before retiring in 2019. Sherry’s professionalism and dedication earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues, but it was her compassionate nature that truly defined her legacy.

Sherry was a remarkable woman. She was strong, kind, loving, loyal, and genuine. Sherry was known for her soft heart and her fun-loving spirit. Her favorite words of advice were, “You cannot change the way the wind blows, but you can adjust your sails to steady your course.”

Sherry loved gardening. Her garden was a sanctuary, a place where she could connect with nature and find peace. Antiquing was a passion she embraced. She had an eye for unique treasures, and her home and jewelry collection reflected her love for history and nostalgia.

Sherry had a profound love for animals, adopting three puppies that she cherished deeply: Eme, Murphy, and Koa. Sherry also had an incredible talent for music, she enjoyed listening

to classical violinists and expressing herself through her piano. Her melodies filled her home with warmth and comfort. Sherry often shared her love through baking and canning. Her kitchen was often filled with the delightful scents of homemade treats that brought smiles to the faces of those she cared for every holiday or simply just because.

Sherry was a devoted daughter, loving sister, dedicated mother, nurturing aunt, playful grandmother, caring neighbor, and loyal friend to many. Sherry cherished her time with family and friends. She found joy in the simple things around her, creating cherished memories for her two children, Steve and Heather, and later her two grandchildren, Lauren and Devin. Her kindness was a guiding light in the lives of her loved ones, inspiring them to embrace compassion and understanding.

Those left to honor Sherry’s memory are her daughter, Heather (Chris) Barrett; and her cherished grandchildren, Lauren May and Devin Barrett. Sherry is also survived by her beloved sister Charlene Maine, who lovingly raised her following the passing of their mother, Irene, when Sherry was young. Charlene’s children, whom Sherry cherished as her own siblings, Jeff, Mark (Eddy), and Jill Maine, also survive her. She was preceded in death by her parents, her son Steven David Schwarz, and father Richard Maine (Charlene’s husband).

Memorials in Sherry’s name may be made to the Humane Society to provide care, shelter, and advocacy for animals in need or the CURE Epilepsy foundation – an organization exclusively committed to funding research to find a cure and overcome the challenges epilepsy presents through research, education, and advocacy.



SHERRY HOHENADEL

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