

might not personally agree with. Everyone has a right to his/her own opinions, but it's important to remember that there's a time and place to share them. Unfortunately, in a small town where nearly everyone knows everyone, each of us represents our place of business or our organization whether we realize it or not. Public comments, especially on social media, can impact the community and the workplace, so we need to think about the bigger picture and how our words could be perceived and how they affect those around us, A board/ council member must remember that the good of the community must come before personal opinions and grievances.

KATIE SPARROW
Candidate for City Council

1. Please tell us a little bit about yourself and your ties to the community. If you could attach a headshot that would be great!



My name is Katie Sparrow, and for the past eight years, Columbus Junction has truly become my home. I am engaged to Bill Bright, and together we are raising a blended family of six wonderful boys—my sons Garrett (22) and Ethan (20), and Bill's sons Logan (21), Jase (10), and Andrew (31), who lives in Georgia. Originally from Salem, IA, and a proud 1997 graduate of Mt. Pleasant Community High School, I have grown deeply invested in the unique spirit of this community. Columbus Junction is not just where I live—it is where I want to help build an even stronger, more vibrant future for all of us. My commitment is to work tirelessly to make our city a place where every family can thrive, every child feels safe, and every resident feels proud to call home.

2. What are the top three things that need fixed/addressed with in our city? What do you think is currently going well in our community?

The top 3 things that I feel need to be addressed are 1) The streets, and not just that they are long overdue for repaving, but also the speed of traffic on 2nd, Gamble, and Colton. These streets have been turned into drag strips by many people, and with the number of children that walk to and from school and that just live on these streets, I feel we need to figure out a better way to slow

people down, whether it is better patrolling of these streets, or digital speed signs added, and also I would like to see that our streets get cleaned up as the downtown area and even the curbs of the other streets could all use a good cleaning, with our street sweeper.

2) The status of the waterlines throughout all of Columbus Junction, this last spring, early summer when we had a number of waterline breaks and areas went days without water, I want to know more about the stability of the remainder of the lines, and when were main waterlines last replaced, and become more proactive at replacing them before we have another major break. I know this is not always possible, however it is something I want to research more about so something like this last break doesn't happen, or at least we can be more prepared if does happened again.

3) Better communication and transparency between the City Council, City Hall, and the people of the Columbus Community.

4) One other thing I would like to work on is building up the downtown, finding ways to bring in businesses to fill empty storefronts on Main Street, and working with the community to beautify all areas of town, in whatever way I can.

3. What are the most pressing issues currently facing the success of our city?

I feel that there are several pressing

issues that are affecting the success of Columbus Junction. One of the top concerns that I've heard from almost everyone in CJ is the condition of our streets. I understand we are dealing with the detour, but it shouldn't sound like vehicles colliding every time cars and/or semis drive down some of these streets. We need to be more proactive before the next detour in the spring, because our city streets cannot handle another 5/6 months of all the same traffic.

4. If elected, what are the priority issues you would want to address during your term?

The condition of our streets, our waterlines, and also understanding the city finances, and looking at what we can do to put more money into the community to help draw in businesses downtown.

5. One of our communities' strengths is our diversity. What are some ways to continue to incorporate the diversity of our community?

The diversity in Columbus Junction is something that I truly love about living here. I would love to look into and work with community members on what different things we can do to better integrate everyone together.

6. Communication is very important and the perception that our council is not very transparent with community members. How can you change that perception moving forward? What are some ways to improve the communication process?

I want people in the community to know that I am always available to hear from them. I will create an email that anyone within the community can use to reach out and contact me when they have concerns or questions. I am a very approachable person and am someone who wants to help, and if being on City Council and speaking up for those who don't feel comfortable speaking in front of others, I want to be their voice. I think that when people move into a smaller community, they see that if you weren't born or raised there, you don't always feel like you have a voice, and I want people to know that I can be that voice for them and help make a difference in Columbus Junction.

7. Can you explain where the money to fund our town comes from? What are your budget priorities?

Our city generates a significant portion of its income from property taxes, sales & use taxes, and monthly utility bills. I want to look at our city budget and see where we sit on where else our income is possibly coming from, and also, are we collecting past due utility bills, are we collecting everything we should, and utilizing our income the best way possible, or otherwise we might be missing out on possible income we could be/ should be receiving.

8. What role should the community play in supporting our school district and the education of our children?

I think that our community does a great job of supporting our school district. This has been a rather difficult fall season for our football team, but in the past, I think our community has always shown up for all sports, musical, and theatrical performances for our kids, which I think is amazing!!

9. How do you, as a board member, feel about negative comments from either employees or teachers about the city or school which you are employed at on Facebook for all to see?

I have always felt that no matter what your position at any company is, when you decide to speak ill of your employer or make negative comments on any online platform, you should be prepared for any consequence that comes from it. Some things are better dealt with in private and not shared with the world.

PUBLICNOTICE		PUBLICNOTICE		PUBLICNOTICE		PUBLICNOTICE	
STATE OF IOWA 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 CITY OF CONESVILLE, IOWA DUE: December 1, 2025				16207000200000			
				CITY OF CONESVILLE			
				PO Box 10			
				CONESVILLE IA 52739-0010			
				POPULATION: 352			
NOTE - The information supplied in this report will be shared by the Iowa State Auditor's Office, the U.S. Census Bureau, various public interest groups, and State and federal agencies.							
ALL FUNDS							
		Governmental (a)		Proprietary (b)		Total Actual (c)	Budget (d)
Revenues and Other Financing Sources							
Taxes Levied on Property		32582				32,582	30,521
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year		0				0	0
Net Current Property Taxes		32,582				32,582	30,521
Delinquent Property Taxes		0				0	3,400
TIF Revenues		0				0	0
Other City Taxes		52,301		0		52,301	50,858
Licenses and Permits		596		0		596	0
Use of Money and Property		13,775		0		13,775	0
Intergovernmental		47,641		0		47,641	44,000
Charges for Fees and Service		214		133,836		134,050	122,880
Special Assessments		0		0		0	0
Miscellaneous		26,961		0		26,961	0
Other Financing Sources, Including Transfers in		51,670		0		51,670	0
Total Revenues and Other Sources		225,740		133,836		359,576	251,659
Expenditures and Other Financing Uses							
Public Safety		11,110				11,110	21,300
Public Works		86,264				86,264	18,500
Health and Social Services		0				0	0
Culture and Recreation		14,729				14,729	250
Community and Economic Development		0				0	0
General Government		58,399				58,399	0
Debt Service		0				0	0
Capital Projects		0				0	0
Total Governmental Activities Expenditures		170,502		0		170,502	40,050
Business type activities				177,999		177,999	127,212
Total All Expenditures		170,502		177,999		348,501	167,262
Other Financing Uses, Including Transfers Out		51,670		0		51,670	0
Total All Expenditures/and Other Financing Uses		222,172		177,999		400,171	167,262
Excess Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/and Other Financing Uses		3,568		-44,163		-40,595	84,397
Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2024		209,207		104,255		313,462	323,402
Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2025		212,775		60,092		272,867	407,799
NOTE - These balances do not include the following, which were not budgeted and are not available for city operations:							
Non-budgeted Internal Service Funds				Pension Trust Funds			
Private Purpose Trust Funds				Agency Funds			
Indebtedness at June 30, 2025		Amount	Indebtedness at June 30, 2025			Amount	
General Obligation Debt		0	Other Long-Term Debt			0	
Revenue Debt		156,000	Short-Term Debt			0	
TIF Revenue Debt		0					
			General Obligation Debt Limit			633,488	
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ASSOCIATION OF IOWA FAIRS FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT of MEMBER FAIRS <table><tr><td>INCORPORATED NAME OF FAIR & CITY</td><td>Louisia County Fair; Columbus Jct</td></tr><tr><td>ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE</td><td>4000</td></tr><tr><td>CARNIVAL (name if applies)</td><td>None</td></tr><tr><td>CHECK CORRECT ANSWER</td><td>PAID ☐ FREE ☒</td></tr><tr><td>GRANDSTAND ADMISSION</td><td>PAID ☒ FREE ☐</td></tr><tr><td>Financial Report for Fiscal Year</td><td>(Start Date) 10/1/24 (End Date) 9/30/25</td></tr></table> SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES DO NOT ALTER THIS FORM <table><tr><td colspan="2">RECEIPTS</td></tr><tr><td>FAIR INCOME</td><td>90,390.84</td></tr><tr><td>NON-FAIR INCOME +</td><td>28,457.93</td></tr><tr><td>COUNTY FUNDING +</td><td>15,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>GRANTS (Community & Private Grants, & Others) +</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>STATE FUNDING +</td><td>10,322.78</td></tr><tr><td>MONEY BORROWED +</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL RECEIPTS =</td><td>144,171.55</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">EXPENSES</td></tr><tr><td>FAIR EXPENSES</td><td>77,841.14</td></tr><tr><td>NON-FAIR EXPENSES +</td><td>54,039.33</td></tr><tr><td>CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS +</td><td>11,500.00</td></tr><tr><td>EQUIPMENT PURCHASES +</td><td>3,400.00</td></tr><tr><td>PAYMENTS TO DEBTS +</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL EXPENSES =</td><td>146,780.47</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">SIMPLE CASH RECONCILIATION</td></tr><tr><td>BEGINNING CASH BALANCE (FIRST DAY OF FISCAL YEAR)</td><td>38,106.00</td></tr><tr><td>PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS +</td><td>144,171.55</td></tr><tr><td>LESS TOTAL EXPENSES -</td><td>146,780.47</td></tr><tr><td>ENDING CASH BALANCE (LAST DAY OF FISCAL YEAR)</td><td>35,497.08</td></tr><tr><td>LESS TOTAL INDEBTEDNESS (BALANCE OF LOANS PAYABLE) -</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>NET ENDING CASH STANDING (AS OF LAST DAY OF FISCAL YEAR)</td><td>35,497.08</td></tr></table>					INCORPORATED NAME OF FAIR & CITY	Louisia County Fair; Columbus Jct	ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE	4000	CARNIVAL (name if applies)	None	CHECK CORRECT ANSWER	PAID ☐ FREE ☒	GRANDSTAND ADMISSION	PAID ☒ FREE ☐	Financial Report for Fiscal Year	(Start Date) 10/1/24 (End Date) 9/30/25	RECEIPTS		FAIR INCOME	90,390.84	NON-FAIR INCOME +	28,457.93	COUNTY FUNDING +	15,000.00	GRANTS (Community & Private Grants, & Others) +	0	STATE FUNDING +	10,322.78	MONEY BORROWED +	0	TOTAL RECEIPTS =	144,171.55	EXPENSES		FAIR EXPENSES	77,841.14	NON-FAIR EXPENSES +	54,039.33	CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS +	11,500.00	EQUIPMENT PURCHASES +	3,400.00	PAYMENTS TO DEBTS +	0	TOTAL EXPENSES =	146,780.47	SIMPLE CASH RECONCILIATION		BEGINNING CASH BALANCE (FIRST DAY OF FISCAL YEAR)	38,106.00	PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS +	144,171.55	LESS TOTAL EXPENSES -	146,780.47	ENDING CASH BALANCE (LAST DAY OF FISCAL YEAR)	35,497.08	LESS TOTAL INDEBTEDNESS (BALANCE OF LOANS PAYABLE) -	0	NET ENDING CASH STANDING (AS OF LAST DAY OF FISCAL YEAR)	35,497.08
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PREMIUMS PAID AFFIDAVIT NAME OF FAIR: Louisia County Fair We, the undersigned President, Secretary and Treasurer of the above stated Fair, being duly sworn on oath depose and say the said Association/Society, being duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa held a Fair known as the Louisia County Fair on these days of July 22-26, 2025 in or near the city of Columbus Jct, and said Fair consists of a true exhibition of livestock, together with agricultural products and farm implements as contemplated by law (either Section 174.1 or 174.10). We further depose and say that the following is a statement of the actual amount paid in cash premiums by the Association/Society for the current year, this statement corresponds with the published offer of premiums, and that no deductions have been made for entry fees, stall or pen rent. We further depose and say that no part of the below statement was paid for speed events or to secure games or amusements. We further depose and say that state appropriated funds received were used for infrastructure purposes only. STATEMENT OF CASH PREMIUMS <table><tr><td>4-H & FFA DEPARTMENTS</td><td>OPEN CLASS DEPARTMENTS</td></tr><tr><td>Beef</td><td>250.04</td></tr><tr><td>Dairy</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Dog</td><td>32.90</td></tr><tr><td>Goats</td><td>148.05</td></tr><tr><td>Horse</td><td>42.77</td></tr><tr><td>Poultry</td><td>407.96</td></tr><tr><td>Rabbit</td><td>125.00</td></tr><tr><td>Sheep</td><td>154.33</td></tr><tr><td>Swine</td><td>263.20</td></tr><tr><td>Other Livestock</td><td>6.58</td></tr><tr><td>Static Exhibits (Building Projects)</td><td>898.17</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>2329.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>TOTAL</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>200.00</td></tr></table> NUMBER OF EXHIBITORS AND EXHIBITS <table><tr><td>AREA</td><td>4-H & FFA</td><td>OPEN CLASS</td></tr><tr><td>Livestock Exhibitors</td><td>73</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Livestock Exhibits</td><td>433</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Livestock Exhibitors</td><td>35</td><td>110</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Livestock Exhibits</td><td>279</td><td>604</td></tr></table> Report Verified by following Officers of the Association/Society President (print name): Don Hank Secretary (print name): Jenny Humphreys (Signature: Jenny Humphreys) Treasurer (print name): Tony Hunister (Signature: Tony Hunister) Complete all areas and send (first class mail only) original signed report by November 15 to: Association of Iowa Fairs, 242 8th Avenue West, Cresco, IA 52136 As per Iowa Code, failure to complete this report in its entirety and submit to the AIF office by November 15 will result in forfeiture of State Funding. Submit proof of publication of this report in a local newspaper (required).					4-H & FFA DEPARTMENTS	OPEN CLASS DEPARTMENTS	Beef	250.04	Dairy	0	Dog	32.90	Goats	148.05	Horse	42.77	Poultry	407.96	Rabbit	125.00	Sheep	154.33	Swine	263.20	Other Livestock	6.58	Static Exhibits (Building Projects)	898.17	TOTAL	2329.00		TOTAL		200.00	AREA	4-H & FFA	OPEN CLASS	Livestock Exhibitors	73	0	Livestock Exhibits	433	0	Non-Livestock Exhibitors	35	110	Non-Livestock Exhibits	279	604											
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