



## RURAL HOMETOWN PRIDE – AS SEEN ON TV!

Rural Hometown Pride member Tom Woodruff is interviewed for KWQC’s Fran Riley’s Features on the story behind the 1.5 mile historic concrete *Convict Road* -<http://www.kwqc.com/content/misc/Concrete-and-Convicts-442464773.html>.



Others in the piece were local historian and writer Mary Wilson and County Engineer Larry Roehl.

The Rural Committee hopes to have a pull-off on Highway 92 with signs about the road and the history of the area. A local artist has already stepped up and offered to create and donate a sculpture for the site. The Fredonia Hometown Pride Committee has already received permission from their city council to have historic signs placed along the road at city hall.

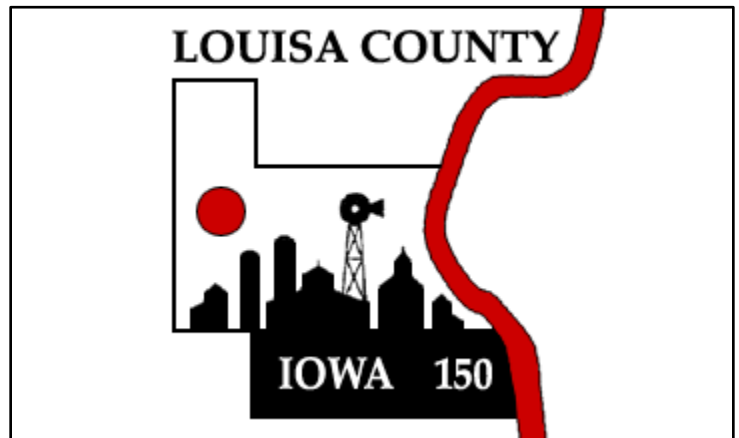
“And the word is already getting around,” stated Coach Doug. Doug received an email from an antique car enthusiast in Sioux City who saw the KWQC piece and is now planning a road trip to the Convict Road. “Once a few

of these car folks start making the trek, the word will spread. It’s a very exciting time for the Rural group to see their idea come to life.”

## LOUISA COUNTY FLAG CONTEST!

Another project of the Rural Committee is hosting a contest to design a Louisa County Flag. There are two County flags in existence at this time, one for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the State (seen here) and another commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Louisa County.

Mary Johnson of the Rural Committee is heading up this effort and went before the County Supervisors to brief them and obtain their blessing for this endeavor. Not only did the supervisors support the idea of a flag, but suggested that the design could be used on county vehicles.



The contest ends on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to submit an idea for the official Louisa County Flag should send their design to – [lchtpcoach@gmail.com](mailto:lchtpcoach@gmail.com) The design will need to be accompanied by a description and the meaning behind the flag design. Please make sure you include your name, email address and phone number.

If you want to be part of the Rural Committee or a Hometown Pride group in your community, please contact Coach Doug at [dcelam@yahoo.com](mailto:dcelam@yahoo.com) or by calling 319-366-0705.

### **Coach's Comments:**

- Keep Iowa Beautiful staff meeting in Newton, hosted by Jasper County HtP
- I did a shift at the KIB booth at the State Fair
- KIB/Casey's Pizza coupons distributed around the County
- Wapello North Park walking trail dedicated
- KWQC Fran Riley filming of the Convict Road in Fredonia
- New "Welcome" signs ordered for Fredonia
- I have been asked to make a presentation about Lt Reddick at the Louisa Historical Society on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>
- The Louisa County leg of the Red Flag Tour was canceled due to construction; hopefully they will come through the County next year on the Convict Road
- Met with Mary Johnson to help her with the County Flag Contest press release – see above.
- Email to all HtP members about the Foundation and Washington Riverboat grants
- Contacted Iowa Grocery Assn about *Build with Bags* collection barrels, they are \$50 each, too much for my communities to support the IGA program

### **Cotter:**

No Committee

### **Columbus City:**

- First meeting after the City Council meeting, everyone stayed except one councilperson who had to get home to her family
- A review and overview of HtP was done
- I asked everyone to think about what we could do to make Columbus City a better community and charged them to bring ideas to the next meeting
- Could taking down the abandoned house at Washington & Iowa streets be a HtP project?

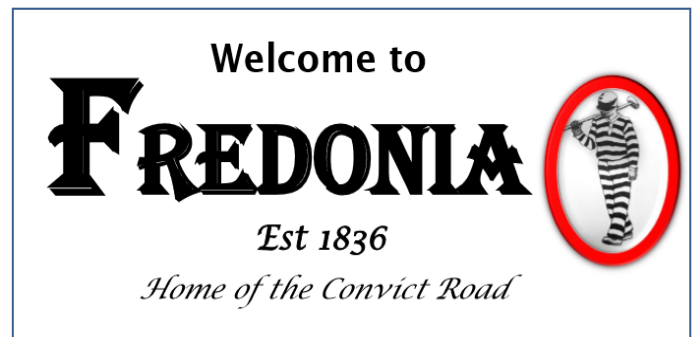
### **Columbus Junction:**

- Alex Perez was elected as the new chair
- No one would step-up to be the secretary, I will send out my notes
- The Fitness Center re-opening to the public is still the primary goal; invite the insurance representative to the next meeting?
- Form a subcommittee "Discover Columbus" to create a website and brochure
- Help Mallory upgrade the 'welcome' bags for new residents, have HtP members deliver them?

### **Fredonia:**

- Papers have been served by the PD to have cars moved or they will be towed
- Here's a nice touch – the City Council will be sending "Thank You" notes to those who moved their vehicles and cleaned up their yards!
- Working with Lowes to buy all new replacement windows for City Hall
- An office will be built for the city clerk and general repairs made to the interior of City Hall – air conditioning and supplemental heat will be added; still no running water
- Remote Controlled car race track for the city park to get kids off the streets
- Add a basketball court to the park?
- Would speed bumps help slow traffic? Columbus City has some movable ones that they might loan out

- New 'Welcome' signs approved with the Convict Road logo, I'm told that the signs created quite a buzz with the production 'staff' at Iowa Prison Industries
- Planning for the next four years –
  - Bring City Hall up to code (move it?)
  - Replace street signs
  - Citywide clean-ups
  - Obtain and clean-up abandoned properties



### Grandview:

- The meeting was canceled as most of the committee members couldn't make it
- Brad Quigley has indicated that he would like to assist them getting the HtP group up and running again

### Letts:

- A Community Visioning grant will be applied for thru IDOT/Trees Forever/ISU
- "Light Up Letts II" is planned for this Christmas – hayrack rides, hand bells, events at the community center
- Will help find artists for the countywide day of art
- Plan a Memorial Day event, progressive disc golf tournament, "Reddick Remembrance Day", craft & bake sale

### Morning Sun:

- Visioning grant meetings
- Chili Cook-off to get folks to the Sept 25<sup>th</sup> for the final Community Visioning presentation
- Foundation grant, what's next – signs and sidewalks?
- Prep for Red Flag Tour
- Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch made \$400
- Garden clean-up planned, improve the soil for next year
- HtP will host the Lions Halloween Party again this year

### Oakville:

- Planning for the Red Flag Tour in September: lunch, decorate town, antique car books out on display, open the museum, show the video of the 2008 flood at the community center
- Remove junk cars, address nuisance properties
- What community event can be started to go along with the Memorial Day Fish Fry?

### Rural:

- Fran Riley, KWQC, filming on the 30<sup>th</sup>, several members said they will attend
- Roger contacted the landowners at the Convict Road, they would like to see our future ideas, he said we should 'think big!' that it should be low/no maintenance and sustainable
- Tom will forward his plan for the future of the Convict Road
- Look into registering it as a historic place?
- Meet with Mary re: the Louisa County flag contest

### Wapello:

- Community Visioning grant will be submitted prior to the Sept 15<sup>th</sup> deadline
- A Pollinator Zone will be added to the Community Orchard in South Park and in North Park, pending a Trees Forever grant
- The North Park walking trail was dedicated on Aug 19<sup>th</sup> – *Thank you Brad Quigley for bringing this to fruition!*



- Oct 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a community fundraiser for North Park on behalf of HtP
- Waiting on word from Wellmark re: the \$25,000 for North Park
- The Farm Service Credit grant for \$10,000 for North Park was not approved
- A Louisa Foundation grant will be submitted for LED lights for the new walking trail in North Park
- Also, a 'shout-out' to the City of Wapello for supplying in-kind resources (men and equipment) for the North Park Trail that made this possible

### **Steering Committee:**

- Brad Quigley has offered to help the HtP group in Grandview by meeting with the city council, he would like to have some members of successful HtP groups come along to add their support
- Countywide Arts Festival subcommittee meeting was held on 8/14 at Paula's, new ideas, moving forward
- Louisa Development Group will now be part of the ISU Extension and will hire a fulltime person for economic development/tourism
- Next meeting Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at Lake Odessa