

2019 7th Annual



Annual Multicultural Festival

Friday, August 30, 6-8:30 PM The Junction Speaks

Staplin Performing Arts Center Lobby, Valley High School 3650 Woodland Ave., WDSM, IA 50266

Sat., August 31, 2-10 PM Street Festival

Railroad Pavilion 425 Railroad Ave. and 4th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50265

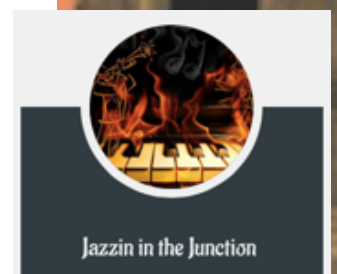
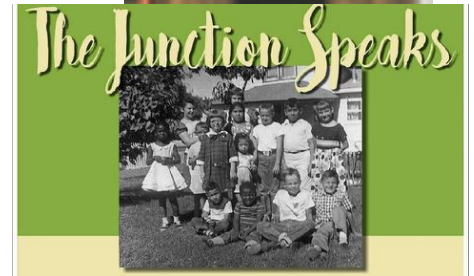
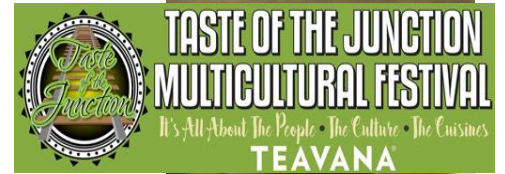
The Vision

An early Saturday morning in February 2013, she invited Valley Junction descendants to her home. Dino Rodish, Vincent Valdez, Mark Rocha, Larry McLachlan III, and Reike Plecas came to listen to a vision that resided on the inside of her for several years. She shared her vision and passion for the project ... a neighborhood reunion.

Reike made phone calls to the Mayor, Steve Gaer and others seeking support of this idea. The Mayor said, "Tell Rachelle if she incorporates "it" I will support it." Within a week Reike processed the necessary paperwork and the first seed donation came from our own Steve Gaer; and thus, the Taste of the Junction, Inc. was born.

Taste of the Junction Inc. grows larger every year! This year the Multicultural Street Festival has grown beyond the Railroad Pavilion including 4th Street in Valley Junction for the food trucks. Vendors come from all over the country to participate in this event. The Junction Speaks builds a greater sense of community for the younger generations learning about the cultures and rich history of the junction.

Rachelle retired in 2012 after 33 years in telecommunications. She is owner and baker of a dessert business Chellie's Sugar Shack Emporium offering cookies, cakes & cobblers. She is the mother of five children, Natasha (Melvin), Robert, Alonda (Donault) Long, Omar Duncan (Nakitut), and Keesha Gaines. She has been blessed with thirteen grandchildren.



Enjoy the Weekend!



Join the Family!

The Junction Speaks



FRIDAY, AUGUST 30; 6 – 8:30 PM

STAPLIN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER,
VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

3650 WOODLAND AVE., WDM, IA

LIVE JAZZ, FOOD, STORYTELLING

FEATURING THE POP-UP MUSEUM

HONORING VALLEY JUNCTION LEGEND

FRANK DUNCAN



TASTE OF THE JUNCTION MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

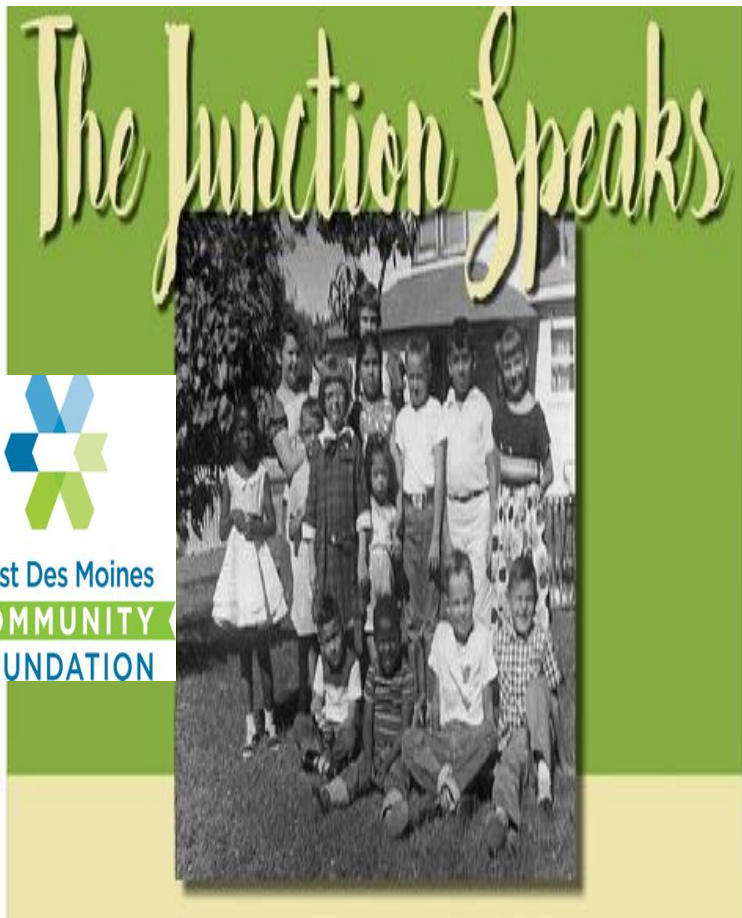
It's All About The People • The Culture • The Cuisines

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31; 2PM - 10PM

RAILROAD PARK PAVILION

Budweiser Beer Tent, Live Entertainment,
Inflatables, Food & Craft Vendors,
Kid Zone, Fun For Whole Family!





*Live jazz by
Dwight Jackson and Cecil I. White
Collaborate*

Friday, August 30; 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Staplin Performing Arts Center, Valley High School

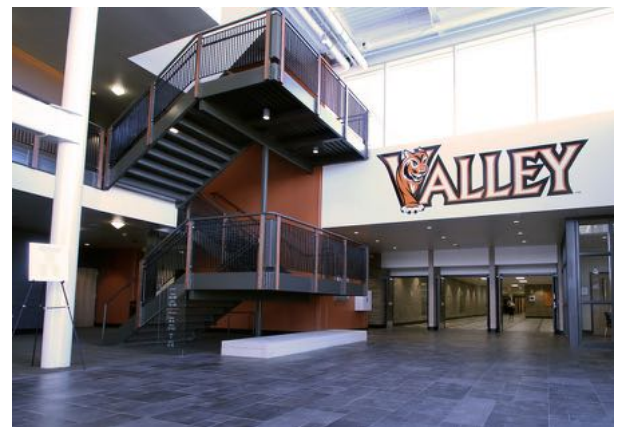


POP-UP MUSEUM

When TOTJ, Inc. decided to expand its reach and share the rich culture and history of the Valley Junction community, the vision came in the form of art. Over the years TOJ, Inc. has been soliciting and collecting stories, pictures, recipes, and artifacts that encapsulate the rich culture of the area. Each year that shared information is given back to the community in the form of the festival booklet. However, when events around Iowa highlight the best of itself, the Valley Junction history remains in the booklets. The Pop-Up Museum provides a mobile display of the people, culture, and cuisines of the Junction. Each retractable vertical banner displays the content of our history. Families' immigration stories can be archived and shared wherever the pop-up museum is displayed. The banners are as beautiful and enthralling as the history they share. Currently, there are six banners, and more are being developed. Thanks to the support of community sponsors, the idea of the pop-up museum has come to fruition! This venture is a community effort to get the stories right and the right pictures. Please contact us at tasteofthejunction@gmail.com to volunteer to work on this project and to send your stories and pictures.



The Pop-Up Museum will debut at the Junction Speaks in the Staplin Performing Arts Center lobby at Valley High School thanks to the generosity of David Maxwell, principal.

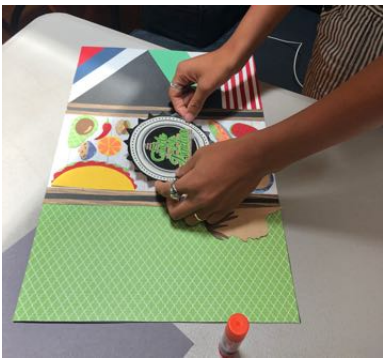


The Art and the Artist

This is not the first time TOTJ, Inc. commissioned work from Julia Roland, 5th generation descendent of the Page/Long family. For the past couple years our visual artist rendered a charcoal drawing of the late great Iowa Golden Gloves Welterweight 1947 and '48 Champion, John Valdez and a scratchboard rendering of Valley Junction legends late John E. Long, Jr. and Barbara Long. (The scratchboard piece won 1st Place in the Links' New Beginnings Art Exhibition in Savannah, GA.) This year we asked Julia to create a piece in a medium of her choice that embodied the TOTJ theme, "It's all about the people, the culture, the cuisine! Aah... Taste of the Junction." After doing some research, our resident artist took an xacto knife, scrapbook paper, glue sticks, and turned the family room into an art studio to create the detailed collage. Each panel was intentionally designed to illustrate the tapestry of the Junction's rich multicultural heritage. Beautiful people of every hue. National and cultural flags atop the United States flag. Cultural dishes in savory colors. The river. The tracks. Aah... Taste of the Junction!

Join the fun! Take selfies with the banners, buy a T-shirt, and participate in painting the mural at the street festival.

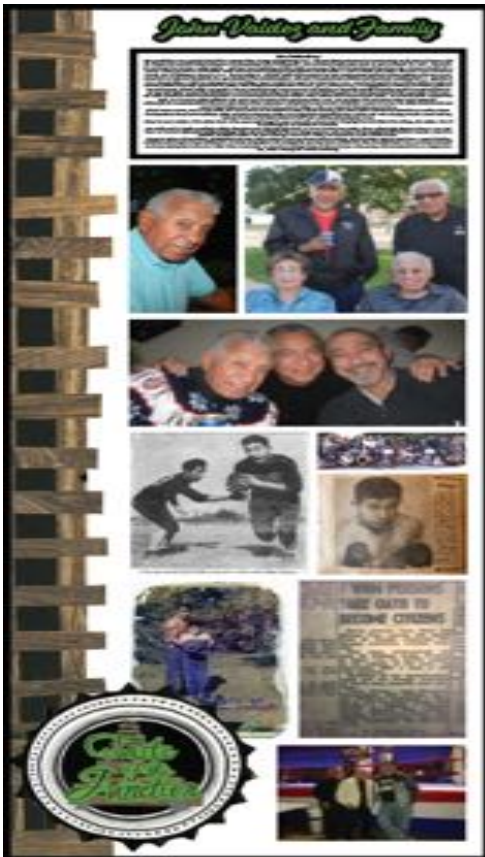
Julia Roland has a 3.96 GPA as a senior at Savannah Arts Academy in Savannah, GA. She is a member of Top Teens of America, Kiwanis Key Club, Civil Air Patrol, National Art Honor Society, National Honor Society, Beta Club, National Math and Science Honor Society, and Usher ministry at Tremont Temple Missionary Baptist Church. She plans to attend college and major in fine arts/ drawing.



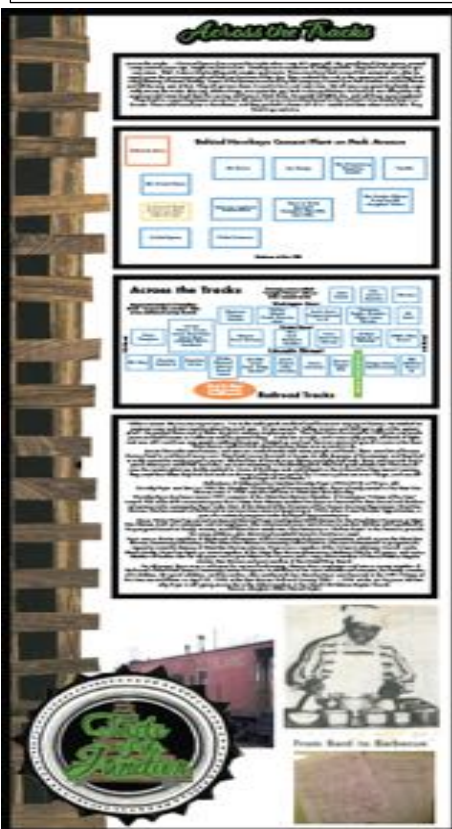


Culture of Valley Junction

Gomez Tacos
Frohim
The Tavern
Mrs. Meza Tacos
Carlins
La Bamba
Blue Jay's
Griffins
Brody's
Poppa Blacks
Uptown
Mrs. Han Burgers
Mexican Eagles
Johnny's Vet Club
Jolly 16
Old Hawkeye
Across the Tracks
Bluejays BBQ



Family stories of immigration, progress, and accomplishment are displayed on the banners. The Valdez family has already celebrated 100 years in the Junction. This year marks 100 years of service for the first black church in the Junction, Mt. Hebron Baptist Church. The Junction's culture nurtured a spirit of servanthood and expression. Across the tracks shares to reflections from 2nd generation descendants of life on the other side of the tracks. Service men and women collage with two reflections explains the duty felt. The last banner shows just some of the athletes and artists from the junction.



Frank Duncan Story

Taste of the Junction Legend:

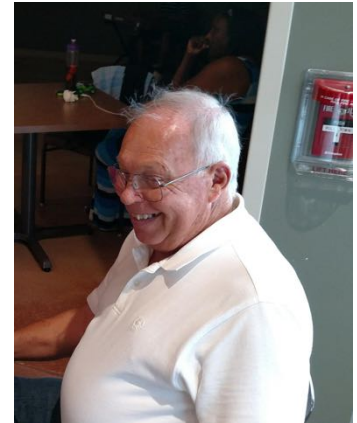
Valley Junction would not be what it is today without the people who define it. Frank E Duncan has lived in West Des Moines for 70 years and most of his life. Where he lived during his adolescent years was called Clover Hills and was located where 8th Street in West Des Moines is now. He was originally born in Marshalltown March 8, 1938 but moved to West Des Moines with his family where his stepfather worked on the Chicago NW Railroad.

Frank lost his father Charles Aurthur Teller, when he was 1. His mother remarried and he and his siblings were adopted by his stepfather Bob Duncan. He lost his mother Vera Gliden, to cancer when he was 12. He has three siblings chuck, Dick, and Becky. He graduated from Valley high school in 1956. He participated in track and was a part of a relay team known as the "fabulous foursome." They were class A state track winners. He participated on relay teams, the 100m dash, and low hurdles. He also participated in baseball and was one of the first teams to win in 1955.

After graduating he went into the Marines. He would say there is not another outfit to join. He became a marine to learn discipline and how to deal with people internationally. He never saw active duty but if called they would've been the first ones to hit the beach. He is considered a Vietnam veteran for his service. When completed he had no plan of coming back to Iowa after but on his last visit, they drove back through Missouri to the Iowa boarder and he saw corn, sunshine,

and green. This was so much of home that he started to sob and knew from then on that he would never leave.

After settling down with Lupe Valdez and adopting her two sons, Steven and Jeff, they had a little girl, Julie. Living in Valley Junction made him want to be more than a resident, so he ran for City Council. He felt he had good ideas to build Valley Junction back up and bring people to the area. He served on the city council from 1970-1978. In that time, they hired a city planner Tim Irvine to construct a plan to make changes and make Valley Junction better. They worked to add parking and made Railroad into four lanes. They resurfaced the street to make the it easier to come into the area. The streets were cleaned up and made welcoming with newly planted areas to enjoy. The merchants were brought together as a committee to help with the development of the community. They wanted them to participate and put their money towards development of Main street. To bring families and business to the area they planned functions such as the farmers market, the antique jubilee, and the art festival throughout dates during the year.



The Eddie Davis Center was a project Frank worked on with Barbara Long. The house that sat on the corner from the old telephone building used to house preschool children and when it got torn down the kids had nowhere to go. This house was also used for other functions. They rallied to get the building for the preschool and won but found that the boiler was no good. Frank petitioned to the City of West Des Moines for a new boiler in the building, which cost around \$8,000.00. Frank was able to get the boiler paid for.

On the west side of the interstate there was nothing but farmland. Farm Bureau came to the council to annex the land and get them to put in utilities to build up the property. This was going to be very expensive and the council were hesitant. It was decided to go through with it and they never looked back. Once the utilities were put in it exploded into commercial construction. The land that was north of I235 was zoned as residential and the council voted to change it to commercial. This infuriated the builders that owned the land because they were not commercial builders. In the end the builders saw the light as they were able to sell the land and make their money back. Most were fearful that they would sell it too cheap so, they held out for a higher price and drove the price per acre up to \$100,000.

Valley West Mall was a big project brought in by the city council and was planned to be put at 73rd street where Walmart and Sam's club is today. It was argued that there was not enough room for the mall in that placement. It was decided to be placed on Valley West Drive where it is today. The land had to be rezoned in order to be able to be put there. This was a huge economic growth for West Des Moines.

The south side of the tracks, also known as the southside of railroad, was a housing community for some of the poorest population that lived in West Des Moines Valley Junction area. There was no running water or sanitation put in place by the city. The dirt streets were lined with rows of houses. When the flood of 1973 happened, it wiped out all that lived there, along with their way of life. The Federal

government bought the housing area out and the people moved. There were some people that did not want to move but were made to move. After a time, they realized that it was good that they were moved. Also, on that side of the tracks was Pen Dixie concrete and Marquette concrete. They were some big taxpayers to the area and for this reason seemed to get what they wanted. They had to have dust collectors on the building when they were making the concrete but at night they would shut off. In the morning you would have to get out the vinegar and clean the concrete dust off the windows of the car before going to work.

What is now known as the Hall was a foundry. You would see trucks bring in scrap iron and they would melt it down to make cast iron pipe. They would burn off the things that they were not able to use and pour what was left into molds. In the mornings they would make the molds out of sand and in the afternoon, they would pour the iron into the molds. The sand would have to be cleaned off the finished product. The foundry was open in the 1950's and closed their doors before the 1960's. From then on, the building sat empty. Before the Hall the last occupant was Rhiner's Plumbing.

The south side of the tracks was also home to Johnny's Vets Club, once owned by Johnny Stamatelos. It was located just off 1st Street, which was just south of Railroad. This place had excellent food such as steak de burgo, which was one of their signature dishes. Because the area was located adjacent to the Racoon River it flooded out in 1946, 1952, and 1973. They built a levy, but it was no match for the floods of 1993 when they sold the business and closed the doors forever.

To him the most memorable thing about Valley Junction are the people that helped raised him to be the person that he is today. He is thankful they were there during his teen years to guide him. He was compassionate enough to pay it forward with his time on city council and he has never left. There was a lot of changes to Valley

Junction and West Des Moines during Franks time in City Council as well as living through the changes of the times.

Franks family grew as the years went on. Steve Duncan had two children Christopher and Ashley. Jeff got married to Dana and they had two girls, Danielle and Darcie. Julie got married to Brian and they had two children Sarah and Eric. Frank is also a great grandpa to Kayleigh, Rylie, Jena, and Natalie.



THEN and

Now

In the Junction

Three stories of culture:

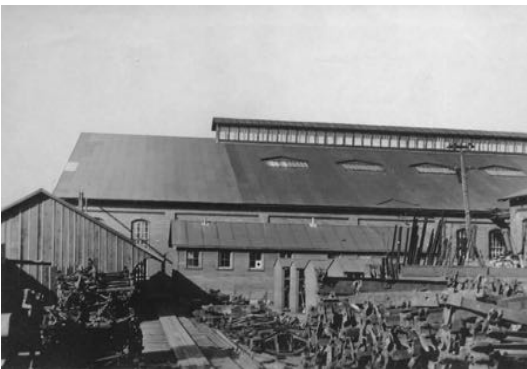
Railroad Car Repair to The Foundry

West Des Moines Elementary School to Phenix School Apartments

Mae E. Davis Medical Clinic to Valley Junction Free Medical Clinic

Railcar Repair Barn to The Foundry

Over 120 years ago (1890s) a large 25,000 square foot warehouse in Stuart, Iowa began its journey to the Valley Junction area. Rock Island Railroad chose this building to be a railcar repair yard. As trains came through the junction this served as a purposeful



location, at the junction, to make repairs and

commence to transporting goods. People came further than the building itself, from all over the world, and settled here for work and the promise of a better life. The rail yard was the



second largest in the nation only bested by one in St. Louis, Missouri at the time. People worked hard for the railroads and still struggled. Abandoned rail cars were made available for working families' homes.

The next journey this building took was not mobile but rather in purpose. After an empty spell Wakonska Foundry Company operated the building from 1940-1965. Rhiner Plumbing acquired the building through the turn of the century. Laying vacant for fourteen years, this building which had been an economic hub seemed to have lost its purpose to serve. That is until four years ago when Nick and Lynn Kuhn and partner Scott Bush purchased the building. Neither parties were from the junction area, so like most families, and this building, they migrated to this location and quickly wove themselves into the tapestry of this community. The Foundry was too important of a historical site to destroy. The transformation from then to now preserved the history of the area and created a nationally noted, unique economic partnership that includes for profit, non-profit, and government.

The Foundry is consist of three separate and yet related entities. Partner Scott Bush, an MIT graduate, of Templeton Rye Whiskey in Odebolt, Ia envisioned the space as a distillery. This business takes up a third of the massive building. Their mission is to be innovative, promote and preserve the history and culture, promote Iowa at large, and bring joy. The

distillery spirits can be enjoyed in the massive German style beer hall. With its high ceilings, open space, and long, narrow communal tables The Hall is a space to bring the community in for a cold one and entertainment. “You don’t come here to be alone. This is a space to be part of the community,” Kuhn chides.



The Hall boasts not only of giant communal spaces but also of the largest LED screen by Insane Impact of Urbandale. A massive six feet six inches tall and 46 feet long it is the largest in the state. Which probably comes as no surprise, they have the largest bar in the Des Moines metro area. Always bustling with events locals convene in the hall for live music, beer yoga, bingo, games, and classes. While a two thirds of the building is occupied for the distillery and hall, the last third is probably the most innovative and altruistic.

The Kitchen as in most homes is the heart of the whole establishment. Nick Kuhn previously was the president of the food truck association. Leaving a profitable profession of engineering, found passion in the food truck business. Through the association, Kuhn

established relationships with homeless shelter providing food to the people staying there. He began to notice that with all of his efforts and help, providing occasional meals made little long range difference as the same people consistently needed assistance. Think if you give a man a fish...

Ever heard the line, “if you build it, they will come”? This is definitely true in Iowa! Kuhn was in search of a building to where giving a man a fish was traded with teaching him to fish. You follow? With the support of a facebook real estate listing, friends, and Polk County Supervisor Angela Connelly fundraising began to purchase and renovate the building. Although the historical integrity of the walls and structures were maintained The Kitchen was remodeled at a state of the art level. Beyond the appliances this is no ordinary kitchen. The ample parking lot around The Foundry could host a number of rotating food trucks. “We have moved way beyond the food trucks now.” Kuhns explains. The kitchen is rented out to local chefs who experiment with innovative dishes that are sold. Restaurateurs get the use of the state of the art kitchen, donate 10% of sales to non-profit, Kids In the Hall, and employ young adults 18-24 years of age. This employment serves as on the job training and skill development in the culinary arts. Youth from government programs like Youth Employment Services, IJAG, shelters, alternative school, and recent aged out of foster care intern here for two year then

assisted with job placement at the time of completion. The Kuhns recognized a need in

the area and created a non-profit that was profitable for us all!

West Des Moines Elementary School to Phenix School Apartments



West Des Moines Elementary School is still engraved across the top of the midrise apartment building, but a different kind of learning is going on inside this historical building. Many Valley Junction residents of a certain age remember tramping in and out of the hallowed halls of Phenix Elementary School. Erected during the Great Depression, the construction work provided a good income in the area. Most



of us have fond elementary school memories.

Remember when you made the ceramic tile that adorned the second floor hall? It is still there. Or how about the days of school plays on the stage and

tininkling and basketball games in the gym? Yep! Yep! Yep! They are all still there. After 75 years of educating the Valley Junction youth, in 2014 Phenix Elementary School closed for summer break awaiting its new lot in the community. Unlike its companion, Valley Statium that sat upon the hill where Hill Elementary now resides, the strong stoic structure has a “new attitude.”



The doors opened again in 2018 welcoming local artists as residents in the newly renovated Phenix School Apartments. Equal opportunity housing for artist working in their field provides great opportunities for learning to continue. Resident Amenda Tate jumped at the opportunity to live in such a unique place. “I love the building, amazing neighborhood, and having likeminded artists of all fields in the building. It creates a microcosm of artists having conversations that mainly artists like to have. I know everyone in the building.” Although the building is available to everyone, the city of West Des Moines had

an additional goal, to increase the art in the area. Residents prove their artist status by showing their main income comes from the sale of art, their art is commercially displayed, and they earned a degree or diploma in their field. Matt Hauge, Communications and Marketing Director for Housing illuminated the thrill of having the caliber of artists as residents



there. Their art can be seen in some of the local galleries on 5th Street. Tate

was just awarded an artist fellowship by the Iowa Arts Council, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. "It is a big honor. I have been applying for a couple of years. As an artist you get more rejection than accolades. This is huge." This fellowship will provide her with the resources to focus more on creating "in studio" art. Tate's art has a dual place in the art and science worlds. Her latest innovation is the Manibus, translation from Latin is hand. The manibus is a small robot that paints the motion of the person wearing a device. "I wanted to hold on to the moment enjoyed when watching ballet. When the performance is over, it is over." The manibus paints the movement resulting in a visual artistic representation of the motion. Space is an issue with the size and amount of materials used in her artwork. The Phenix studio is more storage for her, but the high ceilings in her apartment allow for her work to be set up in there.

"The bigger picture is to provide affordable housing and bring artists to be a part of the community," declared Hauge. There are 17 units in the building with 1-3 bedroom floor plans. All the units are currently occupied. The building's unique amenities include high 12 foot ceilings, large windows, unique character, off street parking, and studio space. The studios on the interior of the range in size around 300



square feet with a sink, ventilation, and electricity. Studios are shared with

residents and provide a workspace or storage for the resident artists. Residents are happy with the building amenities and the price point. There is no where to live in the city like the artist hub of the Phenix School Apartments. But there is still untapped potential in this historical gem. The gym has not been utilized. Since the artists live and work there, perhaps the unused space could house exhibits or performances. An artist's eye for innovation does not rest only upon their canvas. "The arts are an economic driver to rally the community in a vibrant way. There are no open studios events here. I desire a monthly or bimonthly open studio to invite curators and the community. This is who we are as artists. This is what we do. The arts are designed to be a connector,"



Tate described a possible use for the gym. Hauge said the city is in talks about how to use the space more communally. Certainly the city knew housing a bunch of artist would cause ideas to emerge. “If I see a space for growth, I want to be in that space,” imagined Tate. Although the interview was by phone, I imagined the inspired gaze when she said, “change is the only constant.”



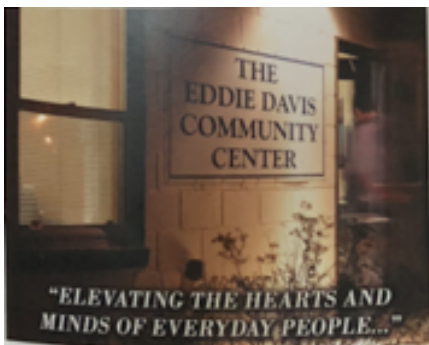
Mae E. Davis Medical Clinic to Valley Juntion Health Clinic



Where there is a need;
there is a way. Dr.
Marion Eppright, pastor
of the Faith Tabernacle
Church of God in Christ
on 9th Street in Valley

Junction is a blue beacon of hope on the block. "The church is relevant in the community and not just on Sunday. That is what church should be about," pastor decrees. So it should come as no surprise that when then elder of the church saw a need amongst the flock and community, Eppright answered the call. There were people needing spiritual care and medical care that were under insured or without insurance. So in the late 1990's Eppright sought out the partnership with Dr. James

of Iowa. Having just recently founded the free medical clinics of Iowa in 1994, Dr. Blessman and Dr. Eppright forge on to research the need for a free clinic. Much to their surprise people from Des Moines, Carlisle, and VanMeter attended the community conversations about the need for medical assistance. The pattern established was to open free clinics in places where mind, body, and spirit could be healed. That is the church. Soon a clinic was opened in Pray of Faith/ Faith Tabernacle, Maple Street Baptist Church, Corinthian Baptist Church, and Assembly of God on Merle Hay. The clinic opened one night a week, and the church converted the cafeteria to create examining rooms with curtain dividers. A grant from Mercy Hospital supplied the medical equipment. Doctors, nurses, and others volunteered their time to care for those in need. Some were directed to go directly to the emergency room after being examined. But the people needed more.



Blessman, founder of the free medical clinics



In 2000 an old dilapidated building on Maple Street was purchased by John E. Long, Mel Harper and others to create a community center. Long and Harper in partnership with the West Des Moines Community transformed the useless structure with the help of Mike Simonson and Associates blue prints and Gerald James's JMJ Cleaning and Construction remodeling. In 2003 the church cafeteria couldn't handle the volume. So the clinic moved to the Eddie Davis Community Center. Davis was not only Dr. Eppright's pastor but also his father. When naming the clinic Dr. Eppright found it befitting to be named after his mother Mae Ella Davis. The Mae E. Davis clinic in the Eddie Davis Community Center expanded to 1,500 square feet with there examining rooms, laboratory, and lobby. Again the string of volunteers worked the one night a week to provide medical care. Eppright believing the church should be a community center there was a need for a food pantry, clothing closet, legal clinic and dental care. Eventually all of those

services were offered to approximately 25 per week. Dr. Erin Herdon was the first director followed by Dr. Jeff Dumermuth. Stacy Cooper, nurse, was the first coordinator. Services offered included school check ups, screenings, flu shots, etc.

When the clinic moved from the church to the center Dr. Eppright felt a pinch of sorrow. He agreed the space as need and the work was too. The clinic remained operational at the center until this spring when a larger venue was again needed.

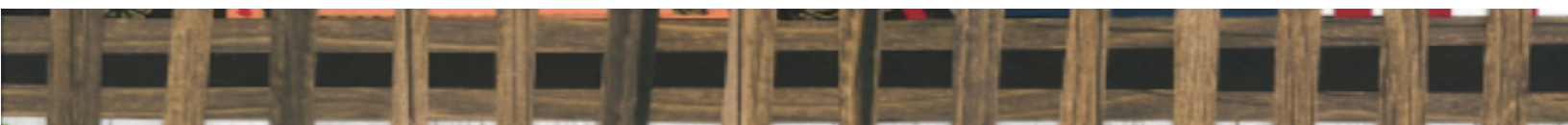
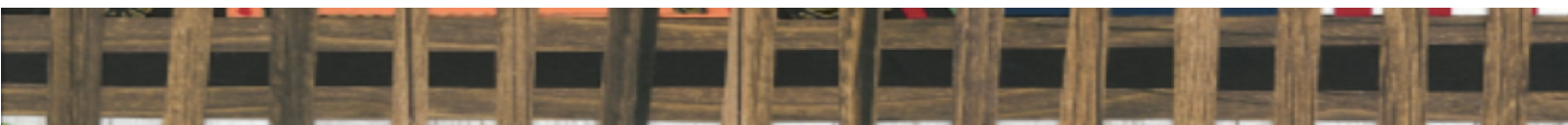
Services Offered

- Illness/minor injury care
- Well child exams
- Adult immunizations (Tetanus only)
- School/sport physicals
- Employment physicals
- TB testing
- Lead testing
- Patient assistance program enrollment
- Physical therapy
- Translation languages: Spanish (on call only)
- Chronic disease management
- Diabetes/blood glucose testing
- High blood pressure testing

Now the Mae E. Davis Free Medical Clinic operates under a different name. Housed on 6th street in the Human Services Building, the clinic has a display that gives reverence to and preserves the history of the clinic's original name and beginnings. Now in the heart of the Junction, the clinic has taken on the name of its location, Valley Junction Free Medical



Clinic. The space there is much bigger providing the opportunity to serve more people.





TASTE OF THE JUNCTION MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

It's All About The People • The Culture • The Cuisines

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

2PM - 10PM

RAILROAD PARK PAVILION

**Budweiser Beer Tent, Live Entertainment,
Inflatables, Food & Craft Vendors,
Kid Zone, Fun For Whole Family!**

Budweiser

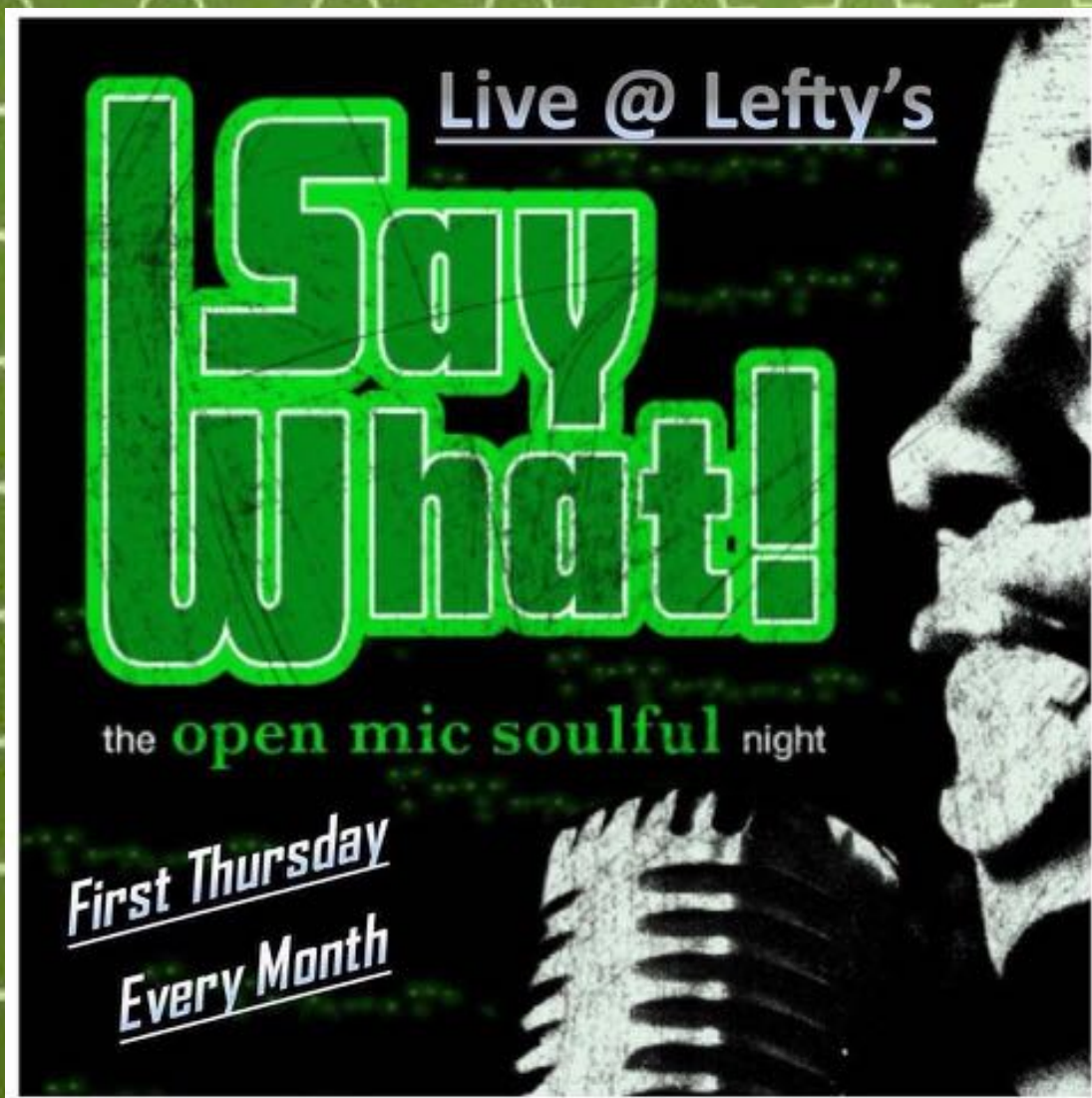
Main Stage Events

2:00 PM Welcome

2:30 PM Say What Poets

4:00 PM Sumpin Doo

7:00 PM The Tony Valdez Large Band







UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LEGEND ED HORTON #25



COME MEET ED HORTON
AND GET A SELFIE!



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA 1985-1989

Street Festival Food

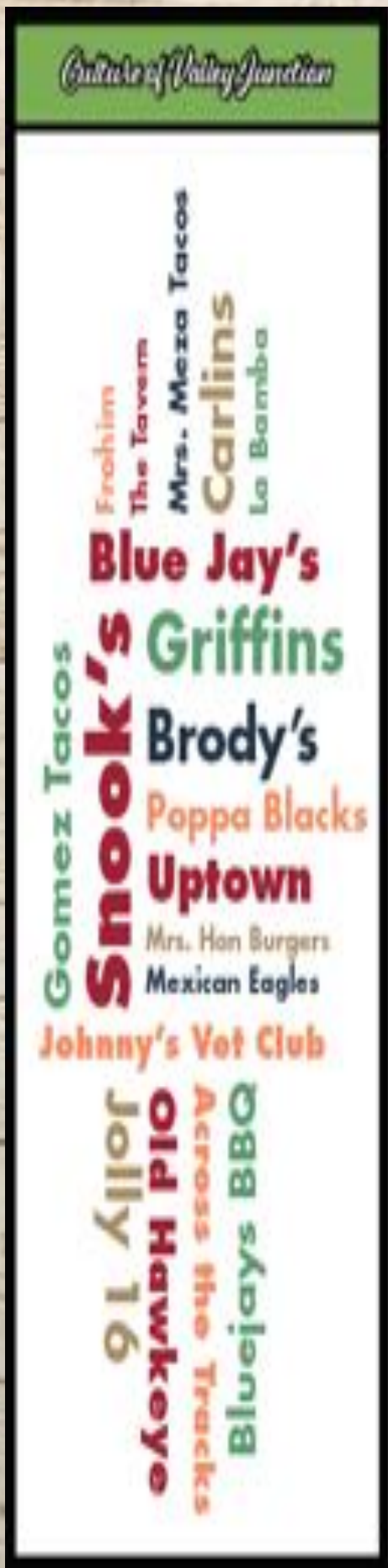


Arts & Community Vendors



**Taste of the Junction Inc
Labor Day Weekend**





GOLD SPONSORS

Building Strong Communities



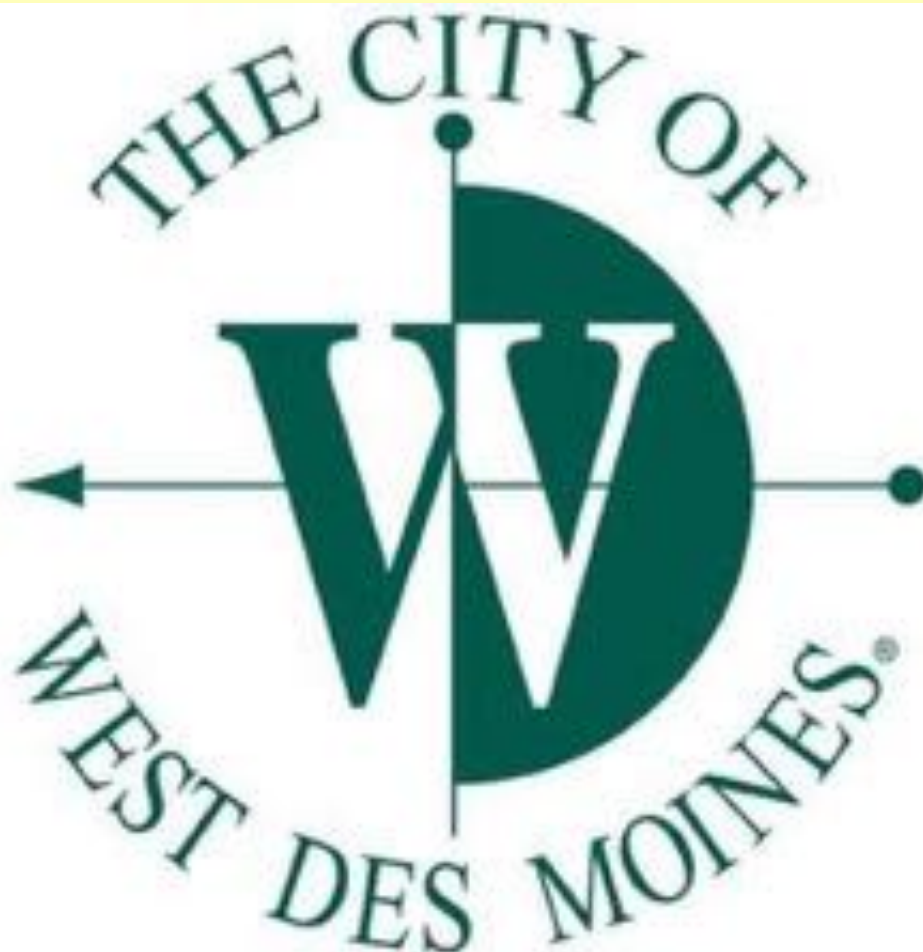
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SPONSOR



Supervisor Angela Connolly
District 2 (D)



Human Rights Commission

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HOPE

HELP • IGNITE • PEOPLE'S • HOPE • OVER • PROBLEMS • EVERYDAY



True Value®

1ST Street and Grand Avenue in West Des Moines



Caricatures by Steph



Kid Zone



Face Painting by Pam from ACTS Entertainment

Friends of the Taste

Steve Gaer, Mayor City of WDM

Tom Hadden, City Manager, WDM

Steve & Marilyn Coleman

Renee Hardman, Council At-Large, WDM

Ed Horton

Valora James

Alonda Long

Margaret Long

Johnnetta Long

Annissa Roland



Aguilera
Aman
Anderson
Arguedas
Ayala
Baker
Bailey
Ball
Banerjee
Baratta
Barham
Barrows
Bright
Brody
Brown
Buch
Campbell
Canada
Carline
Carlson
Carmody
Carter
Chandler
Clark
Commodore
Conners
Constantine
Cooper
Crawford
Davis
Dewar
DeFord
Delaware
Dean
Diason
Dryer
Duncan
Edwards
Elliot
Eppright
Faber
Falser
Fox
Frank
Fraser
Fritz
Fucikoro
Gantor
Giacca
Gallardo
Galvan
Garota
Garner
Garrett
Gastan
Gilligan

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Page
 Paine
 Palamovich
 Palastka
 Palomo
 Parker
 Paster
 Paves
 Perkins
 Pescarolo
 Pessin
 Pryor
 Rademacher
 Ramirez
 Radtke
 Reed
 Reilly
 Reister
 Rhine
 Rhodes
 Richardson
 Rizzo
 Rodriguez
 Roman
 Roth
 Soto
 Salinas
 Sayler
 Shelley
 Sherwood
 Shewell
 Shifflet
 Shiel
 Smith
 Smith
 Snow
 Sorenson
 Stranahan
 Stewart
 Stockford
 Storch
 Stork
 Taylor
 Tawatch
 Tawell
 Trachel
 Trumbo
 Underwood
 Walker
 Wagner
 Wardlaw
 Warren
 Whitson
 Williams
 Young





Leadership Team

Rachelle Long, President/Founder

Mark Rocha, Vice President

Alonda Long, Secretary & Treasure

Annissa (Page) Roland, Operations

Jeff Duncan, Community Fundraising Chair

Gabby Grgurich, Community Outreach

Natasha Haygood, Vendor Manager

Junction Speaks Volunteers

Valerie James

Chris Craig

Diana Glen

Pam Long

Festival Volunteers

Valora James

Robert Long

Jada Long

Donault Moore Sr.

Marsha Spears

Aaliyah Williams



West Des Moines COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Junction Speaks



The People, The Culture, The Cuisine Ahhh...



**Taste of the Junction was incorporated in February 2013.
This is a nonprofit created to advance the awareness and
preservation of the diverse cultures of Valley Junction.**

Taste of the Junction, Inc.

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