



YMCA

Leo McIntosh from the Council Bluffs YMCA spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on November 9. He started working for the YMCA 15 years ago. He has three children. He has had 6 youth from the YMCA live with his house.

Leo presented a YMCA t-shirt to Chad Guttai for his many years of volunteer service to the YMCA.

The YMCA is emphasizing three areas, youth development, aquatics, and healthy living. They are partnered with 22 organizations in the area, including Boys and Girls Club, both hospitals in town, and Phoenix House.

Leo said that there are 2.6 million YMCA members in the country. They focus on the core social values of honesty, respect, responsibility, and caring.

There are 10 YMCAs in the area that are associated together.

The current Council Bluffs YMCA has a third of the building used for child care, including before and after school programs. They also have a teen night once a month from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on a Saturday. Their hours are 5:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The YMCA is starting some new medically-based programs:

- Diabetes Prevention – a 12 week program for families, partnering with HyVee
- Cancer Survivor Program – an exercise and discussion group

They are also moving toward a branded sports program to connect youth to college. The Council Bluffs program will be called the Jr. Reivers.

The new YMCA in Council Bluffs will be near Mercy Hospital. It will cost \$16 million. They have commitments from Iowa West Foundation and the Charles Lakin Foundation for \$7 million. They are nearing another \$1 million from their capital campaign. The new YMCA will be 75,000 square feet and include 287 parking spaces.