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Colonial Manors celebrates 37 years

By Jane Wolford

Imagine what our community leaders, who had the foresight in the 1970's to build a modern nursing facility, must think today when they visit the complex that has been created on farmland at the east edge of Columbus Junction. Originally there was a long-term care nursing facility with around-the-clock care, known as Colonial Manor. Now there are expanded services that could only be dreamed of 37 years ago. Those services include skilled nursing care, assisted living and maintenance free independent living – all in Columbus Junction.

A photo in the archives at the facility taken in 1975 shows only a new building and a bare lot, not yet landscaped, and nary a blade of grass. Compare that to the photo of today's site (picture donated by Ken Purdy), and you'll get the full picture of the growth that has enhanced our community. When Colonial Manor opened its doors in 1975, the facility was leased to a management firm, as were many nursing facilities of that era. The management changed several times over the course of the 25-year lease, causing some disruption to routines due to new philosophies and operating policies. At the end of the lease period, in 1995, the stockholders made a decision that has made a significant impact on the quality of life in the community. They

faced a decision of possibly selling the facility to a large corporation, or committing to keeping the ownership local and taking over the day-to-day operation of Colonial Manor. The stockholders recognized that they needed to be in a position to provide services that extended beyond simply a nursing home facility, and they saw it as an opportunity to continue to provide for the people of our community. Once again, the stockholders dove in and a new chapter began.

It was becoming apparent that more levels of care were needed in our community, and that the aging population was looking for options available to them that allowed continued independence without the day-to-day responsibilities of maintenance that living in a home require. A major investment was made in 1998 when duplexes that are now known as Colonial Heights were built to the east of the nursing facility. Originally four individual units were built and that later expanded to eight units to keep up with demand in the community. No longer did persons who had lived their entire lives



Colonial Manors today



Colonial Manors in the beginning

in the Columbus area have to seek living arrangements in another community. The duplexes have thrived and are fully occupied today. Each unit has 2 bedrooms with spacious closets, 2 bathrooms that accommodate wheelchairs/walkers, large modern open concept kitchen, dining and living area, sunroom, utility room, and an attached garage. Full maintenance is provided, including care of appliances, plumbing, lawn care, snow removal and more.

Not long after Colonial Heights became a reality, the stockholders began to develop lots to the north that were to be sold as sites for private homes. There are now homes that are a lovely addition to the community, and truly bring this area to a "multi-generational" complex.

Through the next few years Colonial Manor's services were expanded to provide skilled nursing care, which includes physical, occupational and speech therapies. The addition of skilled services is an important factor for persons who need short-term rehabilitative care after an illness or accident and for the ongoing well being of every resident.

With changing times, discussion

of another major change began with a decision to make another big leap for the community. Assisted Living had been considered a "dream" for quite some time and was a level of care that was strongly desired by many individuals. Plans were unveiled in 2009 for Colonial Estates, an assisted living facility that would be erected on the north side of Colonial Manor. Colonial Estates is a modern facility with its own entrance from a new street accessed from Colonial Avenue. The facility is attached to Colonial Manor by a breezeway at the rear of the building. This allows access to Colonial Manor for staff and residents, without having to leave the indoor comfort and safety. Residents of Colonial Estates live in their own apartments, surrounded by their own furnishings in one of the nine individual living units. Each unit has a living room, kitchenette, bedroom, and bathroom with shower. Other amenities include a large front room, a study with a fireplace, and a large community kitchen to bake a batch of cookies, or have a family gathering.

It might be puzzling for an outsider to understand how a community

of our size could provide such a wide array of living arrangements and services. But for those of us who have witnessed the decisions of those original planners, our Board of Directors and those who are, or have been stockholders, none of this comes as a surprise. The foresight and concern shown by these persons is a testament to their devotion to the entire community. Since its inception, compassion and concern for the welfare of others, rather than dividends and profits have been the driving force and continues to be their focus. This can only be accomplished with cooperation and an eye to the future. All of this becomes evident when you look at the history of those first tentative steps, when stockholders came together to build Colonial Manor, emphasized again in 1995, when they elected to retain local ownership, in 1998 with the building of the Colonial Heights duplexes, and it continues today with the Colonial Estates assisted living facility. The Columbus Community appreciates the planning and decisions that have brought us full circle to provide for a lifetime of care.

Meet Columbus Community new Activities Director

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

Nathan Carlson, physical education teacher and coach at Columbus Community School, was a very busy man; however, now he is wearing even more "hats."

At the end of first semester this school year, Dan Voegler, resigned. Voegler had many jobs that were divided among various people at the school after he left, and Carlson was awarded the position of Activities Director. Note that this position is now called Activities Director. In the past, it was called Athletic Director. The job still has all the duties of the athletic director, plus the duties of scheduling and helping to plan contests and events for speech, drama, and music. The Athletic Director was doing most of these jobs in the past, but the name had never been changed.

When asked for a description of what he does, Carlson responded, "I schedule games, officials, locations etc. for each sport during their particular season. The job includes evaluating coaches. I schedule music and speech events and any other conference and district activities."

Carlson just finished getting his accreditation to evaluate coaches and hire new coaches. He currently is working on a Master's Degree in Administration through Drake University, and he spends many weekends in Cedar Rapids attending classes.

When asked how hard it was to just "jump into" this job midyear, he stated, "Because I was working on my degree, I needed clinical or internship hours and Dan Voegler was allowing me first semester to work with him and do some of the athletic scheduling etc. This gave me a jump start on what I am doing now."

When Carlson assumed this new position, he, at the time, was also coaching girl's basketball and had become a new father. Dempsey Carlson was born to Nate and his wife Deb, a math teacher at Columbus, on January 5th. Dempsey made his first CCHS athletic appearance with his mom at the basketball games on the 27th of January. Since then, Dempsey has pretty much been a "regular." Carlson laughs that his son will be seeing a lot of Columbus athletic events in the years to come.

The girl's basketball team, under the director of Carlson and Kasey



Keltner, had an outstanding season. The crowd gave them a standing ovation at their last home game, and the girls came across the floor to wave. It was an emotional moment. "There is no doubt I am happy about the basketball team's season. The girls deserved a winning season; they did all the work," Carlson said.

Carlson goes on to say that technology has really improved the tasks of the activities director. Much of the scheduling is done on-line, and this makes it so much easier.

Recently Carlson was notified that due to limited space this year, our girl's track team would be dropped from a meet they usually attend. Not wanting the girls to lose out on a running experience, Carlson scheduled a girl's only meet here at Columbus on Friday, March 23rd. He invites the public to come and cheer on the hometeam.

Nathan Carlson is very happy in his new job. Columbus is lucky to have him.

Briefly -

School to host blood drive

Columbus Community High School's Business Professional Association will host a blood drive on Monday, April 9th from 11:30 am-4:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 99 Second Street, Columbus Junction. To donate call Robin McClanahan at 319-728-2231 x3624. Walk-ins welcome! Donors must be at least 16 years old, in good health, and weigh at least 110 pounds. A Blood Donor card or other photo I.D. is required to donate; 16-year-old donors must present a signed parental consent form, available from the Blood Center or for download from www.bloodcenter.org. Controlled high blood pressure and diabetics are acceptable.

Baked Potato supper at Columbus City Methodist Church

The Columbus Community United Methodist Church is having a baked potato supper on Saturday, April 21st from 5-7 p.m. The menu includes: Baked potatoes with all the toppings; salads and several desserts. The public is invited and welcome. A free will offering will be accepted.

CCIC to meet

C.C.I.C. will meet at the Columbus City City Hall on Tuesday, March 27th at 7:30 p.m. Esther Timmons will serve as hostess.

Alumni Banquet Scheduled

The Columbus area Alumni Banquet will take place at Roundy Elementary School on June 9, 2012. Social Hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., and Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Special recognition will be given to the 50-year (1962) class and the 25-year (1987) class. Put the date on your calendar now!

Cub Scout Pancake Supper

The Cub Scout Pack 54 of Letts, Fruitland and Grandview will be holding their all-you-can-eat pancake supper on Monday, March 26, 2012 from 5-8 p.m. at the L-M Elementary School cafeteria. The menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, whole hog sausage, coffee, milk and orange juice. The cost is \$6.00 for 7th grade through adult; \$4.00 grades K-6 and seniors (60); and preschool is free. Tickets can be purchased from any cub scout of Pack 54. Tickets can also be purchased by calling Mary Ann at 563-263-8886, Karen at 319-726-4515 or you can purchase tickets at the door.

Early Childhood Board to meet

The Early Childhood Iowa Area Board Des Moines/Louisa Counties will be meeting on March 28, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. at the ISU Extension Office, 317 Van Buren St., Wapello, IA. The Board will be participating in the Levels of Excellence Review for ECIA Boards, which will be conducted by State ECI Technical Team members.

Easter Egg Hunt scheduled

The Annual Columbus Junction Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2012. The Hunt will begin at 1 pm on the White House lawn – Columbus Community School's Administrative Office on Colton Street. Come join Lisa Exline - coordinator, for a great time and meet the Easter Bunny. Friends of the Library will be there reading Peter Rabbit! Call 728-7972 or 319-750-0801 if you have any questions.

Master Gardeners to meet

The Louisa County Master Gardeners will meet Tuesday, March 27 in the ICN room at the Columbus Junction Civic Center, at 7:00 P.M. The speaker will be Jim Everett. His program will be on Floating Gardens for ponds. This program is open to the public.

LO-CO Bingo at Historical Society

The Louisa County Historical Society is sponsoring LO-CO Bingo on Saturday, March 24th from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Doors will open at 12:30. Bingo begins at 1:30, seating is limited. Many nice prizes to be awarded to the winners! Refreshments will be available for purchase. No outside food or drink is allowed. Proceeds benefit LCHS Building repairs fund.

Fish Fry at Lone Tree Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church in Lone Tree will serve a fish fry supper on Friday, March 30th from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The menu includes fish fillets, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, beverage and bar/cookies. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children ages 10 and under.

Amateur Radio License testing

The Muscatine Area Volunteer Examiners will be testing for all classes of amateur radio operator licenses on Sunday, April 8, at 1:30 PM at the Flickinger Learning Center, 413 Mulberry Avenue, in Muscatine. (Use the 5th street parking lot and entrance across from Hy-Vee Drugstore.) For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

Pleasant Grove Easter schedule

Pleasant Grove Church is announcing Easter Sunday services. The church will be having a 8 a.m. sunrise breakfast with fellowship. Worship service will follow at 9 a.m. Guests are welcome.

Blood Tests at Senior Center

Tami Nichols, R.N. from Colonial Manor will be doing blood checks at the Columbus Junction Senior Center on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Come by and have your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol checked. We hope to see you there!

SpotLight Talent Show at Victory Christian Church

Victory Christian Center, 122 Ninth St. will be presenting "SpotLight Talent Show" on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. This is a variety show with local talent. There will be dancing, music, sketches and you never know what else. It's an evening of free entertainment right in your community. Please come join us! If you have questions, please contact Pastor Michael McAfee at 319-728-5720.