



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

Vol. 126 No. 13

Local Health Facility turns 35 years old

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

The Columbus Medical Facility has now hit its thirty-fifth birthday. The whole process began with the following article in the May 27, 1976 Columbus Gazette:

The Columbus Community Medical Facilities Committee is in the process of being established as an arm of the Community Club. The Corporation is charged with the responsibility of establishing better medical services and a doctor's facility for the community.

The corporation was established by Jim Rutt, Max Quigley, Robert Hedemann, Bill Fulton, and Clyde Crawford, all members of the Doctor's Facility Steering Committee. Using seed money from proceeds raised during the community's centennial in 1974, the Medical Facilities Corporation was organized with Crawford, Fulton, Hedemann, Quigley, Rutt, Jay Schweitzer, and Lucile Smylie serving as the founding board.

Preliminary plans were drawn up for the building, and Mr. and Mrs. B.O. Roundy came forward and donated the land for the facility and generous cash donations were received from the Marie C. Letts Estate and from Mr. and Mrs. F.D. Smylie. Stock in the corporation was sold, various fund-raisers held, and Rath Packing employees gave over \$8,000.

Ground breaking took place in 1977 and Dr. Kenneth Carrell moved his offices into the facility in 1977. In 1987, an addition was added and Dr. Heather Heddens, DDS, moved her dental practice into one of the additions.

The Board then saw a need for a facility to house a community ambulance service. In 1990 a separate ambulance garage and offices were

built adjacent to the city's water tower, and leased to the Louisa County Ambulance Services.

In 1999 long-time pharmacist Warren May retired from business and the community was without a pharmacy. An arrangement was made with Drug Town in Muscatine and eventually they leased the remaining wing of the facility. The pharmacy is now about eleven years old.

Unfortunately, in 2008, the Columbus Medical Facility was inundated with water from the June flood that year. Dr. Willy Wever, who was the dentist there at that time, chose to move his office after that tragedy. Fortunately, he still is in the Columbus area with his office now located in Columbus City. The Medical Facility was redone and the Drug Town Pharmacy added the space formerly occupied by Dr. Wever to their business.

Currently the medical portion of the facility is now leased to Mercy Services of Iowa City. Dr. Brian Masonholder serves the medical needs of the community and Kelly Harris is the receptionist and medical clerk. Both Masonholder and Harris came to the clinic on July 21, 1980. These two now work with Twyla Carey and Char Mendenhall as nurses. Thelma Rutt was a long-time nurse there, and her family donated a P. Buckley Moss print that hangs in the outer office above the decorated tree.

The pharmacy has their own crew with Leah Willoz as pharmacist and Nancy Turner and Dee Anna Cutler as assistants. The three of them are kept very busy as demands are great. It is also wonderful that people can visit the doctor and walk right next door for their medications.

The current board members of the Medical Facility are Gary Todd, Dan



Staff of Columbus Medical Facility, left to right: Char Mendenhall, Twyla Carey, Kelly Harris and Dr. Brian Masonholder



Staff of Pharmacy, left to right: Nancy Turner, Dee Anna Cutler and Leah Willoz

Wilson, Jay Schweitzer, Mark Huston, Steve Nielsen, Marcia Pavey, and Molly Bausch. They can look back with pride on how an idea and seed money from the centennial has

grown to a full-service facility that serves the medical needs of the Columbus Community area. It would be very difficult to operate without this building and these people!

Community Bank donates \$25,000 to Youth Center

Community Bank is the latest organization to make a major donation to the capital campaign to build a Youth Center at the Louisa County Fairgrounds. The bank, with locations in Muscatine, Wilton, Wapello and Columbus Junction, committed \$25,000 to the project. Community Bank actively supports projects in the communities they serve through volunteerism and financial support; the Youth Center project offers an opportunity to focus that support on the agricultural community. "Our bank is proud to be a part of the 4-H heritage represented by the Louisa County Fair and other 4-H related activities at the fairgrounds," explains Sam Bell, Market President for Community Bank's Columbus Junction location.

Community Bank has a long history in Louisa County. The Columbus Junction branch was chartered in 1963 and became part of the Community Bank family in 1999. In 2010 Community Bank added a second Louisa County location, building a new facility along Highway 61 in Wapello. The Community Bank has five locations in four cities that together employ 68 people. Farm lending and agribusiness are cornerstones of the bank's business.

The fund raising effort for the Youth Center at the Louisa County Fair Grounds continues to be very successful. Community Bank is added to a list of major supporters that includes Casey's General Store, Muscatine Food Corp, Louisa county Extension Council and the Community Foundation of Louisa County. Individual and family donations and a very successful fundraiser held by Louisa County 4-H have kept the project on track for a possible 2012 ground breaking. For more information about the Youth Center project please contact Susan Pretz, Secretary, Louisa County Fair Association or Bob Schlutz, Youth Center Committee Chair at 563-299-6916.



Pictured above Community Bank presents their big donation to the Louisa County Fair Board President and 4-H club representatives. Front row: Natalina Sents, Go-Getters;

Ryan Orr, Columbus City Wildcats; Jobie Lekwa, Columbus Clover Kids; Isaiah Sents, Lego dynamite. Back Row: Kortney Orr, Clover-

leaf; Sam Bell, Community Bank; Craig Helmick, Community Bank, Bryan Townsley, Louisa County Fair Board; Obree Tribal, Lego Dynamite

CJ Road Clean Up scheduled for April 14

A county road clean up has been scheduled for Saturday morning, April 14. Our goal is to clean 3 one-mile sections of county roads in the immediate Columbus area. We will meet at 8 AM on the north side of the CJ Middle School (old high school), and will divide into 3 crews. Each crew will be responsible for 1 mile of roadway. One crew will clean up between the school and the golf course. A second crew will work between the golf course corner and Highway 92. The 3rd crew will clean between the golf course and Columbus City. Reflective vests and orange IDOP garbage bags will be provided. Be sure to wear good gloves, boots or shoes, as well as long pants.

This is a great opportunity to help with the beautification of the Columbus area. We hope to see you at the school for a fun morning clean up on the 14th of April

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 in Columbus City

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.

City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

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!

Early Childhood Board to meet

The Early Childhood Iowa Area Board Des Moines/Louisa Counties will be meeting today, 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.

CJ Easter Egg Hunt

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.

Grandview Easter Egg Hunt

The Grandview Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Academy Park This Saturday, March 31 beginning at 10:00 a.m. In the event of rain, the hunt will be held on the following Saturday, April 7th.

No Coffee Fellowship at Hope Bible

There will be No Coffee Fellowship at Hope Bible Church on Friday, the 30th of March so people can attend the auction across from the Dairy Sweet. We hope everyone has a great time and we look forward to seeing you all on Friday, the 6th of April!

Fish Fry in Lone Tree

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.

Salem Welsh Cotter Easter Brunch

Salem Welsh/Cotter congregation will hold an brunch at 8 AM on Easter Sunday.

Blood Checks at Senior Center

Tami Nichols, R.N. from Colonial Manor will be doing blood checks at the Columbus Junction Senior Center today, 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!

Shooting Stars 4-H Club to host Potato Bar

The Shooting Stars 4-H Club will be hosting a FREE potato bar for the congregation of the Pleasant Grove Community Church on Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 6 p.m. The group will serve baked potatoes with all the fixings, assorted salads and desserts with drinks as part of their service project. Congregation members and family members of the Shooting Stars are invited to attend.

United Methodist Women to meet

The United Methodist Women, Columbus Junction will meet in the home of Marilyn Ortberg on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. Leader - Carla Harris. Hostesses - Marilyn Ortberg and Sharee Owens. Please bring your favorite cup and saucer with a brief story.

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.

Marr Park Education Center to switch to summer hours

The Conservation Education Center at Marr Park will be switching to their summer hours beginning April 1, 2012. The summer hours are as follows: Monday and Thursday: 10:00 am - 6:30 pm; Friday and Saturday: 12:30 am - 8:30 pm; Sunday: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. The Education Center is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We hope to see you out at the Conservation Education Center at Marr Park this summer! Look for information on our summer camps soon!