

Opening doors to a new Healthcare Home

An open house is scheduled for Friday, June 25, 2010, from 5-7pm at the new CHC/SEIA Louisa County Clinic medical and dental facility, 2409 Spring Street, Columbus City, IA (located at the intersection Spring Street and County Road X-37).

On June 2nd, the Community Health Centers of Southeastern Iowa, Inc. (CHC/SEIA) Louisa County Clinic opened its doors to a new 8,000+ square foot healthcare facility. The newly constructed facility will provide medical, dental and behavioral health services.

Design of the new CHC/SEIA facility will support full-time primary care medical and dental providers. The building design will also accommodate future expansion for additional medical, dental and behavioral health services.

The new facility in Columbus City will assist CHC/SEIA expand its capacity to service additional patients in the Louisa County area, as resources are obtained to support additional health professional staff.

Financing for the facility comes from several sources, including federal funds provided by:

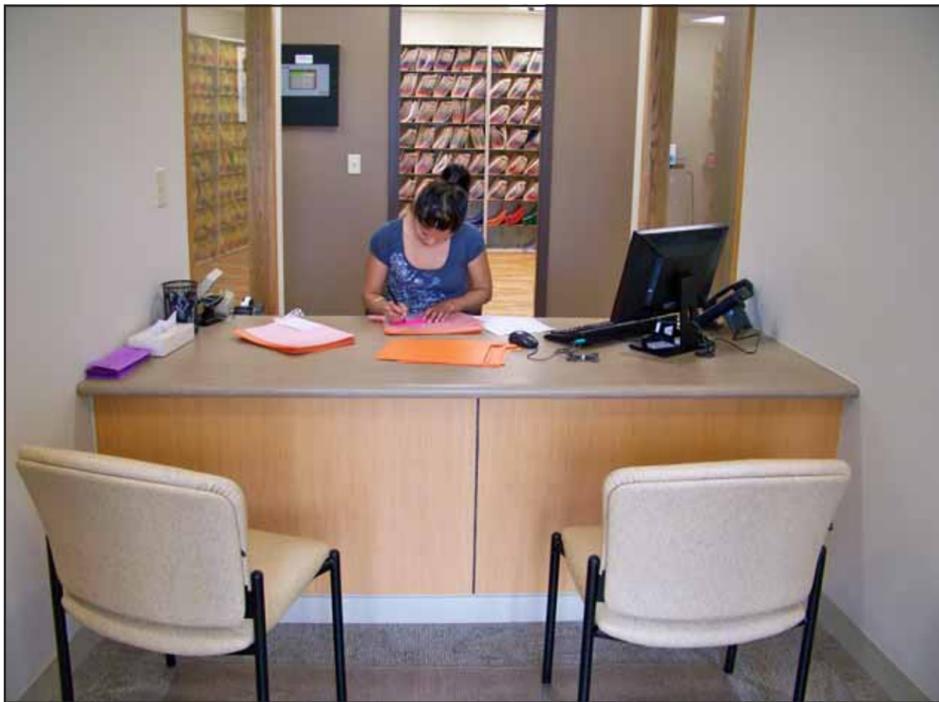
- Earmarks from Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)

- Federal stimulus funds for capital projects from the Department of Health and Human Services

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Iowa Department of Economic Development (through the Louisa County Board of Supervisors)

- USDA Rural Development Grant

- Jump Start Iowa flood recovery



View of one of the three reception desks in the new Health Center

ery funding

- Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation large capital grant

The new Columbus City clinic is one of six community health center clinic (CHC) sites of CHC/SEIA in West Burlington and Keokuk, IA, as well as Hamilton and Warsaw, IL.

CHC/SEIA is one of 12 CHC

organizations in Iowa. CHC/SEIA served 18,114 individuals in CY2009 at its six clinic sites, providing 67,020 medical and dental visits to the area's residents.

CHCs are organized as not-for-profit organizations providing a comprehensive health care home for area residents. CHCs have a special focus to provide primary

health care to those with limited resources (though anyone may enroll as a patient).

CHC/SEIA expects to continue to actively provide use of health care reform funding directed to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to expand primary medical and dental service while initiating behavioral health care.

New parent organization meets with School Board

By Jim Rudisill

Booster groups for athletics and music have contributed to the success of those programs in many schools, and a group of Columbus School District parents are hoping a similar parent-involvement group at Columbus will have the same effect on academics. Spokesperson Stephanie Duncan told the school board about the plan during its regular June 21 meeting. "There is nothing in place to support academics," Duncan told the board, explaining the idea of creating the Columbus Community Parent Organization (CCPO) developed during a recent meeting.

She said around a dozen parents and one grandparent had met last week to discuss ways they could help the district's students improve their academic achievements. As they continued to discuss ideas, the proposal to form a parent-involvement group that would focus on increasing students' academic success gradually began to form.

Duncan said studies she had reviewed all pointed to improved test scores, increased literacy and other positive results when parents became involved in their children's academic efforts. "Parent involvement is critical to the improvement of our schools," Duncan said.

In addition to establishing a parent-involvement group, those at the meeting also identified two goals for the group, Duncan reported. One goal would be to build school pride and the second would focus on developing a parent nurturing system.

Duncan suggested a variety of methods to reach those goals, which included working with teachers to create a room parent program, offer educational forums, establish a parent volunteer program in the secondary buildings and other activities. She also requested the board allow

the group to set up a table during school registration to provide information to parents.

She said some of the methods, such as the room parent idea, would boost parental exposure to students and show them adults other than teachers and administrators were interested in the school. She said that exposure would be especially important at the secondary level. The overall intent however would always focus on the students' academic programs. "We want to focus on making student academic achievement the number one priority," Duncan said.

While school board members agreed the concept of parental involvement was good, there was some concern that another parent-based organization might dilute other similar efforts.

Board President Marsha Gerot said the athletic boosters had tried to promote some academic programs without much success. "I think you will have (a hard task) motivating parents," she worried.

Board member Sandy Martin agreed and suggested the new group and the groups already established develop a cooperative approach. "We seem to be working for the same (goal)," she said.

Duncan agreed and said collaboration was an area her group was already investigating.

Board member Polly Prior said she hoped the new group would also look at developing efforts to reach more at-risk students. "Any ideas for reaching out to (them)?" she asked.

Duncan said the group planned to use library resources and also seek help from key members of the various cultural communities in the district to accomplish that task.

One area that Duncan said the group did not plan to spend much time on was fundraising. She said that was one reason there had not been a

strong push to develop a local chapter of some other well-known group, such as the PTO. Duncan said the CCPO would likely hold some fundraisers, but its primary focus would remain student achievement.

Board members said they would review Duncan's presentation and likely would have more questions during next month's meeting.

In other action, the board approved the hiring of Shane Rosenberg as the new Roundy Elementary Principal. Rosenberg will replace Dan Vogeler, who has transferred to director of maintenance and grounds, athletic director and other duties. Rosenberg and his wife Kim have four children. He previously taught 10 years in the Clear Creek-Amana School District, where he was a school administration manager/facilitator for the past two years. His salary was set at \$70,000.

The board also accepted the res-

ignations of several district staff, including elementary art instructor Alicia Carrdus; elementary ESL teacher Molly Keese; elementary associate Marianne Hunt; assistant football coach Tony Simmons; and Katie Barth, who conducts the district program for hearing impaired students.

In final action, the board reviewed the 2009-10 goals for the school board, school district and superintendent; and will consider new goals at next month's meeting.

The board also agreed to begin holding board workshops on the first Monday of each month to discuss issues of interest. The board's regular business meeting would continue to be held most months on the third Monday. Gerot suggested the workshop meetings, explaining they would offer the board an opportunity to more fully discuss or investigate some issues.

City hires new Police Officer



Pictured above is Mayor Dan Wilson and Police Chief Donnie Orr with Columbus Junction's new police officer, Brett Michels, 24 years old from Mason City, Iowa. Submitted photo.

Wapello All-Alumni Banquet

The planning committee for the Wapello All-Alumni Banquet needs to know if any graduates did not receive letters regarding the July 17 event. Anyone who did not get the letter is asked to contact Jean Brauns at 319-523-3462 or by email at bjbrauns@mchsi.com or Paula Buckman at pbuckman@louisacomm.net. The letters are needed for making reservations.

Cotter Alumni Banquet

The Cotter Graduating Class of 1947 will host the Cotter Alumni, and spouses, on Sunday afternoon, July 25th, at the Senior Center in Columbus Junction, starting at 1 p.m. Also invited are those students who were juniors, sophomores and freshmen in 1957, who graduated from Columbus Junction in 1958, 1959, and 1960. There will be a short meeting, refreshments and reminiscing. We encourage all alumni to contact classmates and other graduates to make sure everyone gets the message.

Briefly -

City Council to meet tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold its regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, June 23, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Columbus City changes council date

Columbus City will hold their regular July Council meeting on Wednesday, July 7, 2010, at 6 p.m., at City Hall, due to the 4th of July holiday.

Area kids who like music wanted

Wanted: Columbus Junction area kids who like to have fun, love music and action! If your kids can answer "yes" to this "want" ad, and are in grades preschool-3rd grade, please contact Lana Todd at 319-728-7718 or send an email to mltodd@iowatelecom.net. Fascinating characters are revealed in an extraordinary combination of drama and music. Dancing bugs, magical chefs, ringmasters and Snobby Pears are just a few of the "Fun with Composers" music program! Come on in and join the fun!

Empowerment Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa County Caring CommUNITY Empowerment Board will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA, today, Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Conesville Town Wide yard sales

Conesville Town Wide Yard Sales July 10th 7 am to? If interested in having a yard sale please sign up at Pipers in Conesville, IA with address, phone number and brief description of items, or email Scott at cawboy24up@msn.com, or call and leave message at 319-631-0244. Deadline for sign up is June 25th to be put on the map.

2010 County Fair dates set

The dates for the 2010 Louisa County Fair are: July 24 - Parade and Fair Kickoff; and Fair - dates July 26-31. Dates for the Iowa State Fair are August 12-22.

At the Farmers' Market this week

The Columbus Junction Farmers' Market is held Fridays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. through October 8 at the American Legion parking lot, 99 Second St., Columbus Junction. The market features regional vendors selling Iowa-grown produce, plants, baked goods, eggs, snacks, crafts and more. Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, IFMNP/WIC checks, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition checks and Louisa Bucks are welcome. Buy local and taste the difference! This week we'll have free CJ Farmers' Market refrigerator magnets thanks to the community Foundation of Louisa County and free marigold seeds courtesy of Keep Columbus Beautiful.

LDG to hold Annual Meeting

The Louisa Development Group plans its Annual Meeting for Tuesday, June 29. The meeting will be held at the Morning Sun Community Center, and will begin at 6 p.m. Rand Fisher, President of Iowa Area Development Group, will be the featured speaker. An Iowa smoked pork chop dinner, with all the trimmings, will be served. Tickets are \$20 per person. Those attending are asked to RSVP to ldg@louisacomm.net (or call 319-523-2371) by June 23.

Roundy Library open

Every Wednesday through the end of July, the Roundy Elementary library will be open from 9:00 a.m.-12:30p.m. Kids can come in to check out books or sit and read.

Potluck at the Senior Center

The Columbus Senior Center is hosting a community potluck dinner on Thursday, June 24th, 2010 at Noon. Please come and bring a covered dish. Table service, drinks and meat will be provided. Call 319-728-8905 and leave a message if you can attend. Come have an afternoon of good food and community fellowship.

Blood Drive in Wapello

The University of Iowa DeGowin Blood Center along with UI Health Care Wapello will be conducting a blood drive from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, June 25, 2010 at the Wapello Ambulance Barn, 400 US 61 S. To schedule a time to donate, call UI Health Care Wapello at 319-523-8205. Walk-ins welcome! Donors who last gave blood on or before April 30, 2010 are eligible. Donors must be in general good health, be cold and flu symptom free for 5 days, weigh at least 110 lbs and bring a photo ID. Donors must be 17 years of age to donate, 16 with an approved UI DeGowin consent form. Blood donation is a safe and simple and only takes about 1 hour. The need for blood remains high during the summer months and it is especially critical to maintain an adequate blood supply before the long July 4th weekend. Each week the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics uses approximately 600 blood products. Blood collected by the UI DeGowin Blood Center is for use by patients at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. If you have questions concerning your eligibility please call the UI DeGowin Blood Center at 319-356-2058.

SEIRP to hold Public Meeting on home down payment help

Louisa County is applying for dollars that will assist low to moderate income families with rehabilitation and down payment assistance. This is part of the Great River Housing Trust Fund's application to the Iowa Finance Authority. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Morning Sun City Council Chambers at City Hall, 11 East Division Street. Representatives from the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (SEIRPC) and the Great River Housing Trust Fund will be available to explain the program. Such items as to who is eligible, what work items can be done to homes, the application/verification procedure, and other program procedures will be discussed. If you have any questions, please call Dan Eberhardt of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (753-5107).

Breakfast Buffets at Opera House delayed until Fall

Due to other commitments and business: The Ainsworth Opera House will not be having breakfast buffets until October 2, 2010. Thank you to everyone who has been attending and we will be back as good as ever we hope.

Area School Reunions Wyman Alumni Banquet

The 75th Wyman School Alumni Banquet will be held on Saturday July 10, 2010 in the United Church of Crawfordsville with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and the banquet starting at 6:30 p.m. all alumni, former school employees, anyone who ever attended Wyman School, and all other friends who have an interest in the school and community are invited to attend. The committee is planning on a record attendance in recognition of this very special occasion, 75 years of Wyman Alumni Banquets! Honored classes will be 1940, 1950, and 1955. For more information, or to make reservations, please call Frieda Finke 319-658-2316 before June 30. The class of 1956 was the last to graduate from Wyman High School before the school became a part of the Winfield-Mt. Union School District. The Wyman School building was then used as an elementary center for the WMU School District until it was closed in 1978.