

# Legacy of Progress continues in town

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

An unprecedented period of growth hit the Columbus Community in the early 1960's when Rath Packing decided to locate a plant here. This announcement preceded a number of new ventures taken on by citizens that are still being enjoyed today.

The Ross Addition, along with other housing developments, was erected and many new homes sprouted up in the community.

A golf course was planned and built, primarily with local labor. At the same time a group of citizens determined that a swimming pool was needed, and again with volunteers, this dream became a reality.

Many new businesses began, and existing businesses flourished with the increase in residents. Social organizations were formed, and churches were built or increased to accommodate the citizenry.

Now, nearly fifty years later, we are continue to see this growth in the form of another wave of new services. Last week the new County-wide Regional Health Center officially opened their doors with a ribbon cutting, shown in the photo, upper right. This Center was a vision of area individuals, not governmental agencies, that saw the need for the Center, and pursued the possibility of locating it here. And with a lot of determination and hard work, the center is now serving many of our residents.

Also, this weekend will mark the grand opening of Louisa County's first assisted living facility, pictured at right. Colonial Heights will provide assisted living for nine living units at the present time, with room for expansion when needed. This facility is also an effort accomplished by private individuals. Although Colonial Manor is a corporation, it is owned by local stockholders and overseen by a local Board that provides day to day management. These individuals saw the need for the facility, determined to get it built, and were willing to forego dividends on their stock for the foreseeable future to pay for it.

Just like we saw in the early 1960's, local individuals, not governmental agencies or charitable groups, determined needs that our community required, came together to figure out a way to provide these services, and displayed a sense of stick-



to-itiveness to get it done. We can always take pride that we are a community of do'ers. If it needs to get done, we'll find a way to do it. Congratulations to everyone who was involved in both of these great projects. (Turn to page 8 for more photos and an invitation to the Colonial Heights open house.)

## Windstream representatives bring "Random Acts of Kindness"

By Deb Bean  
Gazette Staff

On Friday a couple of team members from the Windstream Company visited Columbus Junction providing Random Acts of Kindness to some people as a way to say "thank you!" to Iowa and for the company to get to know more about rural communities in Iowa. Windstream will be taking over Iowa Telecom services.

Windstream is an S&P 500 company with communications operations in 21 states and about \$3.7 billion in annual revenues. Windstream provides phone, high-speed Internet and high-definition digital TV services. The company also offers a wide range of IP-based voice and data services and advanced phone systems and equipment to businesses and government agencies. As of March 31, 2010, the Company served approximately 3.1 million access lines and 1.2 million high-speed Internet customers. The company's stock trades on the Nasdaq exchange under the ticker symbol "WIN."

Their name may be new in Iowa, but their roots run deep. Windstream Communications has a long and proud legacy of serving mostly rural customers throughout 23 states.



Russ Levinson (left) and David Arkles of Windstream brought the Green Truck Tour through Columbus Junction Friday surprising many residents with their "Random Acts of Kindness". Among those to receive the windfalls, were patrons at the LaHacienda, who were treated to lunch and flowers. Carmen Barragan was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers by the Windstream representatives. Photo by Tammy K. Virzi

## 4th of July

By Elizabeth Miller

Declaration of Independence, July 4 - 1776

Be proud and show respect fly the Star Spangle Banner  
Overland of opportunity,  
Give honor to Veterans,  
Soldiers and Disabled Veterans  
Of all past wars and present wars  
Observe Independence Day,  
Show our Americanism by  
Flying old Glory and singing the Star Spangled Banner  
That we live in U.S.A.  
God Bless U.S.A.

## Foundation Grant to Keck Library

Rose Carlson and Bev Paris, representing Friends of Keck Memorial Library received a grant of \$1,000 for their "Encourage and Challenge Young Readers Program" presented by Rondalyn Weyrick, Board member of the Community Foundation of Louisa County (on right). Submitted photo.



## Briefly -

### Columbus City Council meets tonight

Columbus City will hold their regular July Council meeting today, Wednesday, July 7, 2010, at 6 p.m., at City Hall.

### Cotter Alumni Banquet changes location

The new location will be the American Legion Building. The date and time will remain the same - Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. We encourage all alumni to contact classmates and other alumni regarding the change of venue.

### 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.

### This week at the Farmers' Market

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.

### No Visual Support Group meeting this month

There will be no Louisa County Visual Support Group in July due to the many activities surrounding Chief Wapello Days. We will continue our meetings on the third Thursday in August.

### Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark club will meet Thursday July 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Johnnie "B" in Wapello. Please note the change of date.

### Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet Tuesday evening, July 13, at 7 o'clock. There will be installation of new officers. Elizabeth Miller will be hostess.

## Community Foundation Connection

By Paula Buckman

People have often gotten the Community Foundation of Louisa County confused with the Louisa Development Group. This is understandable for two reasons: 1) both organizations are dedicated to maintaining a bright future for Louisa County and 2) up until last fall, the Director of LDG also served as the secretary for the Community Foundation. The organizations, however, are very different. LDG is focused on economic development and initiatives that improve economic, social, and recreational environments in the county. The main purpose of the Community Foundation is to build Louisa County endowment funds that will support charitable causes and quality of life initiatives now and in the future. The function and motto of the Community Foundation is to "connect people who care with causes that matter". The Community Foundation Board decided that the Foundation needed to make a greater effort in making those connections. In order to focus more on communication, the board decided to discontinue contracting with LDG for secretarial support, and I agreed to become the Director of the Community Foundation of Louisa County (CFLC).

Even though the Community Foundation has been in existence since 2005, many people are unaware of how it can help them realize their objectives of supporting organizations and causes in the long term. An endowment fund is a permanent fund from which the earnings can be drawn to support the intended purpose of the fund - or as we like to say, "a fund is For Good For Ever". For example, Jeanette Luthly established a scholarship fund for Columbus students that annually awards a \$500 scholarship, and Ardith Ostrem set up a "Friend of the Library" fund. The Morning Sun Development Corp is currently raising funds for an endowment fund that will help with the annual operating costs of the new Community Center. These are specific funds, however, there is also a general Louisa County endowment fund from which the Community Foundation Board can draw earnings to make

grants to non-profit organizations.

The State of Iowa is steadfast supporter of Community Foundations. The State encouraged the creation of Community Foundations by annually dedicating a percentage of the tax they receive from gambling operations to Community Foundations. The Community Foundation of Louisa County became an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Great River Bend in 2005 so that we could receive these funds. For the past five years, CFLC has made grants of almost \$300,000 to local organizations from these funds. The State also entrusted Community Foundations with the disbursement of over eight million in Embrace Iowa Funds to flood victims following the 2008 flood because they know that Community Foundations are professionally managed and are trusted fiduciary. The State of Iowa also encourages people to invest in their Community Foundation by offering an Iowa tax credit for donations made to Community Foundations. For 2010, this tax credit is 25% of the donation.

Whether a person wants to set up a specific fund to support a cause they are passionate about or wants to make the Community Foundation part of their annual giving, supporting the Community Foundation is a win-win combination for the giver and the community. For more information about the community foundation, contact Paula Buckman at 319-868-4240 or pbuckman@louisacomm.net.