

Locally Owned and Operated at its Finest

Briefly -

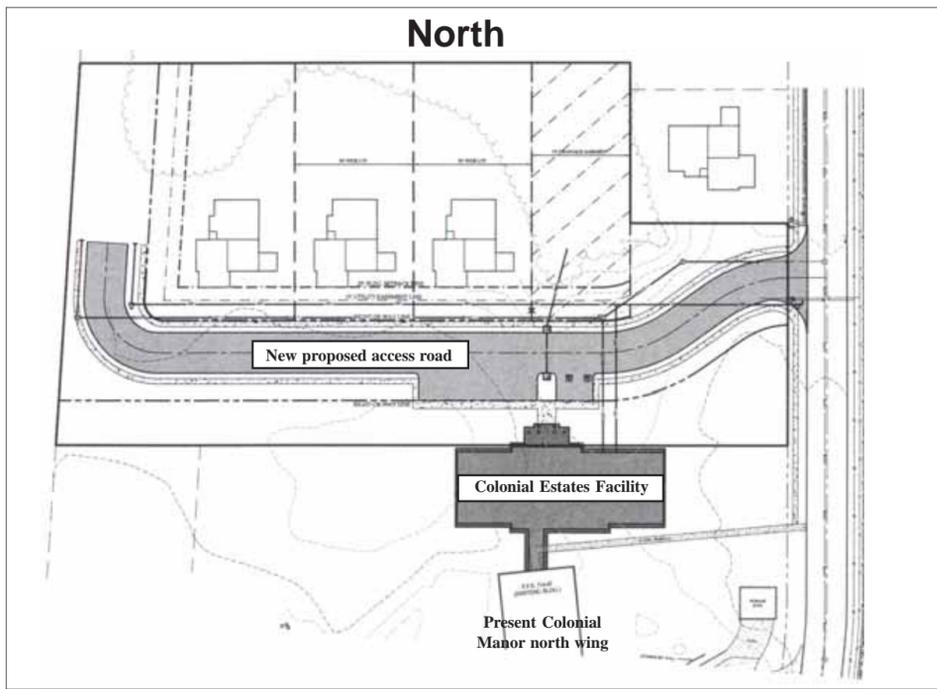
By John Carpenter, Gazette Staff and Molly Bausch and Bobbie Shirkey, Colonial Manor Staff

In 1995 the stockholders of Colonial Manor made a decision that, although hardly noticed by the public, has since made a significant impact on the quality of life in the Columbus Community. Since its inception, the Manor had been operated by outside management firms. This was common among small community nursing homes. Also, many communities in that era were selling their nursing homes to larger operations. However, the stockholders committed in 1995 to not only keep the ownership local, but also decided to take over the day to day operation of Colonial Manor.

This was a significant move that the stockholders made and has subsequently laid the groundwork for an operation that has reached a level of service to the area that was unthinkable then. By making this decision, the stockholders made a statement to the community that service, rather than profit, would be the primary goal of the Manor. The Colonial Manor stockholders recognized that they needed to be in a position to provide services that extended beyond simply a nursing home facility. It was becoming apparent then that there were more levels of care needed by the elderly in the community than nursing home residency. Studies showed that when one reaches a certain point in their life they want to continue to live independently in their home, but in an environment where items such as maintenance, lawn care and snow removal were provided.

In 1998 after researching the possibilities, the Manor stockholders made a major investment and built duplexes known as Colonial Heights. The Colonial Heights duplex units are two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments that are completely maintenance free. Tenants enjoy coming and going as they choose - living a completely independent lifestyle without the headaches and expense of home ownership. Colonial Heights has expanded from the original 4-units to 8-units to keep up with community demand.

In keeping with the original



Proposed drawing of the new Colonial Estates Assisted Living Facility

theme of providing quality services to the community, the stockholders have recognized a level of care still missing, Assisted Living. No assisted living facilities presently exist in Louisa County. Area residents looking for this level of care are forced to leave the community and the County. Again, as in 1998, the Manor stockholders were willing to make a major investment for their neighbors. Plans have recently been unveiled for Colonial Estates, an assisted living facility to be erected on the north side of Colonial Manor.

Colonial Estates will be a new modern assisted living facility with its own entrance from a new street accessed from Colonial Avenue. Yet the facility will be attached to Colonial Manor with a breezeway at the rear of the building. The breezeway will allow access to Colonial Manor for staff and residents, without having to leave the indoor comfort and safety. Residents of Colonial Estates can be as comfortable and independent as they choose by being surrounded by their own furnishings in-

side one of the 9-individual living units (apartments) - complete with a bedroom, bathroom with shower, living room, and kitchenette. Residents can also choose to utilize the many services offered by the assisted living staff, such as - laundry, house-keeping, bathing, meal, or medication assistance services. Residents and their families can take advantage of the facilities large community kitchen for family gatherings or to bake a simple batch of cookies. Some of the other amenities would include a large front room, dining room, a study with a fireplace, and a laundry room.

Nine living units are planned for the facility, with room for expansion if necessary. Several interested parties have already inquired and a waiting list is established for those wanting to reserve a unit. The Manor Board hopes to begin preliminary dirt excavation work soon, with completion in the summer of 2010.

When Colonial Estates is completed, all three levels of care now needed for the elderly will be available in the Columbus Community.

This would be very surprising for an outsider to understand how a community of our size could provide these levels of service for our community, but it certainly is no surprise to those of us who have witnessed the foresight and concern that the stockholders and board members of Colonial Manor have shown for their neighbors. Since its inception, compassion and the concern for the welfare of others, rather than dividends and profits, have been the return that those who invested in Colonial Manor have been most interested in. And this can only be accomplished when the facility is owned by local individuals who truly care. This was evident in 1975 when the stockholders came together to build Colonial Manor, it was emphasized again in 1995 when the stockholders elected to retain local management, in 1998 with the building of the Colonial Heights duplexes, and it continues today with the launching of the Colonial Estates assisted living facility.

(The Gazette will keep you updated on the construction progress.)

Bill and Helen Edwards inducted into 4-H Hall of Fame

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

Imagine a family tradition that has served over 113 years. If you can fathom that, then we are pleased to tell you about the Bill and Helen Edwards' family of rural Columbus Junction. A family history, rich in 4-H beef projects and other 4-H projects. On August 23, Bill and Helen will be inducted into the 2009 4-H Alumni Hall of Fame at this year's Iowa State Fair. "We were so surprised and honored when we received the phone call from Kathy Vance," smiles the couple. Seems that their friends, the Keith Hiller family, sent in the nomination for the couple.

The Edwards family's dedication to 4-H dates back to Bill's grandfather, Louis. Old records in Louisa County history books told of Louis and his Black Angus beef. In 1940 Bill carried on his family's 4-H devotion by becoming a 4-H member.

One fond memory Bill has is in 1945 winning grand champion at the county fair, and his brother winning reserve champion. What amuses the family today is the price Bill's grand champion sold for, \$26 per hundred-weight, while the sale average was \$18.15. Bill also remembers their show ring as being nothing more than a rope strung in a circle on posts. People brought their own chairs because there were no bleachers. Bill also remembers playing 4-H basketball at Columbus Junction. Cotter, Letts and Wapello. Bill showed a total of 6 years at the Iowa State Fair and 2 years at the International in Chicago.

Helen also was a 4-H member growing up in Wyman. She remembers each club hosting other clubs and picking clover from fields and putting them on thin ropes and then laying the rope out in the shape of the clover and having to stand at the

points and recite the responsibilities of their county offices. She remembers in 1953 her dad, Bob Richardson and Keith Hiller helping tear down the old Eclipse Lumber Yard and using that lumber to build the cattle barn that still sits on the Louisa County Fair grounds today.

Bill Edwards and Helen, his wife of 58 years, have a lot to be thankful for. Five of their kids, Roger, Rob, Julie (Farrier), Joyce (Crawford) and Joanne live within minutes of their home and Keith, their eldest son, lives just a few hours away. One thing the couple takes pride in is that their kids and grandkids have carried on their tradition of being a 4-H family.

Bill and Helen met in Morning Sun, Iowa at a 4-H county wide skating party when one of Bill's cousins dared him to ask Helen to skate. The teenagers rolled right into a dating relationship for 2 1/2 years and then married on May 20, 1951.

After the couple married they made their home in Haskins for approximately seven years. Bill served in the Marine Corp from November of 1951 through December of 1953. The couple then moved west of Columbus City and lived there for approximately thirteen years and then the family moved to the family farm and lived and farmed Bill's parents' place, (Evan and Mary Edwards.) In 1994 Bill and Helen built a new home on the Edwards farm. Their youngest son, Rob, and his family now reside at the Edwards homestead. Just a few yards away live one of their grandsons, Wade.

For twenty-five years Bill led a local boys' 4-H Club, the JCAB, which stands for Just Common American Boys. His three sons belonged and Helen led the Louisa County 4-H Club, the Cloverleaf's, for approximately ten years which her three daughters belonged. After Bill



retired from leading, his son, Roger, took over leadership of the JCAB club and then when he quit his son, Wade, took over leadership of the JCAB club. After Bill decided to retire his family and club members decided to have a party to show how much they appreciated his years of dedication to the county and the club. They contacted all the boys he had under his leadership and past helpers and at the Louisa County Fairgrounds had a big reunion party for him and presented him with a 25 year plaque. "I think there were between, 125 to 150 people at the reunion. We had people get up and talk about their experiences with their leader, Bill, and with 4-H, it was really nice," smiles the couple.

In 1977 Helen decided to retire from leading the girls 4-H. Her club surprised her with a beautiful handmade quilt. Each member making a picture and signing their names on it. "It was a beautiful gift and something I cherish to this day," smiles Helen.

The Edwards family has a lot of fond memories of their 4-H life. They stayed with the Black Angus breed

in many of its projects, but because of Bill and Helen's philosophy, other breeds were important as well. By switching to other breeds their children raised beef more economically, earning a larger profit at the end of each of their projects. Their beef projects became the Edwards kids' opportunity to learn how to earn and save money for their future. Teaching the kids that their hard work, commitment and making a profit with their projects is what 4-H is all about. The diligence of their parents paid off when all six of their kids attended college, paying their tuition with their 4-H earnings.

You can bet when this family gets together they can get out their record books and thumb through page after page of photos and memories of numerous awards and trophies. Such as when Joyce answered a judge's first question correctly while being judged on showmanship and then couldn't answer his other questions, and when

Edwards 4-H.....
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C.C.I.C. to meet

C.C.I.C. will be going out to eat on Tuesday night, August 25th. Please meet at the Columbus City City Hall at 5:30 p.m., to car pool.

Columbus City seeks council candidates

The City of Columbus City will have the following seats up for election this year: Two Council member seats and the Mayor. If you would like to run for election, please pick up nomination forms from the City Clerk starting August 24, 2009. City Hall is open on Monday nights from 4-6 p.m., or you may call Lisa Hills at the Columbus Junction State Bank at 319-728-2436. Last day to file for office will be September 17, 2009.

CCHS Class of 1994 to hold reunion

The CCHS Class of 1994 will be having their 15-year class reunion on Saturday, August 29 at 3:00 PM at the Mary Marr Lodge in Marr Park, Ainsworth, Iowa. There will be a kickball tournament at 4:00 PM. The meal will take place at 6:00 PM. Bring the family. For further details contact Shannon (Story) Hampson at shannon-hampson@uiowa.edu or 319-360-8256.

EGGS-citing news

EGGS-citing news...let's get cacklin'! Let's all meet Wednesday, August 26th for 6:00 P.M. peckin' and eatin' at The 92 Roadhouse. Expect egg-cellent company, scrambled chatter and a really good time. Spread the word. You know egg-sactly who you are. Contact Gail if you have any questions. Mark your calendar!

Habitat to take Fall Trip

Louisa County Habitat For Humanity is taking a fall trip to the Kane County flea market on **Saturday, October 3**. We will leave the Wapello Museum at 7:30 A.M., pick up at Grandview if needed, then pick up at Muscatine HyVee parking lot 8:00 A.M. Last day to reserve is September 29. Cost is \$60 per person. Send checks ASAP to get your name on the list to: Ruth Yakle, 110 N. Pine Street, Wapello, IA 52653. If we don't have at least 40 people for the trip, it may have to be canceled. Everyone welcome to go!

Indian Creek Cemetery annual meeting

Indian Creek Cemetery will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, August 25th at 5:00 p.m. at the Cemetery.

Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Visual Support Group will meet at 1 p.m. on Thursday, August 20th at the Sub Station on Highway 61 in Wapello. Woody Ross, a Master Gardener, will talk with us about roses. We welcome visitors and if you are just starting to have eye problems, our group may just be the support you need. Lois Richers: 527-2630.

"Meet the School Board Candidates" night scheduled

A "Meet the School Board Candidates" night will be held at the High School Student Center on Thursday, August 20th beginning at 7:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Columbus Education Association and the Columbus Gazette.

Radio Club "Hamfest" scheduled

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club and the Washington Area Amateur Radio Club will present the 25 Annual Southeast Iowa Hamfest on Sunday, October 4th at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds in West Liberty, Iowa. The hamfest features indoor and outdoor flea market, commercial vendors, license testing, food and drink. Gates open at 7:00 am. All tickets are \$5. Children age 14 and under are admitted free. For more information, visit www.muscatinehams.org or call Tom Brehmer, at (563) 263-3097.

Fredonia seeks Council Candidate

The city of Fredonia is seeking an applicant for a city council seat. Deadline to apply is Monday, September 14, 2009. Contact Mayor Al Sonderberg for details.

Louisa County Tractor Ride

MORNING SUN, Iowa - The 5th annual Louisa County Tractor Ride is planned for Sunday, Aug. 30. There is a 10 mph minimum. The unloading area is at the Morning Sun elevator. Tractors and drivers should meet at 8 a.m. at the Morning Sun Care Center four blocks west of the elevator. The Morning Sun Care Center staff will provide a continental breakfast. Roll out begins at 9 a.m. There will be stops at area care centers along the 44-mile route. Lunch will be provided by Elder Implement and served by the Louisa County Cattleman's Association. For more information, call Lee Harris at 319-868-7872; Dwight Schaper at 319-728-8961 or Dan Harris at 319-850-8188.

Farmers' Market this Friday

Fridays 4:30 to 6:30 at the American Legion parking lot, through October 9. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, homemade noodles, jams and jellies, frozen meat, plants, iced tea and lemonade, crafts and even dog treats! Buy fresh and local - taste the difference. Support the local economy. For more information including how to participate as a vendor contact Mallory or Nitza at 319-728-7971.

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Civic Center.

Booster Club meeting tonight

A Columbus Booster Club meeting will be held tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the high school student center. All those interested in keeping the Booster Club active are encouraged to attend.