

SOUTHWEST IOWA

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Staff photo/Tim Johnson

Arlon Anderson warms up for a performance Friday on the organ he and Hugh Stuckey donated to Woodlands Rehabilitation Center.

Woodlands Rehab receives 'organ' donation

TIM JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Woodlands Rehabilitation Center is one of the few nursing homes that has received an organ donation.

Arlon Anderson and Hugh Stuckey gave Woodlands a Conn Theater Deluxe organ in memory of their parents, Harry and Ethel Anderson and George and Della Stuckey.

They donated the electric organ to Glendale Presbyterian Church, where Anderson is organist, about four years ago and recently purchased a replacement for it. Woodlands Rehab became its new home about six weeks ago. Anderson played a concert for residents on it Friday.

"I play here four or five times a year for them, at least, and they had an older instrument that really was not in very good shape and not much fun to play," he said. "They like organ, and I thought this would be a good place for it."

The gift came as a surprise to Woodlands officials, said Karen Montgomery, activity coordinator.

"He's been here to play, and he's played on our smaller organ," she said. "He asked if we wanted a bigger organ, and he said if we accepted, he would come and play more

often - so that sounded good."

Anderson was born and raised in Council Bluffs and graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School. He learned to play bagpipes and accordion as a youth and started taking organ lessons while studying agriculture at Iowa State University.

"I really became enamored of it when I was in college," he said. "When I went to Iowa State, that was the first time I ever heard a pipe organ."

Anderson served as organist at the former Grace Presbyterian Church, then moved to California and played at Disneyland for six years, said Stuckey, who is also a music buff but not a musician. When he came back, he opened Sandy's Keyboard World at Crossroads Mall in Omaha. When the demand for organs declined, he and Stuckey went into the restaurant business. They were partners in the Boardwalk Café in Omaha before their retirement.

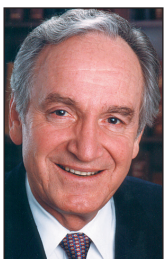
"It was kind of as a favor he started playing out at Glendale," Stuckey said.

Said Anderson, "They asked me to play temporarily. I think that was about 12 years ago."

Anderson belongs to the River City Theater Organ Society, a chapter of the American Theater Organ Society.

Harkin announces grant funding for farmers markets

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, has announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will now accept applications for competitive grants for the Farmers Market Promotion Program.



Harkin

Harkin successfully included the Farmers Market Promotion program - which provides funds to improve and expand farmers markets, roadside stands, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities - in the 2002 farm bill. Harkin is the ranking Democratic member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

"While debating the farm bill, I worked to include the Farmers Market Promotion

Program because I wanted to empower farmers by helping promote farmers markets and other rural development opportunities," Harkin said. "By helping people organize, plan, and expand farmers markets across Iowa, this program will create a win-win situation. Consumers will gain a greater awareness of and increased access to healthy products fresh off the farm and our agricultural producers will boost their income."

The Agricultural Marketing Service at USDA will take applications and proposals until the close of business on May 1. For instructions on how to apply for the farmers market grant, go to: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/MSB/index.htm>. Agricultural cooperatives, local governments, nonprofit corporations, public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers market authorities and tribal governments are all eligible to apply.



Submitted photos

Above, before the contest: The backyard of Dr. Kent and Deanna Boese looked rather plain before they took part in the Ultimate Backyard Challenge. Below, after the contest: Their backyard now features an open kitchen and gas fire pit for grilling and a 6-foot-high limestone waterfall. The Boeses won the challenge from among 13 metro area participants.

The Great Outdoors

Bluffs backyard voted best

TIM ROHWER
Staff Writer

Call it a local version of the popular television show that features extreme makeovers on homes.

In this case, it's called the Ultimate Backyard Challenge, a contest among Omaha/Council Bluffs area contractors to promote the creative use of new residential hardscape products and to promote the concept of outdoor, backyard living to homeowners.

"It's using the backyard as a retreat," said Robin Drovil, spokeswoman for the challenge. "An area for entertaining, relaxing and enjoying."

Fourteen metro contractors

participated in the challenge of making someone's backyard the ultimate in living enjoyment. There were 13 backyard entries from around the metro area, including one from Council Bluffs - that of Dr. Kent and Deanna Boese of 23867 Dogwood Road.

Three local landscape architects, including Dolores Silkworth of RDG Planning and Design, who is heavily involved in the Bayliss Park renovation project, judged the entries recently.

The homeowners and the contractors got together in Millard Wednesday to learn who won the challenge.

Envelope, please ... the Boese family of Council Bluffs.

"We enjoy it, and when people come over they compliment it," Kent Boese said.

Before the Boese family took part in the challenge last summer, their backyard was "a swing set in a grassy backyard," he said.

Boese was planning to do some minor landscaping after an addition was put on to cover the back porch. His landscaper, Jason Plog of Independent Landscaping Co., mentioned the challenge contest. To help with the costs, each participant would get discounts on products from Watkins Concrete Block Co. Inc. of Omaha, which was sponsoring the event. Both Plog and Premier Landscape Construction Co., headed by

John LaRondeau, went to work.

The result was an outdoor kitchen and gas fire pit on a round brick paved area. The contractors also built a 6-foot-high limestone waterfall with water flowing down in all directions.

"It's a fabulous water feature," said Boese, who works at Miller Orthopaedic.

Sure, it was an expensive project, but as he said, a backyard "is an extension of your home, a place to be and to entertain. We've always had a nice yard, but now it's wonderful."

For its efforts, Premier Landscape won a \$40,000 Ford truck.

