

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Thursday, May 6, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 94



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Miller-Meeks touts marina plan

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Newly elected Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks informed city officials on Friday that she is going to propose the new Fort Madison marina project for federal stimulus funding.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa 2nd) called him Friday to let him know that she is considering the project, which carries an initial price tag of \$6 million, a top project on her list for funds earmarked out of the latest federal pandemic stimulus package.

“She called me and we talked about 20 minutes and she is bringing our marina project, as one of her 10, forward for the



MILLER-MEEKS



MOHRFELD

community projects that are going to the federal government for funding to the tune of \$750,000.”

Mohrfeld said Miller-Meeks not only liked the project to bring forward, but was going to submit it for funding as one

of her top projects.

He said that doesn't guarantee funding, but as the list gets whittled down the marina project could hold up because it has the elements the government is looking for in projects to fund.

See **PROJECT**, page 8

HUMPHREY BUILDING

City awaits legal opinion on historic structure

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison officials walked through the now-vacated Humphrey building in downtown Fort Madison last week to make sure that the building was empty.

Then they changed the locks and now have access to start making repairs to the building to shore it up, market the building to potential developers or tear it down, but city Building Director Doug Krogmeier cautioned the process could be slow.

“We went in last Tuesday and walked the entire building to make sure there's nobody in the building and then changed all the locks and tagged it unsafe,” Krogmeier said at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

“For the time being it will be vacant and basically under our control so we can get contractors in their to shore up the east end and know that nobody is in there safety wise.”

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker asked Krogmeier what the next steps are for the building.

Krogmeier said if the city shores up the building there would be an opportunity to open it up and relinquish control, but he said the city's attorney will have to have a role in that.

He said the city doesn't own the building. According to Iowa code it would have to sit vacant for six months before court proceedings could begin.

Councilwoman Donna Amandus asked if the city put the money into repairing the building could it recoup those costs

Krogmeier said the city could put a lien on the building, but probably wouldn't see the money repaid.

Councilman Rusty Andrews said taking possession of the building probably isn't in the city's best interest.

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said the city should facilitate getting the building into the hands of a developer.

“There has been some activity. One of

See **BUILDING**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier and FFA Secretary Trey Wellman talk with U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst in the hallway prior to Ernst's remarks at the school's FFA Banquet Wednesday night.

CITY NEWS

City puts properties up for nuisance tax sale

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The city of Fort Madison has listed 26 properties officials have deemed nuisance properties, as part of a public nuisance tax sale.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, City Building Director Doug Krogmeier said he's listing the properties on a Lee County Public Nuisance tax sale.

The program is designed to address abandoned nuisance structures with delinquent

taxes.

The properties listed for the sale include 311 Avenue C; 416 Avenue D, 1231 Avenue E, 3700/3726 Avenue L, 2805 Avenue P, 1410 Avenue I, 3129 Avenue P,

See **NUISANCE**, page 8

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WEATHER

THU 06 May.....Light Rain, 59° F/ 47° F
 FRI 07 May.....Broken Clouds, 60° F/ 44° F
 SAT 08 May.....Rainy and Cool, 49° F/ 45° F

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 05/04.....4 27 32 57 63, Mega Ball: 22 Megaplier: 3
 PICK 3 05/04 MIDDAY.....189
 PICK 3 05/04 EVENING.....424
 PICK 4 05/04 MIDDAY.....0402
 PICK 4 05/04 EVENING.....3883

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/30/21 – 12:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Avenue B.
 04/30/21 – 7:36 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of Avenue D.
 05/01/21 – 2:18 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Carlin Joe James, 27, of Kirksville, Mo., in the 800 block of 18th Street on charges of OWI-1st offense and possession of dangerous weapons while under the influence. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/01/21 – 1:26 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1800 block of Avenue H.
 05/01/21 – 8:54 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Hailey Noel Gilman, 22, of Fort Madison in the 4800 block of Avenue J, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 05/02/21 – 1:08 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2700 block of Avenue N.
 05/02/21 – 2:00 a.m. – Fort Madison Police

arrested Jewel Miller, 23, of Montrose, in the 800 block of Avenue E, on two counts of serious assault and 4th degree criminal mischief. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/02/21 – 3:29 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Caroline Ann Little, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of 30th Street, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 05/02/21 – 3:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Sara Ann Pauly, 37, of Farmington, in the 1800 block of Avenue J, on a warrant for 4th degree theft. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/02/21 – 3:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L.
 05/02/21 – 3:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Belinda Lorene McWhorter, 33, of Fort Madison in the 3400 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 05/02/21 – 6:18 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5800 block of Avenue O.
 05/02/21 – 9:44 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report

of a hit and run in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

04/24/21 – 10:39 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on the 263rd Avenue and Hwy. 2. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Jesse Lee Genck, 36, of Donnellson, left the road and entered a ditch. Genck was arrested on suspicion of OWI-2nd offense and cited for failure to maintain control.
 04/30/21 – 9:25 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Dillon Jairl, 29, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/30/21 – 12:36 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Adam Barnes, 30, of Keokuk at Burger King in Keokuk, on a warrant for voluntary absence from custody and a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/30/21 – 2:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Devin Lance Lewis, 28, of Keokuk, in the 2400 block of Carbide Lane, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/30/21 – 6:06 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Allen Wagner, 37, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Jail on a judgment hold.

He was released after serving the weekend.
 05/01/21 – 3:04 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Daniel James Burke, 56, of Keokuk, in the 900 block of Main Street in Keokuk, on charges of OWI-3rd offense, unlawful possession of prescription drugs, possession of cocaine, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, and driving while barred. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/01/21 – 6:33 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Carl Desmond Jones, 39, of Burlington, at Fort Madison Community Hospital on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 05/02/21 – 5:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kenneth Lee Kellum, 34, of Keokuk, on Carbide Lane, on warrants for voluntary absence from custody and a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

04/26/21 – Leonard J Beaumont, age 24, of Burnside, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Beaumont was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/27/21 – Troy A Gasaway, age 56, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon. Gasaway was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/29/21 – Christian A Widman, age 30, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Widman was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/29/21 – Joel N Heavin, age 30, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of a Controlled Substance. Heavin was released on his own recognizance and given a future court date.
 04/30/21 – Shayna M Gibson, age 38, of Burlington, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and Unlawful Possession of Controlled Substance. Gibson remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance.
 04/30/21 – Zachariah A Deblase, age 22, of Greenwood, IA was arrested on a McDonough County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Aggravated Assault. Deblase was

released to McDonough County Authorities.
 05/01/21 – Francine L Jarrell, age 62, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested and charged with Arson. Jarrell remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her initial court appearance.
 05/02/21 – Ethan J Johnson, age 24, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Johnson was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 05/02/21 – Jay A Mitchell, age 41, of Pontosuc, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Petition to Revoke on original charges of Domestic Battery and Driving While License Revoked. Mitchell was also arrested on a Lee County Warrant charging him with Violation of Probation. Mitchell remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
 05/02/21 – Johnna S Bradford, age 59, of Dallas City, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Bradford remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting her initial court appearance.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

MARILYN K. CAMERON

Marilyn Kay Cameron, 74, of St. Francisville, MO, died Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at the Gunderson Medical Center in La Crosse, WI.

She was born January 31, 1947 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Wilford Claude and Mabel Hilda Watkins Ludwick. Marilyn graduated from Clark County R1 High School with the class of 1965. She furthered her education at Southeastern Community College and received her AA degree.

On October 4, 1969 she was united in marriage to John C. Cameron. He preceded her in death in 2011.

Marilyn had been employed at several different nursing homes through the years in the activities department.

Marilyn was a devout Catholic and a member of All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk, IA. She was very artistic and was always doodling, painting and creating things. Horses were a large part of Marilyn's life. In her youth she was involved in horseracing and showing horses. She enjoyed planting flowers, reading and cooking. She was generous with her time and talents and had organized numerous community events. Marilyn had a quick wit and great sense of humor. She had an infectious sense of style and was always well dressed. Most of all, Marilyn adored her family, eating lunch with her sisters and spending time with her grandchildren.

Marilyn is survived by two daughters, Courtney Cameron of La Crosse, WI and Amanda Cameron of Wayland, MO, three grandchildren, Tyler John Sparks, Cameron Greer and Callianna Cameron Davis. She is also survived by three sisters, Joan Arnot of Agency, IA, Ruth Ludwick of Memphis, MO and Carol Matta of Toledo, IA, her brother in law and sisters in law and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, husband John C. Cameron Jr., son John C. Cameron III, brothers Kenneth L. Ludwick (Doris Hiller); W. Gail Ludwick (Dorothy); brother in laws, Pete Peterie; James Schaffer; Wesley Arnot; and her nephew Donald L. Ludwick.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, at All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk with Reverend David Brownfield, PhD officiating. Burial will be held in the Sand Cemetery in St. Francisville, MO. The funeral mass will be live streamed and may be viewed on the Church of All Saints Facebook page or on their YouTube site which can be found at www.allsaintskeokuk.org/live or on Marilyn's tribute wall on the Vigen Memorial Home webpage. Masks are required and social distancing requirements will be in place at both the church and the funeral home.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Monday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with family meeting with friends from 6-8 p.m. A Christian vigil service will be held at 6 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the ALS Association.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.



CAMERON

ETHEL L. KREIE

Ethel L. Kreie, 82, of Fort Madison passed away on Tuesday, May 04, 2021 at 5:45 AM at the Kensington.

She was born on February 6, 1939 in Clark County, MO. On October 31, 1976 Ethel married Dallas Kreie in Ft. Madison. She worked at Rashid Grocery Store, Greenwald's and Ron's Supermarket. She enjoyed going to the casino and playing bingo.

Survivors include her husband, Dallas Kreie of Ft. Madison; one daughter, Jeanie Faulkenberry of Dover, AR and two sisters, Nancy Crull and Carol Thomas. She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters; one son, Terry Gash and one daughter, Barbara Davis.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. There will be no formal services at this time and burial will be held in Keokuk National Cemetery at a later date. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.



KREIE

OBITUARIES

GARY F. MERSCHMAN

Gary Francis "Tex" Merschman, 82, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 4:18 a.m. Wednesday, May 5, 2021, surrounded by his family at his home in West Point.



MERSCHMAN

Gary was born on September 17, 1938, in St. Paul, Iowa, the son of Leonard A. and Mary E. (Peitzmeier) Merschman. On September 30, 1961, he married Carol Schwartz at St. James the Less Catholic Church in St. Paul, Iowa.

In addition to being forever missed by his wife, Carol, Gary was the loving father of four children: Lisa Merschman of West Point, Julie (Paul) Rauenbuehler of Mt. Pleasant, Wisconsin and Carey (Norman) Derr of West Point and Ryan (Jennifer) Merschman of West Point; grandchildren: Lauren Derr, Danielle (Amiel) Rodriguez, Brayden Merschman; Nicholas, Ben (Maddie) and Jeffrey Rauenbuehler and Alexis Wiggins; great grandchildren: Arie, Ezra and Ilya Rodriguez; sister: Marilyn (Roger) Boeding of Wever; brother: Gene (Alvera) Merschman of St. Paul; sisters and brothers-in-law; JoAnn (Gene) Brune, Wayne (Cathy) Schwartz, Marcia (Larry) Towers, Bonnie (Pat) Hamilton, Nancy Laub, Danette Schwartz, Karen (Rick) Kuntz, Jan (Paul) Dohman, Bill Panther, Donna (Lester Sielski) Schwartz and Audrey (Marty) Hamerlinck. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Delbert (Irma Jean) and Mark Merschman; mother and father-in-law: Dan and Emma Schwartz; brothers and sisters-in-law: Gary (RaeAnn) Schwartz, Cindy Panther and Fred Laub.

Gary was a graduate of St. James High School. He owned and operated Gary Merschman Electric as a master electrician for many years. He served in the Army National Guard and was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, West Point Fire and Rescue and served on the West Point Utility Board. Gary enjoyed coaching his son and grandchildren in their sports activities, he also enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, playing the guitar, music and playing euchre with his card club. He loved Bluegrass festivals and was an avid Iowa Hawkeye and Chicago Cub fan and most of all spending time with his family and friends.

If life was the journey and Heaven was the destination, Gary was the steadfast captain of his ship, face always to the horizon and not troubled by the waves. No fuss or praise was ever required. And now that his journey is over, his spirit still guide all who knew him; clear and bright until we all can reach the shore. Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Friday, May 7, 2021 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A Christian wake service will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 8, 2021, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant. Mass will be live streamed on the church Facebook page and posted on his obituary "Tribute Wall" on our website following the service at: www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in his memory for West Point Fire and Rescue. Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with local arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com.



Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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Sports

Central Lee girls get two wins, boys lose back-to-back

Lady Hawks down Canton, Wapello 2-1

BY PCC SPORTS

DONNELLSON – Despite a game-tying goal from Seth Mayes midway through the first half, the Central Lee Hawks couldn't hold on and fell to visiting Columbus Junction 3-1 Tuesday night.

Mayes scored on a pass from Mason Schau just 16 seconds after Columbus Junction opened the scoring in the first half.

Neither team would score again until Columbus took the lead two minutes into the second half. It was defensive battle from that point until 1:35 left in the match when Columbus padded the lead with another goal.

Aside from the three scores, the Hawk's Blake Moeller recorded nine saves on the night.

On Friday the boys fell 6-3 at Danville.

The Bears put up four goals in the first half to take a 4-0 lead all in the first 22 minutes of the match.

Central Lee would get an unassisted goal from Cole Krehbiel at the 9:20 mark to get on the board down 4-1. Danville would score another goal before the end of the half for a 5-1 lead.

Central would get goals from Mayes on an assist from Schau and then Krehbiel would score on his own again to cut the lead to 5-3 with more than 20 minutes left in the match.

Danville would score the final goal at the 12:10 mark for the win.



Schau, Mayes and Dante Merschman each had assists in the contest. Moeller had nine saves in taking the loss.

The Hawks fall to 2-5 overall and 1-4 in the Southeast Iowa Superconference. They played Columbus Tuesday and then host Highland on Thursday with a 6 p.m. start.

The Lady Hawks defeated Canton 2-1 on Thursday in a come-from-behind affair.

Canton got on the board quickly with a goal at the five minute mark, but Central Lee's Addy Brumble evened things up with a goal off an assist by Kylie Davidson. After going into intermission tied at 1 both teams defenses stepped up.

Makayla Morrison then scored with just under four minutes remaining unassisted to give the lady Hawks the win.

Goalkeeper Bailey Schwartz had seven saves in the match including a blocked penalty kick.

The Lady Hawks then knocked off Wapello 2-1 on Friday night on the road. Macy Watkins scored with 4:44 left in the first period to open the game on an assist by Brumble. Watkins would then score again seven minutes into the second half to give Central Lee all they would need to hold on for the win.

Schwartz had five saves against a goal in the win.

"Both games we got off to a slow start, but I guess we just like playing from behind," said Head Coach Antonia Estrada.

On Monday, the Central Lee girls were shut out by Tipton 3-0.

Central gave up all three goals in the second half. Schwartz had eight saves in the game. Brumble and Watkins each had two shots on goal, while Avree Tweedy, Hannah Leech and Morrison



Courtesy photo

Makayla Morrison (14) throws the ball in to the Lady Hawks' Addy Brumble in Canton, Mo. Thursday in a 2-1 Central Lee win.

each had shots in the game.

The Lady Hawks fall to 4-4 on the year and hosted Columbus Junction Tuesday night.

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LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS

ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR

Lee County is raking applications for an Engineering Technician Supervisor to work out of our Fort Madison, Iowa office. Duties will include: to direct and oversee the work of a small crew of engineering technicians, perform research and fieldwork for land surveys, engineering surveys, and construction surveys; drawing plans and preparing specifications, conduct inspections of work performed by contractors, and preparing right-of-way descriptions and drawings for the purchase of land to improve and construct roadways and operate survey equipment.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

To apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or request one from the Engineer office, and return your completed application, along with a resume to: Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, IA 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

If you have any questions please contact Lee County Engineer, Ben Hull, at (319) 372-2541 or email him at engineer@leecounty.org.



The Kensington continues to grow and we are looking for dedicated team members to join our team! We have full and part-time positions available in both dining services and caregiving departments! We are an Agemark Senior Living community and for the second consecutive year, Great Places to Work and FORTUNE have named us #11 in the nation for small to medium size Aging Services! At Agemark, our 30+ years' experience in Senior Living has given us the insight to focus on what matters for our Residents, their Families and our Employees. We offer part time and full time benefit packages. We take care of those that took care of us and believe in the philosophy - "Never forget the hands that raised you!" Please visit www.agemark.com/careers to find the job that fits you best and fill out an application!



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IMMEDIATE OPENINGS CHILDCARE PROVIDER

The Fort Madison Family YMCA Learning Centers are seeking candidates to fill childcare positions at our Donnellson, Iowa daycare centers Monday through Friday.

Candidates must enjoy working with children and have a fun, loving, and caring personality.

Positions begin at \$9.00 per hour, full-time with potential wage increases based on experience and certifications attained.

Required certifications are: CPR/First Aid, Mandatory Reporter, Universal Precautions, and additional training/certifications.

Mandatory background checks will be performed prior to hire.

Apply online at fortmadison.y.org/employment-opportunities/ or in-person at 220 26th St., Fort Madison or 607 Park St., Donnellson.



Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670

Ready to Help, but not sure where to start?

AmeriCorps Seniors (formerly known as RSVP 55+ Initiative) at United Way of the Great River Region is seeking volunteers over the age of 55 who are looking to make a difference in their community.

We can help you find a volunteer opportunity in Lee County, Iowa that suits your interests and your time.

Contact Tammy Hudson, AmeriCorps Seniors Director at 319-372-8043 or rsvp@unitedwaygrr.org to set up a time to talk.

Get started now with a new opportunity!
 AmeriCorps Seniors

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Summer Job Opportunity

Conagra Brands' Fort Madison manufacturing facility is looking for entry level production associates for temporary, summer work on all shifts. Pay is \$15.00 per hour. To be considered for employment, you must be flexible to work any shift, Saturdays and Sundays as required and at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma.

Please visit conagrabrands.com/careers to apply!
Multiple full-time positions available as well. Visit the website for additional details.

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PEN CITY CURRENT
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From the Front

Silt from dredging could be put to use in park

PROJECT - Continued from Page 1

“If that comes through, that puts \$750,000 into the project. We did make that application to be matched out. So we now go back to asking more big groups for money. But that’s okay. It’s more momentum and brings us closer to the trigger.” Mohrfeld said.

The project, which ultimately could carry a price tag as high as \$11 million, will bring new docks, a new pier and a new hospitality center, initially. The committee spearheading the new facility is still meeting weekly to discuss funding options and updates.

The council signed an agreement with Klingner & Associates Tuesday for design services for dredging which is expected to begin in September. The cost of the design services could be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as part of its funding assistance with flood mitigation surrounding the marina area.

The contract with Klingner could run upwards of \$52,000 including permit applications for county, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

The project will consist of removing sediment from the marina. Klingner & Associates will design a containment area for the sediment in Riverview Park. That will allow the sediment to dry in place and then it can be used to help raise the elevation of the park.

Krogmeier plans to revisit vacant property ordinance

NUISANCE - Continued from Page 1

1607 Avenue I, 721 Avenue G, 1331/1333 Avenue I, 1702 Avenue M, 3110 Avenue O, 2231 Avenue H, 833 Avenue C, 1220 23rd Street, 1515 26th Street, 2610 Avenue J, 236 Avenue E, 817 15th Street, 2 Richards Drive, 331 Avenue B, 1227 Avenue E, 3104 Avenue O, 429 Avenue D, 1035 Avenue F, and 2818 Avenue O.

Krogmeier said listing them in the public nuisance tax sale, rather than the traditional tax sale shortens the time frame on remediation from two years to about six months. The deadline to apply for a rehabilitation agreement is Monday, May 10th.

“We are processing through the county, the public nuisance sales. This will pull out this list of properties, however many I end up with developers for, from the regular tax sales and sell them just to developers interested in those properties,” Krogmeier said. “It’s one of the other avenues we’re trying to get the houses done without forking out (the money). I’ve already got some responses on my desk for properties people want.”

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said the move is a huge step for Fort Madison beautification efforts.

“You made this presentation about these buildings we’re accelerating through that process and very matter of fact – this is huge,” Mohrfeld said.

“This is what we’ve been talking about for years and I can’t commend you enough.

There is 10 of the target ones here that are just going to go away. This is tremendous. They are going to go into good hands. This is a huge step.”

Krogmeier said developers still need to follow through on the intentions with the properties.

“Regardless, we’re getting a change of hands, which is difficult. We’re forcing that timeline to speed up substantially.”

Krogmeier said the city has already had a handful of neighbors who have submitted interest in some of the properties. He said some on the list have seen property taxes paid up since the list was released.

Councilman Tom Schulz said this is creating opportunities in a tight housing market.

“We’re making some significant progress in the appearance of the community, mostly through voluntary compliance,” Schulz said.

“There are some issues that have to be addressed more directly, but one nice thing is that our property values are pretty decent right now. You can’t hardly buy a house in Fort Madison right now. There’s nothing on the market and that makes people look at this as an opportunity.”

Krogmeier said he wants to get through this tax sale, and then bring back up for discussion the vacant property registration ordinance. That proposed ordinance would set a fee schedule based on the square footage of any vacant properties within the city limits.

Harsh winter could do more damage to crumbling structure

BUILDING - Continued from Page 1

the family members has helped with that and there is diligence being done. They have reached out to Doug in the past few days.”

Mohrfeld said their is a sense of urgency on the project, because no one is sure how much damage a harsh winter could do to the building.

Krogmeier said he doesn’t see many options for the city to take significant action, but is looking for precedents from the city’s attorneys on how to move forward.

Bowker said her concern is that repairing would be a substantial cost to the city. Even if they have possession of it and can’t find a developer, the city would either have to spend additional money to demolish it or fix it up and sell it.

Mohrfeld said the city should stick with the current timeline and hold out hope for interest from a developer. The mayor didn’t mention anyone by name, but representatives with Barker Financial out of Iowa City, the same company that completed the renovations of the Cattermole Library, Old Lee County Bank and has possession of the former Sears Building and other properties in downtown Fort Madison, has toured the building recently.

Barker CFO Kyle Galloway said the building has challenges, but said it offers one of the best views of any property in Iowa.

Bowker said she would like to have an update at each council meeting going forward on the city’s progress with the building.

“I feel like the public and the council deserve nothing less,” she said.

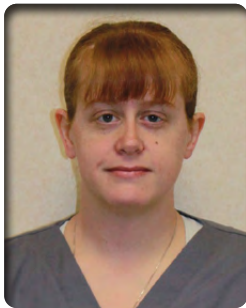


The why:



Brandi Settles
Clinic

“I decided to become a nurse to help people in tough and vulnerable times. I want to help get people back to living lives pain and illness free.”



Megan Roberts
Obstetrics

“I became a nurse because I love helping people and caring for them.”



Deb Marlin
Home Health

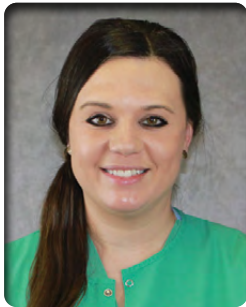
“I think I was just born to be a nurse. I have loved caring for others and bringing them comfort since I was a small child.”

The reward:



Karen Vaughn
Emergency Room

“Helping people in crisis to get the care they need is what I find most rewarding.”



Katelyn Pezley
Surgery

“Knowing that at the end of the day, you have made a positive impact in someone’s life with the care you provided.”



Jessica Wenke
Medical-Surgical

“It is rewarding to see good patient outcomes after providing care to very ill patients.”



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