

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, September 16, 2021 | 11 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 168



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Highway 61: Property owners see plans for next phase of reconstruction

Next up - 10th to 18th streets



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Jonathon Kline of HR Green talks with a property owner while looking at plans for the reconstruction of Bus. 61 in Fort Madison. City officials are hoping to bid the project in January if all easements can be obtained.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Drawings were unrolled and laid out on tables for property owners along Fort Madison's Business 61 corridor from 10th to 18th streets Wednesday at City Hall.

With construction equipment still moving earth in the 6th to 10th street portion of the highway people got another glimpse of what the next phase of the highway improvement project will look like Wednesday afternoon.

City Public Works Director Mark Boussetot was on

hand along with engineers from HR Green out of Cedar Rapids, the city's engineer on the project. Boussetot was addressing questions from property owners and trying to secure temporary, and in some cases, permanent easements for the work.

Boussetot said he hoped to the project would go out for bid in January, but he has to get all the easements by the end of October 19 or the bidding will be pushed back at least a month.

"I got a lot of people to sign easements," he said. "I got three signed today out of 40."

See **HIGHWAY**, page 8

HANCOCK COUNTY

Nauvoo chief to run for county sheriff

Mike Boley to run in Illinois Republican primary race

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

CARTHAGE – Hancock County Sheriff Travis Duffy, who was appointed upon the retirement of former Sheriff Scott Benzinger, will have a challenger in the June 2022 Illinois primary.

Current Nauvoo Chief of Police Mike Boley announced his intentions on the footsteps of the Hancock County courthouse in August.

Boley has been in law enforcement for the past 17 years in different roles from dispatcher to bailiff, to part-time and full-time officer, all the way

up to his current appointment as Chief of Police in Nauvoo in 2017.

He's worked for the city of Nauvoo in law enforcement since his hiring as assistant police chief in 2013.

"I've always considered myself a cop's cop," Boley said Wednesday. "It's not just what I do, but truly who I am."

The Hancock County native said he's had other opportunities in life including real estate and owning his own business, but he said nothing inspires him to get up and go to work like being in law enforcement.

"I've considered other options for opportunities and, quite frankly, they had a lot less stress and were financially better, but the one thing I couldn't fathom was not being able to think of myself as a cop anymore."

He began his career as a dispatcher in Hancock County and always considered himself the young guy looking up at the other folks. Now he said those



BOLEY

See **SHERIFF**, page 5

WEST POINT

IWD to hold workforce roundtables across Iowa

DES MOINES – Iowa Workforce Development today announced more than 25 workforce roundtables to be held across the state this fall in an effort to partner with business in addressing the state's workforce shortage. In conjunction with the roundta-

bles, IWD will lead a support team to conduct workforce needs assessments for interested local employers onsite. Participating employers will then be provided a tailored set of information about relevant state programs along with dedicated points of contact. Em-

ployers interested in hosting a workforce assessment can send an email to iwdassessments@iwd.iowa.gov.

The roundtables, beginning later this month and running through No-

See **WORKFORCE**, page 5

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WEATHER

THU 16 Sep..... Sunny and Warm, 86° F/ 57° F
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IOWA LOTTERY

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

09/13/21 – 12:26 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3000 block of Avenue K.
 09/13/21 – 9:35 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue H.
 09/13/21 – 9:30 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Brennan Lee Zeh, Jr., 50, of Fort Madison, in the 1900 block of Avenue H, on a charge of 5th-degree theft. He was released on a promise to appear.
 09/13/21 – 10:45 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Belinda L. Shallcross, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue I, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 09/13/21 – 3:01 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Benjamin Steven Hobbs,

36, of Fort Madison, in the 1900 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.
 09/14/21 – 1:34 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Edward Lee Steele, 35, of Fort Madison in the 2100 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

09/14/21 – 3:42 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandon Lee Burgess, 26, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 09/14/21 – 6:26 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Daniel Allen Matous, 38, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of N. 7th Street in Keokuk, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report


09/06/21 – Kathie N Krogmeier, age 34, of Hamilton, IL was arrested by Hancock County Sheriff's Office for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Driving While License Suspended. Krogmeier was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/06/21 – Michael E Bates, age 46, of Ursa, IL was arrested by Hancock County Sheriff's Office on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine. Bates remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
 09/08/21 – Brian M Sirtak, age 47, of La Harpe, IL was arrested by Hancock County Sheriff's Office for Violation of an Order of Protection.

Sirtak was released on his own recognizance and given a future court date.
 09/09/21 – Travis M Watson, age 38, of Dallas City, IL was arrested by Hancock County Sheriff's Office for a Lee County, IA Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Voluntary Absence from Custody and Failure to Appear on original charges of Contempt and Controlled Substance Violation. Watson was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/10/21 – Christopher B Flowers, age 44, of West Point, IL was arrested by Hancock County Sheriff's Office for Identity Theft. Flowers was also arrested for three Clark County, MO Warrants charging him with three counts of Failure to Obey Judge's Order. Flowers was also arrested on an Adam's


County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Operating an Uninsured Vehicle and Failure to Reduce Speed. Flowers remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
 09/11/21 – Tammy S Ramey, age 42, of Burlington, IA was arrested by Nauvoo Police Department for a Henderson County Warrant charging her with Non-Appearance on Order on original charges of Deceptive Practice. Ramey was also arrested on Des Moines County, IA Warrants for Theft, Forgery, Unauthorized use of credit card under \$1000, and Unauthorized use of credit card over \$1000 under \$10,000. Ramey was also arrested on a Warren County Warrant charging her with Forgery. Ramey remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting

her next court appearance.
 09/11/21 – Justin M Reid, age 33, of Carthage, IL was arrested by Hancock County Sheriff's Office for a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving Under the Influence, Failure to Signal, Operating an Uninsured Vehicle, and Driving While License Suspended. Reid remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
 09/12/21 – Juan S Diego, age 44, of Carthage, IL was arrested by Hancock County Sheriff's Office for Driving Under the Influence. Diego was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. *Those listed above are charged with a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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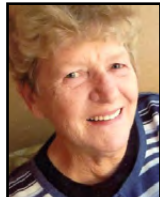
Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DOLORES A. SCHNEDLER

Dolores Ann Schnedler, 77, of Burlington, Iowa, passed away at 12:50 a.m. Saturday, September 11, 2021 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington.

She was born on October 4, 1943 in LaHarpe, Illinois, the daughter of Lyle and Dorothy (Gray) Scanlan. On August 31, 1984 she married Kenneth Schnedler in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. He survives.



SCHNEDLER

Dolores grew up on a farm in the Burnside, Illinois area and graduated from the Nauvoo-Colusa High School in 1961. She worked for over 20 years at J.I. Case in Burlington. She enjoyed going to yard sales, Ducks Unlimited Banquets, mushroom hunting, neighborhood watch, traveling, gambling, bird watching, camping, and especially enjoyed her grandchildren and great-grandchildren..

Survivors include her husband, Kenneth; one daughter: Lucinda (Donnie) Doyle of Carthage, Illinois; two granddaughters: Michelle (Sheldon) Martin and Tasha Tallman and five great-grandchildren: Mariah, Macy, Landon, Layna and Ariana. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A memorial service will be held at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 18, 2021 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City with Pastor Diane Halsey officiating.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 until time of service at Banks & Beals.

A memorial fund has been established for the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Mrs. Schnedler's obituary at banksand-beals.com.

BRENDA S. COSSEL

Brenda Sue Hoyt Cossel, 56, of Montrose, IA, died Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at her home.

She was born on December 15, 1965 in California, the daughter of Vernon Earl Hoyt. Following high school graduation Brenda enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served her country.

On October 30, 1988, Brenda was united in marriage to Phillip Cossel in Montrose, IA. He survives. She is also survived by one sister, Vicky Lynn Hoyt of Salem, IA, one brother, Kevin Hoyt of Galesburg, IL her mother-in-law, Marjorie Cossel of Montrose and several aunts, uncles and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her father, one sister, Judith Ann, her grandparents and her father-in-law, Cecil Cossel, Jr.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday at the Montrose Cemetery in Montrose, IA. There will be no visitation.

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

OBITUARIES

DUSTIN JOHNSON

Dustin Johnson, 46 of Keokuk, IA was called home, unexpectedly after a tragic accident on Saturday, September 11, 2021.

He was born September 3, 1975 in Ft. Madison, IA the youngest son of Dean and Janice Johnson. He was a lifelong resident of Lee County. Dustin graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1994. In high school Dustin was an All-State running back in 1992 and 1993 and a four-time All State Track Athlete. Dustin attended Quincy University from 1994-1995 where he played football. He was a 2000 graduate of Western Illinois University and a 2008 graduate of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.



JOHNSON

On April 22, 2002, Dustin was united in marriage to Carrie David at Red Rock Canyon in Las Vegas, NV. She survives. He was a devoted father to his son, Colten and his daughter, Kaylee.

In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by his brothers, Bill (Dave) Gehle, Dan (Ramah) Gehle and Tony (Kalista) Johnson, a sister, Linda (Ray) Sever, his aunt, Barb Helman, his in-laws, Richard (Carol) David and Phyllis David, his sister-in-law, Holly (Steve) Sanders, nieces and nephews, Annabelle Johnson, Ashlyn Sanders, Nathen Sanders, Rachel Sever and Jake Sever and several cousins. Dustin is also survived by many wonderful friends that he thought the world of. But he was especially blessed with several life-long friends that he considered to be his brothers, Ryan Brotherton, Yates Brotherton, Kritter Hayes, Robb Stone and Brian Wessel. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dean and Janice Johnson and grandparents.

Dustin was employed by Lee County Conservation Board as a Wildlife Technician and Park Ranger for twenty-one years. He was a member of Pheasants Forever.

Dustin was a loving father, husband, hard worker and always seemed to be able to greet his many friends with a radiant smile and handshake. He lived life to the fullest and never met a stranger. Dustin loved everything about the outdoors, especially spending time fishing, hunting, shed hunting and looking for arrowheads. He enjoyed teaching and sharing these hobbies at Hunter Safety Youth Camp. He always seemed to have a work project going and if he didn't, he was helping others with theirs. Dustin also enjoyed playing football and was honored to help coach his son's football and baseball teams. He was a proud father, always supporting and cheering his children in their activities.

Dustin was truly one of the "good guys" in this world and will be missed beyond measure. A Celebration of Life will be held at 4 p.m., Sunday, at the Keokuk High School with Pastor Mike Shea and Robb Stone officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, at the high school with the family meeting with friends at that time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Johnson Family Memorial Fund and checks made payable to Carrie Johnson.

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

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Sports

Central Lee girls take out WACO

Morrison pounds out 26 kills in five-set affair at home

BY PCC SPORTS

DONNELLSON – The Central Lee girls volleyball team moved over .500 on the year with a 5-4 mark after a five-set win over WACO at home Tuesday night.

The Hawks won the first two games 25-19, 25-22, but then lost a tight third set 26-28 and another tight match in the fourth set 23-25 before taking a first-to-15 tiebreaker 15-11.

The road doesn't get any easier for the Lady Hawks as they travel to Class 3A No. 7 West Burlington (8-0) on Thursday night.

Makayla Morrison led the Hawks in hitting from her outside spot recording 26 kills. She also went 24 of 24



with two aces. She also had a block and eight digs in the contest.

Meghan Hopp had 19 kills and seven blocks in the middle for Central Lee. The senior was perfect serving going 19 of 19 with two aces and dug up seven balls on defense.

Alivia Myhre was 18 of 20 serving with an ace.

DNR wants input on lifetime trout fee

DES MOINES - Iowa DNR accepting comments on proposed fee for new lifetime trout fishing license, through Oct. 26

During the 89th General Assembly, House File 234 was passed and signed into law on June 8, 2021. House File 234 establishes a new lifetime trout fishing license for Iowa residents who are at least 65 years of age. House file 234 also initiated the process to set the fee for the new lifetime trout fishing license.

The current resident trout fishing fee is \$14.50, which includes a \$2 administrative fee. The DNR is proposing to set the new lifetime trout fishing license fee at \$65. Revenues from this fee are used exclusively to stock state trout streams and urban trout ponds. Learn more about the trout program on the DNR Trout Fishing website.

Comments on the proposed lifetime trout fishing license fee may be submitted through Oct. 26 via email to fisheries@dnr.iowa.gov, via Google form, or by mail to Joe Larscheid, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

The DNR has scheduled a public hearing from noon to 3:30 p.m., Oct. 26 via conference call. Individuals who wish to attend the conference call must contact Joe Larscheid at Fisheries@dnr.iowa.gov. A conference call number will be provided prior to the public hearing. Persons who wish to make oral comments during the conference call must submit a request to Joe Larscheid prior to the public hearing. They will be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the proposed fee for the new lifetime trout fishing license.

Any persons who intend to attend the conference call and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the the DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov, and advise of specific needs. This formal comment period is an opportunity for stakeholders to help set the fee for the new lifetime trout fishing license. After considering public input, the DNR will finalize this rule and present it to the Natural Resource Commission for approval.

Anderson leads Hawks at Central Lee Invitational

BY PCC SPORTS

DONNELLSON – Grant Anderson led the Hawks with a seventh-place finish at the Central Lee Cross Country Invitational at Green Acres Golf Course Tuesday night.

Anderson ran the 5K course in 20:37.23, 1:39 off the pace of Winfield-Mt. Union's Gabe Hemsworth, who crossed the line at 18:58.28.

Winfield Mt. Union won the boys event with 45 points. Louisa-Muscatine was second with 62, followed by Keokuk at 80 and Central Lee with 93.

Leo Thomas finished at 19th with a 21:45.89. Ayden Kent and Tristan Howell finished 21st and 22nd.

Jackson Denning rounded out the scoring top five for Central Lee with a 24th-place finish.

In the girls meet, Addy Brumble finished in sixth place with a 25:58.06. Erika Chambers and Lauren Sanders were 10th and 11th with time of 26:47.27 and 26:54.22. Addy Britt finished 14th at 28:10.11. No team scoring was tabulated.

In the junior high 2000-meter run, Central Lee's Allison Gruntmier was fifth overall in the girls run with a time of 14:08.52.

For the junior high boys, Kyler Mulligan ran a 12:55.65 good enough for 10th place overall. Jovan Rule finished at 14:30.89 and Zach Estrada finished 17th with a time of 15:13.96.



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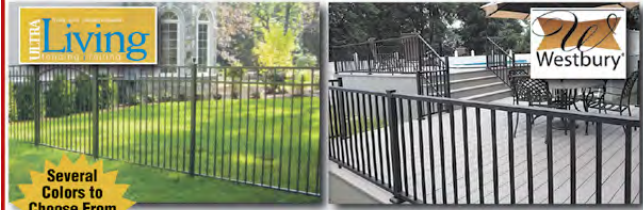
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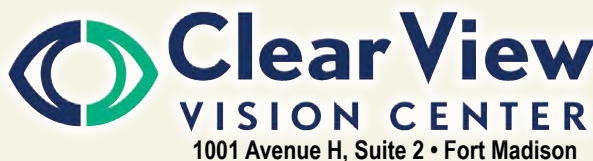
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From the Front

Boley starts early; Duffy hasn't announced

SHERIFF - Continued from Page 1

tables have turned and he wants to help usher in a new age of law enforcement in Hancock County. Boley is also now the longest serving police chief in the county.

"I'm the old guy now and these dispatchers are in their 20s and 30s. There's always turnover and new faces and now these people look to me as the old timer. I don't take that lightly," Boley said.

He said small police departments like Nauvoo will probably be a thing of the past in the near future. Consolidation and the direction of the state will likely force the smaller units into large units to capitalize on efficiencies.

Boley said that's not just a financial remedy for some areas, but a manpower reality.

"There aren't the people lining up to do this kind of work like there used to be 10 and 20 years ago," he said. "Being able to find qualified candidates that can and should be doing this job is tough. I don't see the Nauvoo Police Department being sustainable

for another 18 years so I started thinking about what I wanted to do with the next 17 years of my career."

Boley is a member of the Hancock County Republican Central Committee and said he received encouragement from the party and other law enforcement officers to run for the office.

"A lot of people assumed I would be throwing my name in there, but initially I declined. The Sheriff had appointed Travis so he had somebody lined up and the deputies seemed to be in favor of it. I'm not about upsetting the apple cart or anything, so I just respectfully declined."

But he said the only thing that would possibly change his mind was if people approached him about running, and they did. He said it was after a lengthy amount of soul searching and discussing the idea with his wife that he decided to turn in papers.

He said Illinois is going through a tough transition with legislation and the court systems and his experience can help

cut through some of that process.

Several legislative mandates are coming through the state that will impact law enforcement. He said mandatory implementation of body cameras and qualified immunity are going to be two big issues facing Hancock County.

Boley said he fully supports the use of body cameras saying it takes the "he-said, she-said" out of the process. But he said it will have a financial impact on the county that needs navigated.

"We can find grants to pay for the cameras, but you have to have software and server space and training. There's additional work involved in that. If someone requests access then you have to redact personal information and clean it up. There's software for that, but that, coupled with server space, it carries a very steep price."

Efforts to tweak qualified immunity also puts public safety at risk, he said.

"Some people think it's used by bad cops to get away with things they

shouldn't, but 99 out of 100 times it's protecting good people trying to do their job. If Illinois does away with that, I'm not sure you would have any cops left," he said.

"It's not worth us losing everything we have when we go out there every day to make a difference. We have to make split-second decisions."

Boley said he has good relationships with neighboring agencies including the Illinois State Police and that cooperation is needed going forward.

"We're stronger as one than individually and we're all working toward a goal to keep communities safe and put bad guys in jail."

The primary in Illinois will be June 28 and both Duffy and Boley are registered Republicans. Boley said he hasn't heard of any Democrats running for the office yet, so it could be a primary election for the seat.

Burlington roundtable to set for Nov. 2

WORKFORCE - Continued from Page 1

member, will take place at IowaWORKS field offices and local community colleges throughout the state. All attendees at the roundtables will be provided information regarding existing workforce strategies they can adopt to help meet their needs. Specifically, each roundtable will provide information about available resources that help with hiring and re-training, collaborating with community and education partners, upskilling employees, and removing barriers such as childcare concerns that sometimes can block Iowans from entering the workforce. Employers, local business members, and educators are encouraged to attend.

"One of my chief priorities as governor has been working to make sure that Iowa has the skilled workforce necessary to compete in a changing economy," said Gov. Reynolds. "These workforce roundtables will provide an opportunity for the State to ensure we are supporting Iowa businesses with the right programs as they strive to meet their workforce needs."

"Several agencies in Iowa have workforce development programs and funding available to help employers create a robust workforce. The support teams will provide information about state opportunities that is tailored to their needs," said IWD Director Beth Townsend. "Roundtables will be fast paced, brief, and early in the morning to best meet employer schedules and provide key information about how employers can use existing state programs to grow their workforce."

The events are being held at no cost to the attendees. Registration is now available at www.Future-ReadyIowa.gov/registration.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED



Administrative Assistant/Biller

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time experienced Administrative Assistant/Biller. High School graduate or equivalent. Three to five years in Administrative Assistant experience. One year experience in medical office preferred. Highly sufficient in all Microsoft Office applications, especially Excel. Clinical billing experience preferred. Please send or email resume to Tammy Wilson, Finance/Operations Director at LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or to twilson@leecountyhd.org by September 27, 2021. LCHD is an EOE.



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Lee County is taking applications for a Road Maintenance Worker III, to work at the West Point Maintenance Shop. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks to perform road maintenance and construction projects, plowing snow, and the performance of manual labor as required. Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements.

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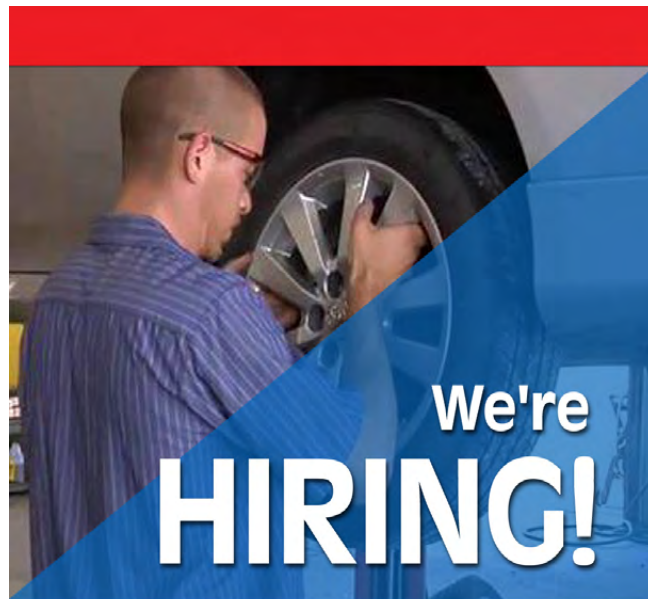
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If you have any questions please contact Lee County Engineer, Ben Hull at (319) 372-2541 or email him at bhull@leecounty.org.



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From the Front

Officials hope to bid next Hwy. 61 phase by January

HIGHWAY - Continued from Page 1

The next project is planned to take a full construction year to get completed.

“The goal was to get it finished. It’s less of a hardship on the community if we can get it done and there’s a push to do it,” Boussetot said.

The project, like the 2nd to 6th street project is one project but is currently planned to be done in phases, which would include 10th to 12th streets and 15th to 18th streets being done simultaneously, while the 12th to 15 street section is left to allow access points to the highway.

Once the first two phases are completed, then construction crews would go back and finish the 12th to 15th section, hopefully all within one year. Boussetot said that would also be influenced by the length and harshness of the winter season.

“We need to optimistic and realistic as far as what can be accomplished in what timeline,” Boussetot said.

He said too tight of a timeline could result in what are called liquidated damages to the contractor for not completing in time. He said contractors are smart enough to build those costs into the bid, so the city would end up paying for any damages they might assess if work isn’t done according to the bid.

Eric Freitag, who owns three Turbo Washes in Fort Madison, one at the corner of 15th and Avenue H, said he was happy with the planning of the project. Crews plan to lay down a gravel path from the alley behind the car wash around to the front to allow access to the facility.

Freitag said he was concerned with closing 15th Street to semi traffic, specifically to the landfill on top of Rodeo hill.

“I think the biggest problem they’ll have is that 15th Street is a main artery for semi traffic to the landfill. 15th Street already has a truck turn lane, as opposed to 18th that doesn’t. So you’re going to funnel semis down 18th Street, that doesn’t have that turn lane established, during construction,” Freitag said.

He also said it’s important that right of ways be free of shrubbery and greens so that people can see turning onto the highway and no visibility is impaired.

The plans also include a connection point turning west off 15th Street onto Avenue H for a PORT Trail connection from Avenue B down to the Highway. Currently the trail runs north from Avenue B to Rodeo Park.

The cost of the project wasn’t available as engineers are still working on how the project will finally look and any potential roadblocks on availability of materials and contractors.

Property owners who have easements along the corridor are encouraged to call City Hall regarding the project at 372-7700.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison City Councilman Tom Schulz, right, who also owns property along Bus. 61 in Fort Madison, looks over plans for the next phase of reconstruction from 10th to 18th Streets with other property owners and Tim Cutsforth of HR Green, the city’s engineer on the project.

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