

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, April 2, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 74



[www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

## Next phase of 61 starts April 12

**PEN CITY LOT:** Parking lot rehab starts April 5; will include electric charging stations

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The next phase of the city’s rehabilitation of Avenue H through Fort Madison is set to begin on April 12.

According to City Public Works Director Mark Bouselot, Jones Contracting out of West Point will begin working on the project a week from Monday.

The four-block stretch of Bus. 61 will be closed at least through Nov. 15, 2021, according to the city’s contract on the \$3.3 million project.

“The road has to be open by Nov. 15, 2021, but final seeding and grass establishment will roll into 2022,”

See **PROJECTS**, page 8



The next phase of the Bus. 61 reconstruction through Fort Madison is set to start on April 12 with road closures and detours up 6th to Avenue E. The project is expected to last through Nov. 15.

## Rashid makes statement on investigation

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The owner of Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness in Fort Madison issued a statement following a Tuesday investigation that shuttered operations for the day.

Joe Rashid, who owns the pharmacy and Rashid Long-Term Care, said Thursday evening his company remains committed to its customers and the level of service to which they’ve grown accustomed.

“Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness has been serving residents of Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri since 1963. Earlier this week, authorities limited services our pharmacy was able to provide, so they could complete their work,” Rashid said.

“Our pharmacy has been open since that time and we remain committed to delivering the same exceptional services and highest quality of care – as we have since our founding nearly 60 years ago.”

Investigators with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of the Inspector General, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation gathered information on Tuesday. The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa released a statement saying search warrants were executed at the facility Tuesday, but said no additional details would be forthcoming.

The pharmacy reopened Wednesday morning.

### TEST KITCHEN

## New program to aid testing for apprentice positions

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Six years ago Kumar Wickramasingha, known affectionately throughout Fort Madison as “Kumar” started a unique concept where culinary skills were honed as a backdrop to supplemental learning opportunities.

What has since 2015 been focused on ACT prep, STEM and other advanced learning, is now taking another turn as Kumar takes a look at helping those who are trying to pass apprenticeship math and engineering tests for electrical and trades workers.

On Thursday, Reece Mayes, a 2018 graduate of Central Lee High School and 2020 graduate of Southeastern Community College’s Industrial Maintenance program was at the Test Kitchen getting individual help in preparing for the test.

“The test is for Electricians Union IBEW Local 13 in Burlington. You have



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Reece Mayes works on a sample test for an electrical apprenticeship program at Elliott Test Kitchen, as founder Kumar Wickramasingha looks on Thursday morning.

to take a test and if I pass this test, I move on to the interview process, and then if I pass the interview I think I’m pretty much in,” Mayes said.

Kumar said he’s had interest from several other students who are trying to pass the exam for apprenticeships.

The tests focus on basic physics and algebra, but Mayes said it does require some additional study and training. Mayes had basic math as part of the curriculum for the SCC degree, but he said he needs to brush up on the

algebra, and the Test Kitchen is a good place to get that done.

Reece Mayes works on some algebra problems as part of a study program at Elliott Test Kitchen in downtown Fort Madison that is geared toward helping pass an apprenticeship test in April.

“I was trying to figure out how I would be able to study for this test. My mom said something about the Test Kitchen because my brother came here

See **TEST**, page 5

## LCHD hotline opens Monday

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Health Department COVID Hotline will run at reduced hours starting on Monday, April 5. The hotline will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m.-noon.

However, when LCHD is scheduling appointments for upcoming clinics the hotline will be open additional hours which will be announced. The hotline will assist with any COVID related questions, and will not be taking any names for call backs for future clinics.

The number of the hotline is (319)376-1077.

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### WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

**FRI 02 Apr**.....Clear, 54° F/30° F  
**SAT 03 Apr**.....Warm with a Few Clouds, 65° F/41° F  
**SUN 04 Apr**.....Warm with a Few Clouds, 72° F/50° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

**LOTTO AMERICA 03/31**.....17 18 21 35 42, Star Ball: 8, All Star Bonus: 2  
**PICK 3 03/31 MIDDAY**.....2 0 1  
**PICK 3 03/31 EVENING**.....1 0 2  
**PICK 4 03/31 MIDDAY**.....0 8 2 9  
**PICK 4 03/31 EVENING**.....9 8 8 5  
**POWERBALL 03/31**.....3 10 44 55 68, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 2

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# For the Record

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## For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
03/31/21 – 9:02 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area.  
03/31/21 – 11:39 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Erica Rae Kimble, 39, listed as homeless, in the 2100 block of Avenue L, on a charge of violating a no contact order. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
03/31/21 – 1:00 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of Avenue H.  
03/31/21 – 5:15 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Carrie Ann Ison, 38, of Keokuk, in the 1500 block of Avenue L., on a charge of driving under suspension.  
03/31/21 – 7:28 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue E.  
03/31/21 – 8:31 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested a 16-year-old female in the 900 block of 48th Street on a charge of 3rd-degree criminal mischief. She was released on

a promise to appear.

**Lee County Sheriff's Report**  
03/31/21 – 11:05 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dallyn Joe Kern, 18, of Mt. Pleasant, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for 3rd-degree burglary and a charge of criminal mischief. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
03/31/21 – 4:29 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jon Rubin Stewart, 29, of Ottumwa, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
03/31/21 – 5:36 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Desiree Lynn Bishop, 28, of Mt. Pleasant, at the sheriff's office on warrants for 3rd-degree burglary, 2nd-degree criminal mischief. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.  
03/31/21 – 9:05 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Melissa Janette McDermott, 36, of Kaha-

ka, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 03/31/21 – 10:12 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Katelyn Elizabeth Whiteman, 29, of Keokuk, in the 3600 block of 235th Avenue in Keokuk, on charges of possession of controlled substance, interference with official acts, and 3rd-degree burglary. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/01/21 – 3:36 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested John Louis Hansen, 45, of West Burlington, at Wever Junction on a warrant for contempt. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

**Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report**  
03/30/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, illegal burn, assist  
03/31/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls.

## Downtown Fort Madison Easter Egg Hunt

Griffin Muffler & Brake	Quicker Liquor	Eternellé Beauté	Kempker's True Value	Under the Sun
Parthenon Pizza	The Moose Lodge	10th Street Station	Stag	Dana Bushong
Under the Sun Next Door	The Funky Cowgirl	FREE	Harvestville Mercantile	Shug's Tiny Town
Huffman Farm & Home	The Major Oak British Cafe	The Colony Shop	Treasure Trove	Stage 2
The Broom Closet	Faeth's Cigar Store	Holtkamp's Floors, Decor & Furniture	YMCA	Dodd Printing

### EGG-STRAVAGANZA EASTER EGG HUNT Official Rules

1. Stop by any participating business and pick up a BINGO card.
2. Pick an egg out of the basket. Inside will be some sweet treats plus a game piece. The game piece has a business name on it. Match it to the bingo card. Hop on over to another business, repeat. (Only 1 egg per day from each business)
3. Try to match and get a BINGO. Bingo consists of horizontal, vertical and diagonal. Play for as long as you like to get as many Bingo's as you can. At the end of the game, your name will be entered into a grand prize drawing consisting of goodies from each business.
 

1 Bingo = 1 Chance	3 Bingo's = 3 Chances
2 Bingo's = 2 Chances	4 Bingo's = 4 Chances
Blackout = 5 Chances	
4. Return your card with the game pieces to: Under the Sun, Griffin Muffler & Brake Center, the YMCA or the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce.  
Your Eggs-cellent adventure happens March 29 – April 3, 2021  
Cards must be returned no later than April 5, 2021  
Winner will be drawn by April 7, 2021



# Current-Lee

## CURRENT-LEE

### Offices closed Friday

The North Lee County Office Building will be closed on Friday, April 2, 2021. The building will reopen Monday, April 5th, 2021 at 8:30AM. Fort Madison City offices will be closed Friday, April 2nd in observance of Good Friday. Friday's garbage route will be moved to Monday, April 5th. All other routes will resume as scheduled.

### Faeth's Annual Tractor Show

FORT MADISON – The event will be held at Faeth's Cigar Store in Fort Madison on Saturday, April 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a parade at 1 p.m.

### Virtual Legislative Luncheon

Fort Madison and Keokuk Chambers of Commerce are holding the third virtual legislative luncheon on Friday, April 16, 2021 at noon with State Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-42nd District), and State Reps. Martin Graber (R-83rd District) and Joe Mitchell (R-84th District). Register at <http://bit.ly/leeleg4162021>.

### Pollinator Walk Series

Lee County Extension and Lee County Conservation are hosting a three-day series exploring flowering plants and their role in pollination. The walks are free with an RSVP requested at 835-5116 and will be from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on April 17, June 26, and Aug. 28.

### Live Healthy Iowa 5K

Fort Madison is one of 11 counties participating in the Live Healthy Iowa 5K on May 1 with a 5K run walk at 8 a.m. and a 9 a.m. 1K Kids' Walk. Register now at [LiveHealthyIowa5K.org](http://LiveHealthyIowa5K.org).

### YMCA registering for programs

FORT MADISON – Little Tykes Soccer and Lee County Soccer registration is now open through the Fort Madison YMCA. Call 319-372-2403 to register and for more information. The YMCA is also scheduling private youth gymnastics lessons for boys and girls ages 10 and up. Y Kids & Company preschool enrollment is now open for the 2021-22 school year. Call the YMCA for additional information.

### Community Clean-up

FORT MADISON – The annual community clean up has been set this year for April 24. Contact the Chamber at 319-372-5471.

### United Way Golf Outing, Virtual 5K

LEE COUNTY – The United Way annual golf outing will be held on May 7 this year with a noon shotgun start. Registration and sponsorships are now available by contacting Karen at 319-524-4504 or at [director@unitedwaygrr.org](mailto:director@unitedwaygrr.org). The group is also sponsoring a virtual 5K event from May 21, to May 31. Registration is ongoing with a cost of \$20 per person including a t-shirt, \$15 to participate with no shirt. Shirts can be picked up at 511 Blondeau St. in Keokuk or you can include an additional \$5 to have it shipped to you.

### Jack Morris Memorial Florida of Iowa

LEE COUNTY – After being canceled due to COVID in 2020, the annual Jack Morris Memorial Florida of Iowa Golf Outing is set for June 11. Sponsorships are available and registrations are being taken by contacting the Chamber at 319-372-5471 or by email at [chamber@fortmadison.com](mailto:chamber@fortmadison.com).

### FMCH Foundation Golf Classic

LEE COUNTY – The Fort Madison Foundation

golf outing will be held Friday, June 18 at Sheaffer memorial Golf Course with morning and afternoon flights. Sponsorship and Team opportunities are now available. All money raised benefits Fort Madison Community Hospital. Contact Carrie at 319-376-2747 or [cgreen@fmchosp.com](mailto:cgreen@fmchosp.com) for more information.

### Green Team Fundraiser

The Fort Madison Green Team is soliciting funds for One Tree Planted, a non-profit whose mission is to plant trees in every corner of the world. To make a donation, click on the link provided: <https://www.bonfire.com/the-green-team-fundraiser/>.

### Read Across Iowa

WEST POINT – Preschool story time through the Iowa State University Extension is being held on Mondays in March beginning at 10 a.m. at the West Point Public Library. This year's theme is agriculture.

### Fort Madison Public Library

All Booked Up! is held Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. This week discussion will focus on the Underground Railroad. At 3:30 each Thursday is Thursday Craftafternoons at the library. Facemasks are required.

### Salute to Small Business Breakfast

Huffman's Farm & Home and Huffman Welding, Inc and the Fort Madison Chamber are sponsoring this year's Salute to Small Business Breakfast. Nominations are being accepted now at <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ehq7d511km-f27okf/a008kmzivosw/questions>. The breakfast is being held on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:30 a.m. at Small Grand Things south of West Point.



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# Iowa News/Sports

## UNEMPLOYMENT

### Almost half of all jobless claims are COVID-related

DES MOINES - The number of initial unemployment claims in Iowa, filed between Sunday, March 21, and Saturday, March 27, was 4,846, a decrease of 283 from last week's adjusted numbers. There were 4,380 initial claims by individuals who work and live in Iowa, and 466 claims by individuals who work in Iowa and live in another state. The number of continuing weekly unemployment claims was 40,186, an increase of 2,646 from the previous week. For the week ending March 27, 2021, nearly 52.0% of claimants indicated their claims were not COVID-19 related, which is a decrease from 57.1% the previous week.

The U.S. Department of Labor adjusted last week's initial claim number to 5,129 (a decrease of 369) and continuing claims to 37,540 (a decrease of 625 for a total decrease of 994 overall). Iowa Workforce Development relies upon the weekly data released by the U.S. Department of Labor to report its numbers and as such, adopts the revisions to the previously published data.

On March 11, 2021 the President signed into law extensions for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) through September 4, 2021. If you are receiving PEUC or PUA, your benefits have been extended and you do not need to take any additional action to receive the addi-

tional weeks. You must continue filing your weekly claims to receive payments. The FPUC additional \$300 payment has also been extended for all programs. If you do exhaust regular state benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in the PEUC program. If you are notified that your benefit year has expired, you must file a new claim online to determine your continued eligibility. Due to current call volumes, we encourage customers to call only if they need assistance filing their claims. Additional customer questions can be answered by emailing [uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov). Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Claimants who have received a notice of federal benefit overpayment now have the option to request an overpayment waiver for PEUC, FPUC, PUA and Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) benefits. The overpayment waiver form is available online: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/application-overpayment-waiver>.

IowaWORKS centers and satellite offices are providing limited in-person services to assist customers with work search activities and basic employment assistance. Services include assistance with job searches, applications, resume preparation, and other services to help Iowans with their employment needs. Individuals should telephone their local office first to schedule an appointment as walk-in services may be limited in order to follow social distancing

## Fairfield shuts out Lady Hounds

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison girls were shut out for the second time this week, but head coach Jeremy Swink said he's seeing improvement in the inexperienced tennis squad.

"Tonight the score doesn't show how much we improved in comparison to Tuesday," Swink said.

"We did a lot of good things. Had much closer matches and closer points. But there are still a lot of things we need to work on. Biggest of which is being aggressive at the net and taking over the point to finish the point. We are too complacent with hitting it back and forth with our opponent."

The doubles team of Lauren Otte and Elizabeth Stuekerjuergen had the closest match of the night taking Fairfield's Sydney Wells and Olivia Jones to 14 games before falling 8-6.

At No. 5 singles Stuekerjuergen had the closest individual contest of the night falling 8-4 to Wells. At No 1 singles Molly Knipe fell 8-2 to Fairfield's Tess Paton, and Rachel Hellman was shut out by Nellie Higdon 8-0. Kayla Kruse fell 8-1 to Abby Schaefer and Camille Kruse fell 8-2 at No. 4 singles to Lauren Kraemer. Otte lost at No. 6 to Jones 8-1.


In other doubles action, Knipe and Hellman lost 8-1 to Paton and Schaefer, while Higdon and Kraemer downed Kayla and Camille Kruse 8-2.

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You won't hear a **PEEP** out of us this Easter



**Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition on Monday, April 5 in observance of the Easter holiday.**

Breaking news will be published as it happens on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and the e-Edition will resume on Tuesday, April 6.

**HAPPY EASTER!**

**PEN CITY CURRENT**  
It's Black & White and Read all over



# Ag News/From the Front



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Reece Mayes works on some algebra problems as part of a study program at Elliott Test Kitchen in downtown Fort Madison that is geared toward helping pass an apprenticeship test in April.

## Test Kitchen rebooting after pandemic shut downs

**TEST** - Continued from Page 1

for ACT Prep. So we called and this was available," he said.

"I feel like some people don't study enough, or think it will be easy. For some people it is, but I've heard of some that have aced the math part of it, but failed during the interview process. So there's that as well," he said.

Kumar said this helps to provide opportunities for other students who don't feel that a four-year college is the best choice for them.

"Not everyone wants to go to a 4-year school. We do the ACT prep here to help those who do want to go to college, but we also encourage kids who want to go to a trade school or apply for apprenticeships," he said.

"We want to help anyway we can using all the resources we have at hand."

When interested starting surfacing - Kumar said he's had about five individual sessions so far - he obtained the IBEW testing handbook and purchased some sample tests for the students to work through in preparation.

Mayes said he's hoping to take the exam in the next couple weeks.

Kumar said he is scheduling the trainings by appointment and can work around other work or school schedules to accommodate individual needs.

"We're seeing an interest in this, so we want to help where the interest is," he said.

The rest of the Test Kitchen programming is getting close to being back in full swing after the COVID pandemic shuttered most in-person learning and activities at the Test Kitchen.

Kumar also opened up the Test Kitchen STEM Lounge in the space adjacent to his current location at 807 Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison. The new space was created due to the demand for math, science and robotics programming.

## Iowa corn producers have until April 29 to report yields

SAINT PAUL, Minn., April 1, 2021 - The USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds Iowa corn producers that the final date to report production for Yield Protection, Revenue Protection, and Revenue Protection with Harvest Price Exclusion for corn is April 29, for the 2021 crop year.

The deadline for electing the Yield Adjustment option is also April 29, 2021. The Yield Adjustment option allows insureds, for Actual Production History (APH) yield calculation purposes, to elect to substitute 60 percent of the applicable T-Yield for actual yields that are less than 60 percent of the applicable T-Yield. This option helps mitigate the effect of a catastrophic year(s) caused by events like last year's Derecho storms that hit Iowa.

Federal crop insurance is critical to the farm safety net. It helps producers and owners manage revenue risks and strengthens the rural economy. Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent for details.

RMA is authorizing additional flexibilities due to coronavirus while continuing to support producers, working through Approved Insurance Providers (AIP) to deliver services, including processing policies, claims, and agreements. RMA staff are working with AIPs and other customers by phone, mail, and electronically to continue supporting crop insurance coverage for producers. Farmers with crop insurance questions or needs should continue to contact their crop insurance agents about conducting business remotely (by telephone or email). More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available online using the RMA Agent Locator. Producers can use the RMA Cost Estimator to get a premium amount estimate of their insurance needs online. Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at [www.rma.usda.gov](https://www.rma.usda.gov).



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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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**Classifieds**

**PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS**

**Volunteer Services/ACS Program Director**



United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a full time Volunteer Services/AmeriCorps Seniors Program Director in our Fort Madison office to manage all aspects of the Volunteer Services Program. Director will oversee a long standing AmeriCorps Seniors (formerly RSVP). Ideal candidate will be a self starter, creative, outgoing, have excellent leadership and interpersonal relationship skills; grant management and writing skills; fundraising experience; strong office, computer and bookkeeping skills; and ability to work with and manage volunteers and the organizations and businesses who utilize volunteers. The ability to multi-task is a must. Some travel may be required. COVID protection measures include personal protective equipment, sanitizing supplies, low office traffic, some virtual meetings. EOE

To be considered, send your cover letter and resume with three references, on or before April 5, 2021 to: United Way of the Great River Region, PO Box 251, Keokuk, IA 52632 or email [director@unitedwaygr.org](mailto:director@unitedwaygr.org)

**NOW HIRING**

**Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs Director/Administrator**

The Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs is looking to hire a replacement for our current Director/Administrator. Position includes providing assistance on obtaining benefits and services available to local veterans and their families.

High school diploma or equivalent required. Must be certified or able to obtain certification from Federal and State of Iowa Veteran Affairs. Must have excellent computer skills, valid driver's license, be eligible to work in the United States, reside in or be willing to relocate to Lee County. Must be willing to work flexible hours. Government budget experience is a plus.

Position will start July 6, 2021. Position will be part-time (20 hours per week) until January 1, 2022 then will be a full time position (30 hours per week, per Iowa Code). Certification must be reached by January 1, 2022. Starting wage will be \$14.00/hour and will increase to \$18.00/hour at full time status. Lee County benefits will be available. Veterans will be given preference but all candidates will be considered.

Application and job description may be found online at [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org) and may also be obtained at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H Fort Madison Iowa or by calling the Auditor's Office at 319-372-3705 or the Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs Chairperson at 319-470-9434. Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed County application to:

Lee County Auditor  
933 Avenue H, PO Box 190  
Fort Madison IA 52627  
Or email to [dfraise@leecounty.org](mailto:dfraise@leecounty.org)

Applications accepted through May 1, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.  
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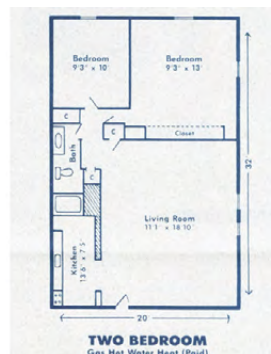
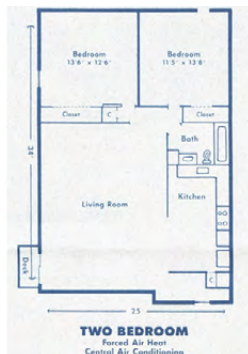
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## From the Front

# Third, fourth city parking lots to get spring facelifts

**PROJECTS** - Continued from Page 1

Bousselot said Thursday.

Bousselot said detour signs will be posted rerouting traffic at 6th Street back north to Avenue E and then west past 10th and back down to Avenue H.

Due to the replacement of existing utilities, roadways and sidewalks, the entire roadway will be closed. Access to all businesses along Avenue H will be maintained from Avenue G.

On Monday April 5, the city will also be working on the Pen City parking lot at the corner of 8th Street and Avenue H. That project, which is part of a storm water mitigation grant, will include semi-permeable pavers that allow storm water to seep through the surface to reduce the amount of water running into the city's storm sewers.

In addition, the city will also be installing two dual port electric vehicle charging stations in the lot. These stations will be available to the public.

The \$494,000 project also includes the parking lot in front of City Hall.

The city has already redone the parking lot behind City Hall and the city lot at the corner of 8th Street and Avenue F with the same grant funds. Those funds represent the interest paid on about \$27 million in loans taken out to rehabilitate the city's sewer treatment plant. Those funds are only approved by the state for use in storm water mitigation efforts.

The city has also completed plans for the reconstruction and design of the one way pairs between Avenue H and Avenue L on 18th and 20th Street. However Bousselot said the city is currently holding off on bidding those projects out.

# Those with jobless overpayments can now apply for a waiver

**JOBS** - Continued from Page 1

recommendations. Workshops and classes will not be offered at this time. Customers with questions regarding unemployment insurance benefits should continue to contact the IWD call center at 1-866-239-0843 or email [uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov) to obtain information about their claims.

For the week ending March 27, 2021, unemployment insurance benefit payments totaled \$13,287,062.58.

IowaWORKS centers and satellite offices are providing limited in-person services to assist customers with work search activities and basic employment assistance. Services include assistance with job searches, applications, resume preparation, and other services to help Iowans with their employment needs. Individuals should telephone their local office first to schedule an appointment as walk-in services may be limited in order to follow social distancing recommendations. Workshops and classes will not be offered at this time. Customers with questions regarding unemployment insurance benefits should continue to contact the IWD call center at 1-866-239-0843 or email [uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov) to obtain information about their claims.

For the week ending March 27, 2021, unemployment insurance benefit payments totaled \$13,287,062.58. A total of \$22,410,300 in FPUC benefits was paid, which include retroactive payments and reauthorized payments that went into effect on Dec. 27, 2020. Since April 4, 2020, a total of \$1,880,672,833 in FPUC benefits has been paid.

A total of \$3,359,011 was paid in PUA benefits. Since April 13, 2020, a total of \$225,175,149.54 in PUA benefits has been paid.

A total of \$9,755,974.08 in benefits has been paid in PEUC benefits this week. Since May 27, 2020, a total of \$296,263,168.50 in PEUC benefits have been paid.

Claimants receiving unemployment are required to perform weekly work searches. Those who will be required to begin work searches will be notified by IWD. We have also posted updates on our website regarding this requirement. There are currently almost 60,000 job openings at <https://www.iowaworks.gov>. Not all claimants will be required to begin work searches, including for example, those who are receiving PUA benefits due to a medical condition or lack of childcare.

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