

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 204



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COVID SURGE HITS 19%

LEE COUNTY: One in 25 are now testing positive according to health officials

PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – The 14-day average positivity rate in Lee County has now reached 18.8%. We are nearing substantial community spread meaning the risks for spread of COVID-19 in every community is high as 1 out of every 25 people are testing positive in Lee County. To date we have had 1,364 total cases with 14 reported deaths due to COVID-19 complications and 768 cases reported as recovered according to Iowa Department of Public Health.

“LCHD strongly advises and pleads to the public that everyone should do their part and wear a mask if they can when in public places, and socially distance by at



ROSS

least six feet apart from others whenever possible. We must all work together to turn this around” said Michele Ross, Lee County Health Department Administrator.

Other public health interventions include washing hands frequently, disinfecting common touch surfaces and avoiding crowds of people or gatherings where social distancing is not feasible or occurring. LCHD encourages all community members and visitors to be responsible and stay home when you should be in quarantine or isolation.

See **COVID**, page 8

BREAKING

FMSCD to go back to 100% virtual Wed.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With more than 130 new cases of COVID-19 in Lee County over the weekend, coupled with a 14-day positivity rate of 18.8%, Fort Madison school officials have decided to put the district back into 100% virtual learning for two weeks starting Wednesday.

According to the Fort Madison Community School District website, the district applied to the Iowa Dept. of Education to get approval to go back to a virtual learning model starting Wednesday.

The state processes applications after re-

See **SCHOOL**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Clearing a path

The new PORT recreational path extension has been poured behind the Fort Madison High School athletic complex. The new portion will hook up with Avenue B at 18th Street, go west to 15th Street, and then north on 15th to Rodeo Park.

HOLIDAYS

Thanksgiving dinner will go on as planned

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The committee that puts on the annual Community Thanksgiving dinner has fought through the adversity of COVID-19 and will still hold the event this year.

With COVID numbers surging and 138 new positive cases in Lee County over the weekend, Fort Madison Chamber Coordinator Savanna Collier said the event will look different for sure, but it the committee said the event is too valuable to the residents to cancel.

“When we first started we didn’t even know if we’d be able to do it because we

See **DINNER**, page 2



COLLIER

FMAAA

November exhibit could cap Raise the Roof fundraiser

BY BRIAN RIGGS
Fort Madison Area Arts Association

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Area Arts Association welcomes Curt Swarm as feature artist in November. Pilot Grove Savings Bank is the sponsor for the exhibition. Curt will showcase

a trifecta of photography, metal sculpture, and the written word. Curt has offered 50% of his sales proceeds to benefit the “Raise the Roof” campaign for the FMAAA. Coincidentally, Curt did a similar good deed a few years ago when Keokuk was garnering funds for the roof of their depot restoration.

FMAAA has had the pleasure of working with Curt for several years. He reminds me of a liberal arts student, able to work effectively in a variety of arts and sciences. He was a writer prior to finding FMAAA as a budding

See **ARTS**, page 5

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WEATHER

TUE 10 Nov.....Heavy Rain, 70° F/ 39° F
WED 11 Nov.....Scattered Clouds, 53° F/ 34° F
THU 12 Nov.....Clear, 58° F/ 40° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

PICK 3 11/08 MIDDAY.....700
PICK 3 11/08 EVENING.....305
PICK 4 11/08 MIDDAY.....1637
PICK 4 11/08 EVENING.....7685

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

RONALD R. BLINT

Ronald R. Blint, 73, of Ft. Madison passed away on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 8:35 AM at Great River Medical Center.

He was born on February 12, 1947 in Ft. Madison to Raymond and Pauline



BLINT

Watznauer Blint. Ron was an independent painter. He served in the US Navy during Vietnam. Ron had shown motorcycles since 1970 and trikes since 1979. He won the auto engine trike division five times in Sturgis and six times in Daytona Beach, FL.

Survivors include two nephews, Jaron Blint of Ft. Madison and Josh (Jo Schmid) Blint of Wever and his beloved dog, Toby. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Rick Blint.

The family will meet with friends on Friday, November 13, 2020 at King-Lynk Funeral Home and Crematory from 10 AM until 11 AM with a memorial service to follow at 11 AM officiated by Reverend Pete Hagglund. Burial will follow in Soldiers' Circle, Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Prison, Eagles come through to keep event in place

DINNER - Continued from Page 1

knew we couldn't get into the school," Collier said.

The Fort Madison High School has been the launching pad for the community dinner for the past several years, but an abundance of caution has that facility off limits this year.

Collier said the committee put their minds together to find other options and initially struck out at other places with kitchens sufficient to prepare the meals.

"We were just racking our brains - where was a good spot, who has a big enough kitchen, how are we going to cook all this food - and then the pieces all just started falling together," she said.

The group reached out to Iowa State Penitentiary and the Eagles and both of those organizations stepped up to help keep the event moving.

The prison has offered to do most of the cooking and will be roasting and pulling all the turkeys, and cooking the mashed potatoes.

The Eagles will offer space for delivery and take out, and for preparing the green bean casserole. Roasters will hold the hot food. Fort Madison Community Hospital is donating all the dinner rolls and the committee will be making the green bean casserole at the Eagles Club.

Due to coronavirus mitigation guidelines from local and state health officials, the committee can't accept any pies or desserts as donations. However cash donations are still valuable to the sustainability of the event.

Meals can be ordered starting Wednesday Nov. 11th through Nov. 23 by calling

the Thanksgiving hotline at 319-318-2245 to reserve delivered or carry-out meals.

That number can also be used to volunteer to help on that day.

Collier said the biggest demand for volunteers may be in delivering food throughout the community.

This year's meal will have reduced offerings due to the constraints imposed on the committee by the coronavirus. Meals will include turkey, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, dinner roll and a cookie.

Carry outs will be available from noon to 2 p.m.

Things keep rolling into the holidays right after Thanksgiving with the annual Lighted Parade taking place downtown beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday and then Mistletoe on Main Street is Saturday Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. downtown.

Collier said there are lots of new additions to this year's event including live reindeer on site. The Enchanted Forest will be open following the parade at it's new location behind Aldi. This year the annual Christmas Tree display will be open from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays through Dec. 15 and Saturdays through Dec. 19.

The annual Wine & Beer Walk is still slated for Nov. 20, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in downtown. The pre-sale glass event is Wednesday Nov. 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Partner's new office at 614 7th Street, where glasses will be just \$10. After the presale, price goes to \$15.

For more information on any of the above events, contact the Chamber at 319-372-5471.

DO YOUR PART

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS



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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

11/05/20 – 2:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Tiffany Boyle, 21 of Fort Madison, in the 2500 block of Avenue J, on an active warrant, and driving while suspended. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 11/05/20 – 3:15 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue B.
 11/05/20 – 8:10 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Lawrence Bernard Jackson, 49, of Fort Madison in the 500 block of Avenue D, on a charge of interference with official acts. He was taken to Lee county Jail.
 11/06/20 – 5:55 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Matthew Rohan Boon, 35, of Fort Madison in the 2900 block of Avenue K, on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 11/06/20 – 12:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2700 block of Avenue N.
 11/07/20 – 9:03 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1300 block of Avenue I.
 11/07/20 – 9:31 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue H.
 11/07/20 – 10:07 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Avenue C.
 11/07/20 – 10:26 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue M.
 11/07/20 – 4:35 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Avenue D.
 11/07/20 – 8:00 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Cody Emerson Brown, 34, of Fort Madison, in the

1400 block of 34th Street on charges of 1st-degree burglary, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, and on an active warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 11/07/20 – 1:47 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Ashley Jo Voohees, 37, of Keokuk, on River Valley Road on a charges of disorderly conduct, public intoxication, serious assault on an officer and 2nd-degree burglary. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 11/08/20 – 8:03 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Erica Ann Boudreau, 30, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue K, on a charge of driving while barred. She was released with a court date.
 11/08/20 – 8:19 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue L.
 11/08/20 – 11:16 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Kimberly Michelle Brewer, 40, of Fort Madison in the 3600 block of Hwy. 61, on a charge of driving while barred. She was released with a court date.
 11/08/20 – 3:27 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 700 block of 20th Street.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/06/20 – 5:53 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Antoine Crockett, 40, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on warrants for attempt to commit murder and going armed with intent. He was taken to Lee County jail.
 11/06/20 – 9:09 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Tony Lamont Thacher, 53, of Argyle in the 2800 block of 195th Avenue in Argyle on a charge of trespass.
 11/06/20 – 10:19 p.m. – Lee

County Sheriff's deputies cited Shelly Louise Martinson, 35, of West Point, in the 1800 block of 265th Avenue on a charge of driving while barred.
 11/07/20 – 2:11 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 3500 block of Argyle Road. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Justin Wayne Barker, 34m of Keokuk was southbound on Argyle Road when Barker reportedly fell asleep and ran off the right side of the road striking a utility pole that broke and fell to the ground. Barker refused medical treatment and was cited for failure to maintain control.
 11/07/20 – 9:15 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James William Hopp 41, of Donnellson in the 2000 block of Hwy. 103 on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.
 11/08/20 – 7:59 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident near 340th Street and Hwy. 27. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Justin Wayne Barker, 34, of Keokuk, flipped into a ditch after reportedly swerving to miss a group of deer. Barker was located uninjured walking home. No citation or injuries were reported.
 11/08/20 – 1:46 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Austin Joseph Gray, 28, of Donnellson, in the 1800 block of 295th Street in Argyle on charges of OWI-1st offense, careless driving, failure to display identification number on an ATV, ATV highway violation and ATV excessive speed. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

11/02/20 – Dylan J Kreoger, age 25, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Battery and Disorderly Conduct. Kreager was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/02/20 – Wesley K Rampley, age 38, of Burnside, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear / Failure to Pay on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Rampley was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/03/20 – Ryan C Holtsclaw, age 42, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery and Possession of Methamphetamine. Holtsclaw remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 11/04/20 – Lance W Clark,

age 31, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence and Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid an Accident. Clark was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/05/20 – Bobbi J Blaise, age 54, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Violation of Bail Bond. Blaise was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/05/20 – Troy A Gasaway, age 55, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended/ Revoked. Taylor was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/05/20 – Johnathan K Coulter, age 29, of Ma-comb, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Coulter was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/06/20 – Pamela S Ruiz, age 36, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, No Valid Driver's License and Driving

While License Suspended. Ruiz was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/07/20 – Joshua R Miller, age 27, of Warsaw, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Speeding. Miller was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/08/20 -Rickey D Taylor, age 52, of Basco, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence and Driving While License Suspended/ Revoked. Taylor was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue

11/06/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call, one false smoke detector alarm, and one burn complaint.
 11/07/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls, and one refrigerator arching.
 11/08/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls and two burn complaints.

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\$8	\$9	\$10	\$11	\$12	\$13	\$14
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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Lee County News/Opinion

Lee County Hospice offering Tree of Love ornaments

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Health Department – Hospice is continuing with the 28th annual Hospice Tree of Love Project, however with a few changes. The 2020 ornament, “Beacon of Hope,” is designed by Mystic Images. Ornaments can be purchased for \$16.00, and the name of the person to be honored or remembered will be printed on a decorative tag and attached to the ornament.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year the Hospice Tree of Love ornaments will not be displayed at either location due to visitor restrictions. Instead ornaments will be mailed to the purchaser after December 1st. Those purchasing ornaments are asked to add \$1.50 per ornament for mailing.

There will be an unveiling ceremony on December 1st, again not in the typical fashion. The 2020 ceremony will be posted to the Lee County Health Department Facebook page and website (www.leecountyhd.org). If you would like to have your loved one’s name read during the ceremony please be sure your order is placed by November 25th.

“We are aware that this is not what we are used to, but we wanted to continue with the Hospice Tree of Love because it allows people to honor their loved ones during the holiday season,” states Jeri Giebelhausen, LCHD Support Services Coordinator.

To purchase an ornament please call 319-372-5225 or 800-458-6672 or order online at www.leecountyhd.org.

LEE CHD LCHD is reporting **138** additional cases added to the total case count since Friday, Nov 6th at 3:30pm.

Total Positive Cases (as of 3:30pm 11/9/2020)	1364
Total Cases Reported as Recovered	768
Current 14-day average Positivity Rate <small>(number of people tested positive/total number tested in last 14 days)</small>	18.8%

LCHD continues to encourage the public to practice social distancing, wash your hands, avoid large crowds where social distancing is not possible, and to #MaskUpLeeCounty.

Letter to the Editor

First responder asks supervisors to get behind digital radios

Lee County Board of Supervisors, This letter is to ask for your support for the proposed Lee County radio system. This system will provide coverage to all Lee County Fire Departments, Law Enforcement agencies, and Lee County EMS Ambulance. This system will also give us the interoperability to communicate with mutual aid resources outside of our county and state, of which, in many cases, we don’t have interoperability with. Our current antiquated and ineffective system does not meet our needs to operate safely and to bring first responders to our citizens’ emergencies. As the Assistant Chief of Wever Fire & Rescue, Firefighter/EMT with West Point Fire & Rescue, a Reserve Deputy with Lee County Sheriff’s Office, a Reserve Police Officer with West Point/Donnellson Police Department, and an EMT with Lee County EMS Ambulance, I can tell you firsthand how dangerous our current system is. As a real-world example, I have been on the scene of many fatality and serious injury motor vehicle collisions, countless medical calls, pursuits, search warrants, traffic stops, missing persons, school activities and more where this current system has led to inefficiencies and at times, a negative impact on patient outcomes. This proposed radio system is absolutely necessary to the first responders and citizens of Lee County.

I ask all supervisors and citizens take a moment and put yourselves in the shoes of your Lee County Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement personnel. Picture yourself at a medical call or welfare check by yourself or just your partner and yourself. You go into the home and begin speaking with the occupants. An occupant becomes agitated and pulls a weapon, blocking the exit path. You key up your portable radio to ask for additional help,

and NOTHING HAPPENS. The sense of dread washes over you, knowing there is no way anyone knows you are in distress and no help is on the way. This is the equipment we serve the public with today. I encourage you all to ask your local responders and our fine LeeComm Dispatchers if they’ve ever been in situations like this. I know I have, and I would bet many more have as well.

It is understandable that there is hesitation with the sum of money being requested. It’s important to note that this proposed system is not the nicest, fanciest, or most expensive option. Rather, it is the basic system we need to communicate with. This county’s first responder leaders have been working diligently for over two years to bring interoperability to the county at the most cost-effective level. This proposed system will tie into the existing state system where cost savings will be realized. As time goes on, a new radio system will not get any cheaper. As a frugal taxpayer myself, I don’t want to spend frivolously on unnecessary government bureaucracy. That is not the case with this project.

As a leader, it is commonly said not to ask your subordinates to do anything you wouldn’t do yourself. The question the supervisors need to ask themselves is, “Would I put my life on the line with a radio that I do not trust to operate?”. I know I wouldn’t, and I think many of my loved ones would say the same thing. By the way, many volunteer fire departments in Lee County are accepting applications for volunteer firefighters and EMS professionals. If any supervisor wants an application, let me know, we could sure use the help.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask you to consider approval of this radio project and cut the politics and red tape out of our health and safety.

Bryor J. McMillen, West Point

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FMAAA Art Exhibit

Swarm to donate half of sales from exhibit to FMAAA

ARTS - Continued from Page 1

photographer, during the first onslaught of digital photography. He started adding skill layers in this medium when he asked my thoughts on a metal piece that he had created. I took the opportunity to encourage Curt to develop skills in the sculpture format. I remember telling him that even though he had a great eye for photography, that the post darkroom format has everyone aspiring to be the next Ansel Adams. Very few are doing any metal work in sculpture in the region. Since that time Curt has continued to develop a whimsical, story-telling style to his durable outdoor sculptures. Curt describes that acquiring the metal resource is an ongoing activity. "I go to flea markets to find stuff, and people give me junk. Often times I'll have something for a couple of years before I can see a use for it. It begins to talk to me: "Yoo hoo, here I am, use me!" Then it takes on a life of its own."

FMAAA is open for viewing Tuesday-Thursday-Friday-Saturday from 12-7pm. FMAAA is moving ever closer to their goal for the "Raise the Roof" campaign that will provide a new roof overhead and allow repairs to the internal damage created by the leaking over the last year. It is the organizations belief that this month will finalize the needed funds to insure the stability of the cultural arts at 825 Avenue G for the next 25 years.

Curt details his trifecta skills of writing, photography, and sculpture with his artist statement:

"Art is all around us. It's in our blood, in our soul. Whether it's writing, photography, the paint brush, welding torch, music, dance, acting, etc., it's up to the artist, or anyone, even the farmer plowing a field, to show God's beauty. God created and man creates. Creativity is next to Godliness.

I began writing in high school when I wrote a short story for English Lit class and the teacher threw it back at me with an F, telling me that I had plagiarized, that I didn't have the talent to write

something that good. I need to thank that teacher for the knowledge she gave me (I could write) and the determination she instilled in me. Failure turned to success, I earned a degree in English.

As a young adult I was borrowing my ex-wife's film camera and adding photos to my writing. A picture tells a thousand words. It's much easier now with digital. My free newspaper column, Empty Nest, expanded to over 40 newspapers in three states: Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. Taking Ginnie, my editor, with me to visit newspaper offices, publishers find it hard to say no to my human interest column. Here locally, Empty Nest is in the Ft. Madison Daily Democrat, Pen City Current, Keokuk Gate City, Van Buren County Register, Hancock and Hendersen County Quill (IL), Burlington Hawkeye, Ottumwa Courier, and Southeast Iowa Union, which includes Mt. Pleasant, Fairfield and Washington.

Welding took root when I had a couple pieces of junk metal laying around that I thought would look better attached to each other. Having never welded, I bought the cheapest 110v welder I could find and made every mistake in the book, and then some. I just about burned down the garage, was hauled to the emergency room at 2:00 a.m. with scorched eyeballs, and here lately burned a hole through my bib overalls, twice. I now have a 220v MIG welder and can really get myself in trouble! BTW: I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Brian Riggs for encouraging me to expand repurposed art.

It is the artist's responsibility to reflect the mood of the time, whether it be negative, positive or apathetic, and be a mirror to the soul of the observer. Art has the power to bring about change. The pen is mightier than the sword, as is the canvas or digital representation.

My art is guided by one principle and one principle only: Let thy light so shine amongst men that they see thy good works and glorify Father who art in heaven. Matthew 5:16"



Courtesy photo

The metal sculptures here are just part of Curt Swarm's collection. Swarm is the featured exhibit this month at the Fort Madison Area Arts Association. His work including other mediums will be on display at the gallery in downtown Fort Madison during November.



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Local News/Classifieds



Courtesy photo

Holy Trinity hosts Operation Christmas Child packing event

WEST POINT - The Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School had its annual Operation Christmas Child Packing Event today. Karen Schumaker, HTC Elementary Religion Teacher leads this each year with the sixth grade students helping to lead the younger students through the process.

HTC would like to thank all of our students and families who donated money or items to help us fill 350 shoeboxes full of gifts. These shoeboxes will ship to children who live in great poverty and bless them with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items.

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
CENTRAL LEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DONNELLSON, IOWA 52625**

**WORK SESSION
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
NOVEMBER 9, 2020
5:30 P.M.
TENTATIVE AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
 2. Board Workshop
- High School Building

HELP WANTED

**Laborer/Operator Position
City of Fort Madison
Parks and Cemeteries
Department**

SUMMARY

This is a position within the Parks, Recreation, Docks and Cemeteries Division of Fort Madison. Responsibilities include the maintenance of public parks, cemeteries and their facilities under direct supervision.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Education and Experience:
- Some experience in building and grounds maintenance.
 - Must have a current Iowa driver's license.
 - Skill in operating some of the listed tools and equipment; power and tractor mowers, backhoe, carpentry and plumbing tools, etc.

Applications can be picked up and submitted at Fort Madison City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa.



Report/FCS Presentation & Meal
3. Adjourn

**FINAL MEETING OF RETIRING BOARD - HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
7:00 P.M .**

1. Roll Call
2. Approve agenda
3. Receive Visitors:
 - a) Visitors to speak about items not on the agenda

4. CONSENT AGENDA: (Exhibit I)

- a) Approve minutes
- b) Financial reports: General and Schoolhouse funds, Clearing account, Hot Lunch account
- c) Approve prepaid bills
- d) Approve monthly bills
- e) Overnight Trip Requests:
 - 1) FFA Midwest Tour of Agribusinesses - 11/17/2020 - 11/20/2020
 - 2) Dance Team State Competition to Des Moines, Iowa -

11/18/2020 - 11/19/2020
5. Adjourn

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE NEW BOARD

1. Call to Order & Roll Call (by Board Secretary)
2. Election of Board President (Motion) (by Board Secretary)
3. Election of Vice-President (Motion) (by Board President)
4. Establish Meeting Date, Time & Location: Regular Meetings - Second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Lee Educational Services Center (Motion)
5. Name of Official Publication: Ft. Madison Daily Democrat (Motion)
6. Designation of Legal Counsel: Ahlers & Cooney Law Firm (Motion)
7. Superintendent's Report:
 - a) Special Education Certified Count
 - b) Finance Update
 - c) COVID-19 Update
 - d) Construction Update
 - e) Legislative Update
 - f) Virtual IASB Board Convention - 11/18/2020 & 11/19/2020

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board's Check Signing Authorization for President & Superintendent (Motion)
2. Board resolution to define operating rules and practices that will be followed by the new Board. (Motion) (Exhibit II)
3. Recommend the Board of Directors by motion to authorize the board secretary to issue warrants when said Board of Directors is not in ses-

sion as per 279.20 Code of Iowa.

A separate invoice list of prepaid warrants will be presented to the board monthly.

This motion is reviewed and re-approved yearly during the re-organizational meeting. (Motion)

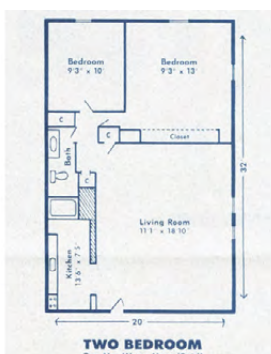
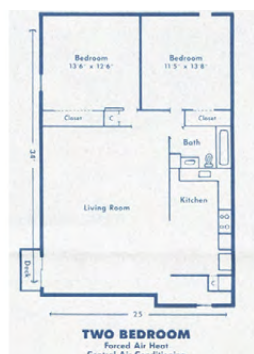
4. SBRC Approval (Motion) (Exhibit III)
 - a. Special Education
 - b. Enrollment Growth
5. Give approval for Superintendent and Board Secretary to pay Hot Lunch Bills upon proper documentation and approval from the food service director. (Motion)
6. Mid-Term Graduate Applications (Motion) (Exhibit IV)
7. Review and Approve Teachers Moving on Salary Schedule (Motion) (Exhibit V)
8. Review and Approve Increasing Compensation Rates (Motion) (Exhibit VI)
 - a) Athletic Event Workers
 - b) Substitute Food Service
9. First Reading - Policy 710.10 - School Bus Passenger Restraints (Motion) (Exhibit VII)
10. Introduce Board Policies 200 Series
11. Resignations: (Motion)
 - a) Tiffany Woodruff - Eighth Grade Volleyball Coach
 - b) Darrell Krehbiel - Jr. High Boys' Basketball Coach
12. Board Reports
13. Adjourn (Motion)

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From the Front

Online learning will be in effect until Dec. 1

SCHOOL - Continued from Page 1

viewing county positivity rates and absentee rates at the district's buildings. The district is also seeing absentee rates between 1%-7% for staff and 1%-6% for students.

The FMCSO has also collaborated with the Lee County Health Department regarding the rise in the positivity rates. The LCHD is in full support of the district's application.

With Fort Madison having students in three counties, the highest rate is considered. Des Moines County hit a high of 20% late last week. Henry County is at 19.5% with all three counties expected to rise.

The FMCSO will begin 100% required virtual learning on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 through Tuesday, November 24, 2020. According to the district's current calendar, Thanksgiving break begins Wednesday, November 25, 2020. Face to face learning will resume on Tuesday, Dec. 1 following the Thanksgiving holiday.

"The safety of our staff and students continues to be the highest priority in the FMCSO. We are hopeful that this mitigation effort will help reduce the rates and health risks of our school district community," Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater wrote on the website.

More changes coming as virus totals climb

COVID - Continued from Page 1

Now is a good time to remind everyone what CDC recommended quarantine and isolation guidance includes:

Quarantine: If someone has been exposed to an individual who tests positive (CDC definition includes someone who has been within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more or a household contact) that person should quarantine at home away from others for 14 days and self-monitor daily for symptoms. If no symptoms arise during the 14-day, the individual may resume normal activities. If that person becomes symptomatic anytime during the 14 days, they should self-isolate away from others for 10 full

days from the day their symptoms started, AND, they must be fever free for 24 hours, AND, their symptoms must improve before returning to normal activities.

Isolation: If an individual has symptoms of COVID-19, consider getting tested and please stay home, away from others, while waiting for test results.

If a person has symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19, the individual should stay home in self-isolation for at least 10 full days from symptom onset, AND, the person must be fever free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications, AND, symptoms have improved.

Because of our recent surge in positive COVID-19 cases in Lee County, LCHD recommends ALL businesses, schools, faith-based or community organizations, and worksites to review and update their COVID-19 mitigation plans.

"Consider what you can do to help mitigate further spread of this virus and help promote public health recommendations to reduce community

transmission in our county" Ross said.

Please access CDC resources at the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/general-business-faq.html> for more information.

LCHD also wants to remind everyone that public health recommendations provided by the CDC have continuously been updated to accommodate new scientific evidence, evolving epidemiology, and the need to simplify risk assessment. New recommendations are based on:

- Growing evidence of transmission risk from infected people without symptoms (asymptomatic) or before the onset of recognized symptoms (pre-symptomatic);
- Increased community transmission in many parts of the country;
- A need to communicate effectively to the general public;
- Continued focus on reducing transmission through social distancing and other personal prevention strategies.

For updated public health recommendations please access:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>

Hancock County Sheriff Scott Bentzinger announced Monday that the sheriff's office will be closed until Thursday due to possible COVID exposures, and all meetings of the department had been cancelled for the week.

The Southeast Iowa Superconference also sent out notice on Monday that all winter sports are mask required for any person not on the floor or the mat, including cheerleaders, players, coaches, staff, and fans.

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