

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, February 17, 2022 | 8 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 42



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Harlow to serve one term

DISTRICT 3: Montrose supervisor won't seek re-election in 2022

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – After one term on the Lee County Board of Supervisors, but more than 40 years of public service, Supervisor Rich Harlow has said 2022 will be his last year in public service.

After serving roles in both volunteer and elected posts, Harlow said it's time to do somethings he's wanted to do in

his personal life, including some travel.

"I'm looking forward to finishing out the rest of the term this year and continue to do the best I can for the people of Lee County. But after this year, I want to retire from public service," Harlow said.

Harlow served on the Fort Madison City Council in the 80s. As a city councilman, he also served as mayor pro tem

See HARLOW, page 6

2022 Annual Dinner

Nominees released for FM Partners yearly awards

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The nominees for the awards presented at the Fort Madison Partners annual dinner were announced this week.

Awards will be given out at the annual dinner being held this year at McAleer Hall on Feb. 15, honoring the Community Developer of the Year, Ambassador of the Year and the Daily Democrat Citizen of the Year.

Nominations for each category and their nomination submissions are listed below.

Community Developer of the Year Nominees:

Matt Mohrfeld: For leading the effort to develop the marina. While not yet a fully funded project, his passion and efforts have been on display. While some might say..."that's his job, he's the Mayor", his efforts have been more than that. Even if the project never comes to fruition, Matt's work and drive encapsulates the meaning of "developer". Also, his non-stop work ethic "growing" his greenhouse business and adding additional square footage to his already expanding brand.

Michael Ash/Moudy Nabulsi/Shottenkirk Family: For their multi-year long efforts to have an exceptional Fort Madison campus for SCC. Their leadership drove home the project, which combined creative funding tools, location flexibility, and creative design. Michael has had an expansive vision for the SCC "total package", and Moudy has served the college and community for many, many years as Fort Madison's rep on the Board of Trustees.

Asay Properties (Barb & Myles Asay): Since moving to Fort Madison, Barb & Myles have taken it upon themselves to invest in historic homes, many of which were in such a state of disrepair that many citizens had deemed them "not worth fixing". They build these homes back to their former glory creating an eye catcher instead of the eyesore they once were, therefore adding to the taxable value. Barb has also donated her time to the Beautification Foundations Paint-A-Thon, proving that her love for these homes reaches far

See NOMINEES, page 6



John Gaines Photography

Fort Madison Head girls basketball coach Tony Sargent was back on the bench Wednesday night for the Lady Hounds' Class 4A regional game against Mt. Pleasant at the Hound Dome. The Lady Hounds lost 63-57 ending their season in the first round of post-season play.

SPORTS

Panthers win ends Lady Hounds' season in overtime

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison's girls basketball team swept the regular-season series against Mount Pleasant.

Getting a postseason win, though, was a different matter.

The Panthers ended the Blood-

hounds' season, taking a 63-57 win in Wednesday's Class 4A regional quarter-final game.

Fort Madison (17-5), which came into the postseason with a six-game winning streak and having won eight of its last nine, forced overtime with Molly Knipe's 3-pointer with 1:45 to play. But a 3-pointer by Mount Pleasant's Kenna Lamm two minutes into overtime gave

the Panthers a 54-52 lead, and they would never trail again.

Mount Pleasant (12-10) will play at Keokuk (17-3) in Saturday's semifinal.

"There's no excuses," Fort Madison coach Tony Sargent had. "I thought there were two good teams, equally matched."

See BASKETBALL, page 3

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

THU 17 Feb.....Snow, 31° F/ 3° F
FRI 18 Feb.....Scattered Clouds, 29° F/ -4° F
SAT 19 Feb.....Clear Skies, 30° F/ 10° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/15.....25 27 28 31 38, Lucky Ball: 9
MEGA MILLIONS 02/15.....2 4 15 21 63, Mega Ball: 19 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 02/15 MIDDAY.....3 2 0
PICK 3 02/15 EVENING.....0 1 2
PICK 4 02/15 MIDDAY.....9 7 7 2
PICK 4 02/15 EVENING.....2 2 4 2

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Obituaries/Current-Lee

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM F. ABEL, JR.

William F. Abel, Jr., 79, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Friday, February 11, 2022 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington, IA. He was born on December 6, 1942 in Fort Madison, IA to William F. & Violet Peeler Abel, Sr. He married his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Janice Kay Hoskins on April 8, 1967 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Madison. They were married for 54 years. He graduated from Aquinas High School in 1961, Burlington Junior College in 1963 and from Drake University College of Pharmacy in 1966. He was a pharmacist for 50 years and worked at Lampe Drug Store from 1966 to 1998 and was the manager of the ShopKo Pharmacy from 1998 to 2005. He was a 50-year member of the Iowa Pharmacists Association, American Pharmaceutical Association and the ARRL American Radio Relay League. He was a 40+ year member of the Fort Madison Amateur Radio Club, an emergency coordinator for over 20 years and an honorary life member of the Knights of Columbus in Fort Madison. Bill was a devoted husband and father and loved his occupation as a pharmacist. He was always upbeat, smiling, friendly, caring and would go out of his way to help everyone. Family was always number one. Bill and Janice enjoyed meeting new people, visiting, laughing, enjoying life and spending time with their son. Bill had a strong faith and believed in God and prayers.

Bill is survived by: his wife: Janice Abel of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: David Abel; 3-brothers: Robert (Sue) Abel of Donnellson, IA, Most Reverend Thomas (Anjun Factor) Abel of North Las Vegas, NV & Michael (Amy) Abel of Berwyn, IL. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents and 1-great nephew: Zephan Abel.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 with a memorial service to immediately follow at 10:00 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will be held in Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the Fort Madison Fire & Rescue, Holy Family Parish or Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, AZ. Online condolences may be left to the family at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.king-lynk.com.

CURRENT-LEE

Lee County K9 Association and FMPD Hy-Vee Chili Supper – Support your local Lee County K9 Unit and FMPD by enjoying a wonderful chili supper. February 24th, 4-7pm at Fort Madison Hy-Vee. Free will donation!

Getting Ahead Open House Meet & Greet – Come meet the graduates of Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' by World. Talk with graduates and learn what the program has done for them, see what Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' by World can do for you, learn how you can become involved. Thursday, March 3, 6-8pm, First Lutheran Church, 1101 Blondeau, Keokuk. Refreshments will be served.

Hope Revealed Through Bible Prophecy – A continuing series of presentations of hope for today's world from Fort Madison Seventh-day Adventist Church. FREE admission, Bibles, books, DVD, Bible study materials, child care up to 12 years, and refreshments provided. The seminar starts Friday, March 4, 7pm at the Quality Inn & Suites, 6169 Reve Court, Fort Madison, Iowa.

Women of Faith are Invited to the Worldwide Live-Streamed IF: Gathering 2022 at FUMC of MP – We invite you to IF: Gathering to be held Friday, March 4th from 6-9:30 pm and Saturday, March 5th from 9am-

OBITUARIES

JOAN I. NELSON

Joan I. Nelson, 85, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. She was born March 12, 1936 at Montrose, Iowa, a daughter of George Wilson Jaster and Cecilia (Sherwood) Jaster Hymes and step-father, Charles Hymes, Sr. On November 24, 1956, she married Richard Nelson at Fort Madison, Iowa. He preceded her in death.

She was a homemaker, a den mother for the Cub Scouts, and volunteered at the Sacred Heart school.

She is survived by her son, Richard (Rosann) Nelson, Jr. of Fort Madison; one brother: Warren (Teresa) Hymes of Iowa; four sisters: Marcie (Ray) Duval and Gwen (George) New all of Florida, Charlotte (Doug) Sanders of Texas, Diana (Fred) Mincks of Fort Madison; seven grandchildren: Ricky, Marie, Becky, Michael, Dewayne, Sara and Brianne; four great grandchildren, one great great grandson, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, step-father, husband, four brothers: James, Charles, Howard, and LeRoy Hymes, two sisters, Juanita Schaefer and Sylvia Behlke, one son John Nelson, one grandson Omar Nelson, and daughter-in-law Kathy Nelson.

Per her wishes, her body has been cremated. There are no services planned. Online condolences to the Nelson Family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

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

4pm. The event will be held at First United Methodist Church at 309 N Main St, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641. The information is available on First United Methodist Church, Mt. Pleasant Facebook page or at: https://firstmethodistonline.org/if-gathering-2022?fbclid=IwAR0_1H6jydUv6cj5m_jlv87vdp_gbRi0t44Ng4WZ-moG0cyWvG99Fasrr5OI. If you do not have computer access, call the First United Methodist Church office at 319-385-1740.

Submit your event to appear in our next Current-Lee Calendar of Events. Your event will run once for FREE. Or run your listing daily through your event for as low as \$10! Email your listing to Lee at Lee.V@PenCityCurrent.com or call 319.371.4125 for more information.

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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From the Front/For the Record

Ross goes for 23 as Lady Hounds fall in regional

BASKETBALL - Continued from Page 1

The Bloodhounds had a chance to win the game at the end of the fourth quarter, holding the ball for the last 30 seconds before Malarie Ross, who had 23 points, drove to the basket and had her shot roll off the rim.

"I would have liked maybe a little better one, but it wasn't terrible," Sargent said. "We held the ball for the last shot, and we hope she either makes it or gets fouled or both."

Fort Madison took a 52-51 lead in overtime when Camille Kruse converted a 3-point play. But Lamm's three 14 seconds later put the Panthers on top.

Ross missed a 3-pointer on Fort Madison's next possession, then Tristan Shull knocked down a 3-pointer that gave the Panthers a 57-52 lead. Mount Pleasant closed out the game with six free throws in the final 40 seconds.

Fort Madison, which trailed for most of the second half, took a 44-40 lead with 6:04 to play on Ross' driving shot, then after Andrea Lopreato missed two free throws, Sargent called a timeout.

The Bloodhounds tried to stay patient, looking for a clean shot, but had turnovers on back-to-back possessions that led to two Mount Pleasant layups. That started a 9-2 run that took away Fort Madison's momentum.

"When we were up by four, I didn't want to stall," Sargent said. "We lost the ball out on top a couple of times, which really killed us."

Mount Pleasant had five 3-pointers in the first half to take a 25-22 halftime lead.

"They shot the ball better tonight than they have been," Sargent said. "They banked in a few of those threes and if you take those away, we win. But that's part of the game."

Kruse, a junior, had 18 points.

"She just had an outstanding game," Sargent said.

Lopreato led Mount Pleasant with 25 points. Lamm had 15. Shull had 13.

Fort Madison loses five seniors, including Ross, who scored 532 points this season.

"We won 17 games," Sargent said. "Would you like to have won 20? Yeah. Would you like to be playing Saturday? You bet I would."



John Gaines Photography

Fort Madison's Camille Kruse (21) passes against Mount Pleasant's Andrea Lopreato (22) and Tristan Shull (13) in the Class 4A regional quarterfinal Wednesday Feb. 16, 2022 in Fort Madison, Iowa.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Reports

12/13/2016 - 9:37 a.m. - FM Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 6100 block of Ortho Way.
 12/13/2016 - 12:12 p.m. - FM Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue C.
 12/13/2016 - 11:01 a.m. - FM police arrested Joshua Charles Corcoran, 35, of 1615 Avenue H, FM, at his residence on two charges of 5th degree theft and one charge of 4th degree theft. He was held at the Lee County Correctional Center.
 12/13/2016 - 1:33 p.m. - FM Police responded to a report of a burglary at Hawkeye Village.
 12/13/2016 - 2:13 p.m. - FM Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1300 block of Avenue H.
 12/13/2016 - 7:16 p.m. - FM Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue I
 12/13/2016 - 8:34 p.m. - FM Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1100 block of Avenue I

Lee County Sheriff's Reports

12/12/2016 - 4:18 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at Hwy 16 and Academy Avenue. Larry Eugene Pomberg, 65, of West Point was driving a 2012 Honda CRV and collided with a semi-tractor trailer driven by Jared Scott Conrad, 31, of Salem. No citations were issued. Pomberg sustained injuries and was transported to the Fort Madison Community Hospital.
 12/13/2016 - 2:51 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy 27. Heath Daniel Boone, 33, of Wayland reported striking a vehicle that

was diagonal to the direction of travel. The other vehicle left the scene prior to deputies arrival. Deputies were unsuccessful in recovering the other driver/vehicle. No injuries were sustained.
 12/13/2016 9:59 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to one vehicle accident involving a deer northbound on Hwy 27. Rachel Marie Mathews reported striking a deer that had been

previously been hit by the vehicle in front of her. The other vehicle was not recovered. No injuries were sustained.
 12/13/2016 - 10:16 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwy 16 and 280th Avenue. Kammy Jo Booten, 16, of West Point and Scott Benjamin Blanchard, 36, collided. Blanchard's vehicle rolled into the south ditch. Blanchard suf-

fered serious injuries and was transported to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics by AirEvac. Booten was cited for failure to yield upon entering through highway. Three children ages 9, 7 and 6 were treated for minor injuries and released. No injuries were reported in Booten's vehicle. All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
AGENDA
KEOKUK CITY
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
February 17, 2022
5:30 P.M.**

(1) Anderson, Larkin & Co. present the Fiscal Year Audit ending June 30, 2021.
(2) Review of the UTV/ Golf Cart Ordinance.
(3) Review council meeting agenda.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES
KEOKUK CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
February 3, 2022
501 Main Street
6:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on February 3, 2022 at 501 Main Street. Mayor Kathie Mahoney called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There were seven council members present, two absent. Carissa Crenshaw, Linda Altheide, Roslyn Garcia, Dan Winn, Linda Marsden, Roger Bryant, and Michael Greenwald were present. Steve Andrews and John Helenthal were absent. Staff in attendance: City Administrator Cole O'Donnell, City Clerk Jean Ludwig, Celeste El Anfaoui, Public Works Director Robert Helenthal, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Police Chief Dave Hinton, Fire Chief Gabe Rose, Bridge, Park, Cemetery and Sanitation Manager Bob Weis, and Sewer Department Manager Michael Clark.
MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE: Commended Street and Park departments on snow/ice removal and reminded citizens trucks are not to be driven on the sidewalk. Encouraged participation in boards/commissions throughout the city, educated on SEIBUS transportation service and expressed appreciation to the city on behalf of the Grand Theatre (Janice Linder). Informed Feb 1st through Feb 28th is designated Black History Month.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Garcia to approve the agenda, including the consent agenda. (7) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

• Minutes of the Council Workshop & Regular City Council meeting of

January 20, 2022;
• Minutes of the Special Council meeting of January 25, 2022;
• Second Quarter Financials;
• RESOLUTION NO. 14-2022 Approving an Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption for;
• John L. West, 309 Belknap Place, garage;
• Daniel & Lori Otte, 2417 Belknap Boulevard, remodel/alteration;
• Travis Conover, 923 High Street, garage;
• Aaron Zetterland, 1328 Bank, garage;
• James Neally, 1819 Orleans Avenue, remodel;
• Bryan & Nicole Nemecek, 2126 Park Lane, remodel;
• George & Carol Todd, 1031 Grand Avenue, remodel;
• Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5253-5254;
Motion made by Winn, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 15-2022: "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A ONE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH KLINGER & ASSOCIATES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES AT THE NORTH LANDILL." (7) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Marsden to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 16-2022: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2022 TO DISPOSE OF 710 S. 7TH STREET." (7) AYES, (0) NAYS.

Motion made by Marsden, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 17-2022: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2022 TO DISPOSE OF 518 MAIN STREET." (7) AYES, (0) NAYS.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Garcia to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 18-2022: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 PROPERTY TAX LEVY." (7) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Winn, second by Crenshaw to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 19-2022: "A RESO-

LUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PRO-PAVING LLC FOR THE 2022 CHIP AND SEAL PROJECT." (7) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: Final Notification for Devon Dade to the City Planning Commission fulfilling an unfinished term to expire 5/14/2025. Final Notification for Dustin Wade to the Depot Commission fulfilling an unfinished term to expire 6/1/2022. Accept resignation of Jeff Fuller from the Rand Park Pavilion Commission, 5-year term to expire 10/22/22. Motion made by Winn, second by Marsden to approve.

(7) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS: Helenthal commented on clearing the streets from snow/ice and the designated snow routes. Broomhall informed of a special use permit for 425 Bondeau and research for a homeless shelter. O'Donnell reported on Iowa League of Cities Legislative Policy Committee regarding tax reform, the budget amendment for fiscal year 21-22, and natural gas utility legal fee legislation.

There being no further business a motion was made by Marsden, second by Garcia to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUBLIC HEARING
February 22, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85732774178?pwd=dFNqNmh3SmpDY-0E3eXJCeDRZQnhDdz09>

AGENDA

I. Call Public Hearing to order and determination of a quorum
II. Approve the agenda
III. Hours vs Days for the 2022-2023 School Year
IV. Receive written comments regarding Hours vs. Days for 2022-2023 School Year
V. Receive oral comments regarding Hours

vs. Days for the 2022-2023 School Year
VI. Adjourn

**FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUBLIC HEARING
February 22, 2022
6:05 P.M.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85732774178?pwd=dFNqNmh3SmpDY-0E3eXJCeDRZQnhDdz09>

AGENDA

I. Call public hearing to order and determination of a quorum
II. Approve the agenda
III. School Calendar

2022-2023 school year
IV. Receive written comments regarding school calendar for 2022-2023 School Year
V. Receive oral comments regarding school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year
VI. Adjourn



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From the Front

Supervisor advises candidates to be committed to office

HARLOW - Continued from Page 1

for a term. He's also served on the city's parks and recreation board and the Fort Madison Aquinas Athletic Board, in addition to his four-year term as a supervisor.

Harlow was elected in 2018 and started his term in 2019 after defeating Republican Jim Steffen in the general election.

Harlow said there is more involved in being a supervisor than the weekly meetings and his advice for those who are considering a run is to be committed to the process.

"Some people think it's one meeting a week and it absolutely isn't. You have other commitments - committees and meetings and then you have to look at roads, find out what's going on with the ambulance, be present and be committed," Harlow said.

"And be thick-skinned. You can't have a thin skin in this business."

Harlow lost his wife halfway through this term and said he wants to travel and maybe even become "one of those snowbirds".

"We've got another storm coming in this week. Some people go south for the winter so maybe we'll do that for a couple months of the year," Harlow said. "I want to be able to have time to do things like that."

His other advice was realizing that you can't please all the people all of the time.

"It would be nice if you could give everyone what they want, but you can't. It would be nice if you could do that without raising taxes, but you can't. Be available to the voters and the citizens and keep your cool. Don't get upset and listen to everyone's opinion before you make an informed decision."

Harlow said the ambulance service has been one of the biggest challenges facing the county and said the vote was close with former Supervisor Gary Folluo and Rick Larkin voting for a private run ambulance service, while Harlow, Fedler, and Matt Pflug voting for the county-owned option.

"There's certainly been some challenges there, but I'm looking forward to continuing to work on that through this year."

He said the county also needs to get through the pandemic and get salaries comparable to other counties so Lee County can be competitive in finding those employees.

No Democrat has come forward from District 3 to run for the seat. Pete Seyb has announced his intentions to run for the seat from the Republican side.

Winners to be announced Feb. 25

NOMINEES - Continued from Page 1

beyond the profit that can be made from "flipping" them. Barb and Myles are an asset to the community and we are lucky they chose Fort Madison as home.

ConAgra Foods: The ConAgra facility has been a staple in Fort Madison's industrial base for over 40 years and has continued that commitment through taxable evaluation increases as well as employment opportunity for our residents of Fort Madison and surrounding communities. Through multiple changes in ownership, the local leadership have proven themselves in maintaining the commitment to our region as well as showing their leadership/ownership that the Fort Madison facility is worth the continued investment.

Ambassador of the Year

Chi Eastin: I am nominating Chi Eastin for Ambassador of the Year award. Her bringing Virtual Rail fan camera should be enough but then add Lake Cooper Loop and the many subtler things she does have had a big economic impact on our town.

Josh Ragar: I don't think he's missed an event or ribbon cutting. That kind of dedication personifies what being an Ambassador is all about. He's informed, engaged and excited about each and every new opening. And uniquely interested in each and every new business or dedication or anniversary that we help recognize and celebrate.

Jess Sutcliffe is really making a name for herself in Fort Madison. She is very involved in all things Chamber related and is always quick to lend a helping hand. Jess has been pivotal in the formation of the Beautification Foundation and is passionate about making Fort Madison the best place it can be. She encourages her staff to be involved and has formed a powerhouse of women in her office.

Darcie Uhlmeier: I would like to nominate Darcie Uhlmeier for Ambassador of the Year. She is involved in a myriad of community activities supporting Lee County. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Darcie is a leader in our community. Darcie is also a leader at the Iowa Fertilizer Company, where she spearheads our involvement in the Paint-a-Thon, Food Pantry drives, highway cleanup, and the winter coat drive in partnership with the Rotary. In IFCo's early days she also coordinated construction crews for repairs at the United Way office and work at a Habitat for Humanity house. Darcie is a positive and visible force in our community. The width and breadth of her local involvement far exceeds my limited knowledge.

Daily Democrats Citizen of the Year award.

The Citizen of the Year Award is sponsored by the Fort Madison Daily Democrat. Created in the late 1980s, the award is designed to recognize a person that goes above and beyond on a volunteer basis to improve the quality of life in the Fort Madison area.

Nominated for the award this year are (in alphabetical order) Donna Amandus, Derek Doherty, Pete Karczmarczyk and Chris Swed.

Donna Amandus was nominated by Linda Smith and members of the Canine Corral Committee. "In a world where people look at a glass and see it as half-empty or half-full, Donna Amandus sees the glass as half-full and decides she'll find a way to fill it up! She sees any challenge as an opportunity to get the right people together at the right time, come up with a plan to

meet that challenge, and lead the way to success," they write in their letter nominating Amandus.

Case in point, they say, is Fort Madison's dog park. Amandus approached city officials and told them that if they would give the designated one acre at Rodeo Park and fence it in, she put together volunteers and raise the money to make it happen.

She then raised the money through grants and contributions for sally gates, walkways, two shelter houses, trees, benches and more and the dog park opened on June 27, 2020.

While adding the finishing touches to the dog park, Amandus took on another project - to construct six pickle ball court at Victory Park in Fort Madison. She and co-chair Bev Brockman put together a committee and have raised \$113,000 of the estimated \$250,000 needed, with a couple of grants pending.

Derek Doherty: Derek Doherty, who is the head football coach at Fort Madison High School, was nominated by Michael Mohrfeld for his commitment and extra efforts.

"I have been following his efforts on and off the football field, what he has directly done for the football team has shown results on the field," writes Mohrfeld. "However his dedication to the students off the field, in the weight room, supporting other sports and just overall positive attitude is admirable. He has chosen the #Family as his trademark, which speaks volumes about what he all about."

In fact, Mohrfeld says this positive attitude has proven to be contagious.

"I find myself and many others now going to games filling the stands to support a program that he has created, very impressed with what they have built over the last several years," he adds.

Pete Karczmarczyk: Pete was nominated by Dovie Britton for his many acts of kindness and volunteer efforts.

"If you are looking for a good citizen, he is your man. Need help? Call Pete," writes Britton.

For example, Karczmarczyk plays Santa Claus at nursing homes, food markets and daycare facilities; walks his neighbor's dog most days; cooks at the men's breakfast at his church and helps in the church nursery; helps neighbors make repairs and removes snow from neighbors' sidewalks; takes one neighbor's kids to school; takes a friend each morning to coffee during the week; and helps his wife, Marty, make 'fidget quilts' for those in nursing homes.

Britton says Karczmarczyk is also the "director of drive-by shooting" at COVID vaccine drive-thru clinics for the Lee County Health Department; volunteers with Lee County Hospice; is a member of the Lincoln Neighborhood Watch group; and often a volunteer with the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Chris Swed: Swed, who operates the Fox Theater and Swed & Co. on downtown Fort Madison with his wife Maddie, was nominated by Stephanie Brownlee.

"He brought excitement and growth in this town during the tough year we had. Though he is not from Fort Madison, he has made Fort Madison his home," writes Brownlee in her nomination letter. "He believes in this town. Chris, with Jordan Reynolds, made the page "This is Fort Madison" to feature the beauty of this town. They have been working on that for over a year now. Chris Swed has truly brought life back into this town with the two businesses he runs in this community as well."

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