

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 | 5 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 51



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

## WP may get into trash business



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren talks to the West Point City Council Monday night on the transition of emergency responder radios to digital formats to provide better emergency communications.

## WP CITY COUNCIL: City looking at possibly going out for bids for service

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT – A short notice from one of several trash providers in West Point has city officials considering getting into the trash business.

At Monday's regular meeting of the West Point City Council, Mayor Paul Walker brought up the issue during a public comment section, rather than typically having the item listed on the discussion items.

Walker said Rick Fraise, who had served about 150 residents in the city, gave notice that he would be retiring at the end of the month. Fraise was charging about \$19 a month for

the service.

Dennis LaVeine of LaVeine Sanitation in West Burlington was present at the meeting with staff in tow, to pitch the city for bidding to provide service to the entire city.

"If you contract with us to serve the whole city you're gonna get a better price than they are paying now if you don't include recycling," LaVeine told the council.

"You also have some in town who don't have any service and that's kind of a mess. This way everyone will get service and you control the billing."

See TRASH, page 5

## COMMUNITY CRIME

## Neighborhood watch program is growing

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – In just four years the city's neighborhood watch program has grown to four groups with possibly two more in the near future.

The groups held a Community Neighborhood Watch meeting on Sunday at Hill Side Inn with representatives from Dry Creek Neighborhood Watch, Lincoln Neighborhood Watch, 34th Place Neighborhood Watch, and Northeast 16 Neighborhood Watch groups present.

It's been more than a year since the groups all got together for a group meeting.

"We've been so busy organizing the citywide events, plus what's going on in our lives and our own groups, and trying to help start other groups, we just haven't had time," said host Larry Lee Stewart, a founder of the Lincoln group.



ROHLOFF

The newest group encompasses from 2nd Street to 8th Street and from Avenue C to Avenue G.

"This is an ambitious group. I thought Lincoln was wholly smokes huge, but when we did a count there were more than 250 residences in that group," Stewart said.

Steve Howard, a member with the 34th Neighborhood group, said there is a group interested in starting in the Fareway neighborhood. There is also a group on Avenue K that has been in place for a while, but hasn't joined the community neighborhood groups.

Howard asked Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff if he was aware of the group and if there was a way to get the groups to work together.

Rohloff said the community groups are a testament to people who have pride in their community.

"Everybody realizes and understands that the police department has limita-

See CRIME, page 5

## UNITED WAY FUNDRAISER

## Keokuk's Yacht Club to host United Way's Spaghetti Dinner

LEE COUNTY – It's Spaghetti Time!! United Way of the Great River Region is hosting its 10th annual Spaghetti Dinner at Keokuk Yacht Club on Monday, March 23rd.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to be holding our 10th Spaghetti dinner at

the Keokuk Yacht Club with its beautiful view of our Mississippi River. In the big city you would pay \$100 or more for that type of view. On March 23rd you can get it for \$8.00 per person" stated United Way Executive Director Karen Siefken.

"We are changing things up a bit this year," said Dena Mast event Chairperson. "We will have one ticket whether you choose to dine in or carry out and you can come at any time between 5

See DINNER, page 5

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## WEATHER

TUE 10 Mar.....Clear Skies, 47.5° F/ 45.6° F  
WED 11 Mar.....Partly Cloudy, 57.5° F/ 46.0° F  
THU 12 Mar.....Light Rain, 61.0° F/ 39.5° F

## IOWA LOTTERY

PICK 3 03/08 MIDDAY.....004  
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PICK 4 03/08 EVENING.....7310

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### CHRISTOPHER R. HEMPHILL

Christopher R. Hemphill, 58, of Keokuk, IA, died Friday, March 6, 2020 at his home.

He was born on December 25, 1961 in Danville, IL, the son of Marvin and Barbara Garner Hemphill. His father later married Ruth Tucker and she became a loving mother to Christopher and his brothers and sisters.



HEMPHILL

Chris graduated from High School in Springfield, IL. He received his Associate Degree from Southeastern Community College in Keokuk.

Chris first married Joan Epping and they later divorced. On October 31, 2011, Chris was united in marriage to Phyllis Gann Kurrle in Jacksonville, IL. She survives.

Other survivors include one son, Brian Hemphill (Maggie) of Idaho, one daughter, Amy Hemphill of Beardstown, IL, his nephew who he raised as his son, Justin Hemphill of Keokuk, one step-son, Chris Wills (Carrie) of Jacksonville, IL, thirteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother, Ruth Hemphill of Springfield, IL, five sisters, Tyna Newlan (Floyd) of Keokuk, Marva Uchtman of Litchfield, IL, Wynona McCall (Chuck) of Alabama, Dynean Crowe (Jim) and Becky Walton (Brian) all of Springfield, IL, three brothers, Ted Hemphill (Vickie) of California, John Hemphill (Lori) of Springfield, IL and Matthew "Jim" Hemphill (Rhonda) of North Carolina and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his birth mother and his father, one sister, Sam Bryant, one nephew, Dustin Hemphill and two nieces, Lisa Hemphill and Maria Uchtman.

Chris was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Chris had been employed as a Chef at Perkins Restaurant. He also managed and trained the staff at Perkins in central Illinois.

He loved playing card games, especially euchre.

There will be no services.

The Vigen Memorial Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The 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.

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Left to right: Chris, Erin, Judy, Jill, Brian, Shelby, and Desiree



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## OBITUARIES

### JOHN W. BRISCOE

John W. Briscoe, 73, of Keokuk died Thursday, March 5, 2020 at the Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

He was born on December 9, 1946 in Keokuk, IA the son of William and Doris Biddenstadt Briscoe.



BRISCOE

John graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1965. He attended college at Northeast Missouri State in Kirksville, MO and graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor's of Business Degree.

John was united in marriage to Robin Baxter on January 24, 1981 in Keokuk. She survives.

Other survivors include his daughter, Amanda Lewis (Donny Jr.), of Keokuk, two grandchildren, Devin Lewis and Drew Lewis (Mikelle) all of Keokuk, one great-grandchild, Abel Lewis. He is also survived by three sisters, Judy Fromi (Jon) of Freeport, IL, Jeri Brownlee (Dave) of Warsaw, IL, Lora Comstock (Randy) of Alta Loma, CA, two brothers, Tim Briscoe (Vicki) of Keokuk and Gary Briscoe (Norma) of Keokuk, his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Robert and Vera Baxter of Highland, IN, and numerous brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father and one son, in 1998, Jamey W. Briscoe.

John was the owner and operator of Briscoe Construction since 1970. He truly enjoyed his work as a homebuilder and remodeling contractor. He loved creating outdoor Christmas displays and had his own mini "City of Christmas" at his home.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Alice Hawes officiating. Private family burial will be held at the Riverside Cemetery.

There will be no visitation.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Keokuk Animal Services or to the family.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

### CAROL J. McVEY

Carol Jean McVey, 74, of Lomax, IL passed away Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, IA.

She was born June 18, 1945 in LaHarpe, IL, the daughter of Samuel Webster and Grace Eileen Bartlow Willdrick.

Carol attended Durham, IL grade school and graduated from Dallas City High School. She worked at J. I. Case for 22 years, retiring in 2009. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, embroidering and mushroom hunting.

She is survived by two sons, Randy Smith of Iowa City, IA and Darren Smith of Dallas City, two daughters, Rochelle Stone of Dallas City and Jessica Sevilla of Indianapolis, IN, nine grandchildren and one brother, Larry Willdrick of Jefferson City, Tennessee.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, LeRoy Willdrick, one sister, Myrna Holstein and her grandson, Noah Stone.

Graveside services will be held at 10:30am Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Harris Cemetery near Dallas City with Pastor Maxine Dennison officiating. A memorial fund has been established for her grandchildren's education. To sign the guest book and leave a condolence, please visit her obituary at [www.banksandbeals.com](http://www.banksandbeals.com).

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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# For the Record

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

03/06/20 – 12:30 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Patricia May Malloy, 37, of Fort Madison, at the police department on a charge of making false reports. She was released on a promise to appear.  
 03/06/20 – 9:07 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Benjamin Steven Hobbs, 34, of Fort Madison, in the 1300 block of Avenue J, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released after citation.  
 03/07/20 – 8:48 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of Avenue F.  
 03/08/20 – 3:07 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Russell Arlo Young, 44, of Fort Madison in the 700 block of 14th Street on a warrant service. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/08/20 – 3:35 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jamie Lea Jenkins, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 5400 block of Avenue O, on a warrant service. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/08/20 – 9:26 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Crystal Ann Horn, 23, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of Avenue I, on a charge of serious domestic abuse assault. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/08/20 – 10:00 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jonathan David Isaac Horn, 19, of Fort Madison in the 1900 block of Avenue O, on a warrant service and a charge of assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/06/20 – 11:09 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Austin Dean Schuelka, 30, of Fort Madison, on a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/06/20 – 1:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sean Douglas Lee Vantiger, 29, of Mt. Pleasant, at the Henry County Jail on a warrant for 2nd-degree theft. He was held in custody.  
 03/06/20 – 1:46 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Anthony Leroy Bernard, 30, of Donnellson at the Louisa County Jail on a warrant for violation of parole. He was held in custody.

03/06/20 – 2:43 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Scott Wesley Joseph Lynch, 40, of Fort Madison in the 1600 block of Avenue F on a warrant for violation of probation and charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to yield to an emergency vehicle, failure to use seat belts, and driving under suspension. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/06/20 – 10:25 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Aaron Aunestie Bevans, 40, of Keokuk in the 1700 block of Timea in Keokuk, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/06/20 – 10:40 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Lucas Allen Johnson, 35, of Keokuk, in the 1700 block of Timea Street in Keokuk on a temporary hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/06/20 – 11:54 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Anthony Weldon, 30, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on warrants for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.  
 03/07/20 – 11:13 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brian Scott Howes, 40, of Keokuk, in the 1700 block of Johnson Street Rd. in Keokuk, on warrants for violation of parole, violation of sex offender registration, and charges of interference with official acts, drug trafficking, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/07/20 – 11:13 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Heather Elaine Howes, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Johnson Street Road Keokuk, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/08/20 – 3:20 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Samuel Louis Gray, 68, of Fort Madison, in the 200 block of Avenue E, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of controlled substances. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.  
 03/08/20 – 3:35 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jamie Leah Jenkins, 35, of Fort Madison, on a warrant for failure to appear.

She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.

### Hancock County Sheriff's report

03/03/20 – Dalton J Phillips, age 23, of Blandinsville, IL was arrested and charged with Battery. Phillips was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/03/20 – Theresa A Potter, age 51, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended / Revoked. Potter was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/03/20 – Tony R Christ, age 40, of Quincy, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging

him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Improper Lane Usage, Driving While License Revoked, and Operating Uninsured Vehicle. Christ remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.  
 03/06/20 – Patrick A Turnbull, age 36, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear / Failure to Pay on original charges of Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle. Turnbull was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/07/20 – Lisa J Dye, age 53, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Driving While

License Suspended. Dye was released on her own recognizance and given a future court date.  
 03/07/20 – Adam W Bollin, age 20, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Revoked, Driving Under the Influence, Aggravated Fleeing and Eluding, and Operation of an ATV on Highway. Bollin was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/07/20 – Aubrey B Nelson, age 19, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Violation of Order of Protection. Nelson remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her initial court appearance.

03/08/20 – Cheyenne N Jacobson, age 24, of Hettick, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Jacobson 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 Report

03/07/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls  
 03/08/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls and one assist.



# 2020 To Do List Save Our Planet

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICES

The Fort Madison Community School District and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees will meet in open public meeting to receive the Federation's initial proposal to the District for the purpose of negotiating the 2020-2021 contract at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

They will then meet in open public meeting to receive the District's initial proposal to the Association at 4:05 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

The meetings will be held at the Board of Directors Office, 1930 Avenue M, Fort Madison, Iowa.

#### AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approve Agenda
- Public Hearing for Input on Newberry Center
- Consider Approval of Final Resolution Instructing Chair to Sign Three Year Non-Exclusive Lease Agreement with Newberry Center Association
- Consider Approval of Tuesday, March 3, 2020 Board Minutes
- Public Input
- Consider Approval of Claims
- Consider Request from Milestone Area Agency On Aging for Freezer at Heritage Center in Keokuk
- Consider Approval of Bridge Embargo Resolution
- Consider Approval of Plan and Statement of Support for 2020 Lee County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan
- Consider Approval of Resolution Establishing Speed Limits On Certain Portion of County Road 103 in City of West Point
- Canvass the Tuesday, March 3, 2020 Special Fort Madison School District PPEL Election
- Consider Approval of Resolution Approving

#### Sale of Property at Tax Auction

- Consider Approval of Service Agreement with Nyhart Company for Actuarial Services
- Personnel Actions:
  - A. Step Increases-Health Department (3) Reports:
    - A. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected
    - B. Auditor's Report of Fees Collected
    - C. Manure Management Annual Update for C & M Hogs in Charleston Township
  - Commission or Committee Reports
  - Recess
- RECONVENING TIME: 1:00 P.M.
- LOCATION: Heritage Center 508 Main St Keokuk IA
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Public Hearing for Input on Heritage Center
- Consider Approval of Final Resolution Instructing Chair to Sign Three Year Non-Exclusive Lease Agreement with Heritage Center Association
- Public Input
- Discuss and Consider Approval of Property Tax Waiver on Lincoln Ridge Property (2nd Installment) As Related to Iowa Finance Authority's Approval of Transitioning Lincoln Ridge Property Ownership to Lee County
- Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING  
CITIZENS WELCOME

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County Website:  
[www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org)

## Residents may have to find interim service

### TRASH - Continued from Page 1

LaVeine's service would include an automated truck carrying one employee. The trucks would pick up containers provided by LaVeine, but would carry a one time purchase price. LaVeine said he had 65 gallon and 90 gallon rolling carts that would carry the same price.

Councilman Will Stuekerjuergen said he would favor a plan where his trash bill was combined with his water and sewer bill.

Walker said that was the point of the discussion to determine if the city wanted to get into the trash business or continue with the status quo.

Currently residents contract with trash providers privately and in addition to Fraise, Floyds, and Kohlmeyer Hauling out of Keokuk have service in West Point.

Walker informally polled the councilman who all agreed to take a deeper look at possibly bidding the city's trash service out. With Fraise's service ending, residents who currently have trash service with him, would have to look to other providers while the city gets more input on the citywide service.

In an unrelated issue, the council heard from Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren, who's representing a committee looking into transitioning county emergency responder radios to a digital format from the current analog service.

Herren has been making the rounds speaking to municipalities about the transition. The transition could cost county residents more than \$7 million when all is said and done.

The money would be collected through a countywide levy that Herren said has been preliminarily estimated at .20 to .30/\$1,000 of assessed valuation for 10 years. However, he said funds on hand could offset some of those costs. Funds from the county's E911 board could be also be used to help reduce additional costs to taxpayers.

Herren was there looking for a letter of support from the city, that would be used when he pitched the transition to the Lee County Board of Supervisors on the 17th.

Currently radio communications are sketchy around the county, highlighted by the recent shooting in a Fort Madison warehouse, where communication was limited by being inside the building. At some points, Herren said police just heard clicks from the radio but no chatter.

Herren said he also feared poor communication when firefighters were inside buildings and don't answer radio contact.

## Chief heralds watch group efforts

### CRIME - Continued from Page 1

tions. We're not there everywhere all the time," Rohloff said.

He said typically the department has three officers on the road per shift, while last year the police more than 13,600 calls for service, or about 13 per day.

"We spend a lot of time running from call to call which doesn't allow us a lot of time for crime prevention... being proactive. That's where you guys come in," Rohloff said.

He said watch groups calling in with what they are seeing helps the police be more responsive and deal with issues more effectively.

Rohloff said he puts out rubber snakes to keep critters and birds out of his garden. "Be a snake, be out there and being visible in your neighborhood really helps deter crime. They know they are going to be watched, and police will be called."

He said people prone to criminal activity can be driven from the community because of the "snakes" in the garden.

Rohloff said he investigated the city as far as crime rates, and said the city is in the 87th percentile nationwide and said most of the crimes were property crimes.

He said the impact is loss, including insurance rates, livability, and the way the community feels about itself.

"The only way to drive that down is through the cooperative effort between the community and law enforcement to make sure that is addressed properly and that's something we want to see happen."

He said it will take everyone's involvement to help get the job done and crime rate down.

The network is considering holding an all-group Christmas party this year and is also considering sponsoring a city park as part of their give back to the community.

## Tickets still on sale for fundraiser

### DINNER - Continued from Page 1

p.m. and 8 p.m., so if your schedule changes or is tight, there is more flexibility."

Dinner includes spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread stick, small side salad, a delicious homemade dessert and drink and will be served by our "celebrity" wait staff.

Adult beverages will be available for purchase directly from Keokuk Yacht Club.

Tickets are available at United Way of the Great River Region office (511 Blondeau St.) in Keokuk, United Way Resource Center in Fort Madison (3421 Avenue L), as well as any UWGRR Board members and staff.

For more information, please contact UWGRR Executive Director, Karen Siefken at 319-524-4504. United Way of the Great River Region • 511 Blondeau Street • PO Box 251 Keokuk, IA 52632 • 319-524-4504 • [director@unitedwaygrr.org](mailto:director@unitedwaygrr.org)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Lee County, Iowa**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Agenda**  
**DATE: TUESDAY,**  
**February 11, 2020**  
**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
**9:00 A.M.**  
**LOCATION:**  
**Newberry Center**  
**728 Avenue G,**  
**Fort Madison, IA**

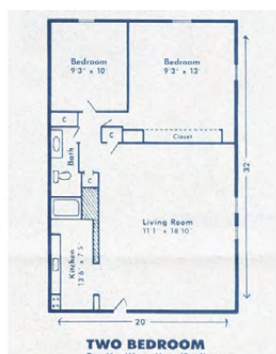
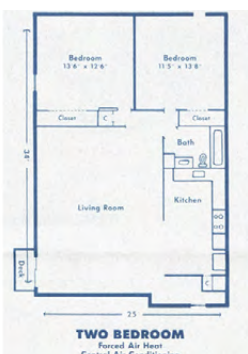
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backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.



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