

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Thursday, June 11, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 117



www.pencitycurrent.com

County sees first COVID death

NUMBERS RISE: Health officials report 11 new cases in county since June 1

From Lee County Health Department

FORT MADISON – Today the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Lee County Health Department (LCHD) announced the first death from Lee County related to COVID-19.

LCHD extends their deepest sympathy to this individual's family, and would like to encourage the public to remain respectful of this family's privacy during this difficult time. Due to Iowa Code Chapter 22 no other information or details will be released.

IDPH and LCHD have also identified two additional cases

of COVID-19 in the county, one middle-age adult and one older adult who are currently in isolation. This makes 37 confirmed cases in Lee County to date with 25 reported cases as recovered.

We encourage interested residents to access the Iowa Coronavirus website at <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov> if interested in county testing data, confirmed case counts, and other useful information.

Lee County Health Department website, www.leecounty-hd.org, and their Facebook page, will continue to be updated with information as well.

GREEN OAK

Mohrfeld hopes tax credit boosts housing starts

Development back on with help of Homes for Iowa, Building Trades

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With 23 condos elegantly overlooking the city, Fort Madison developer Michael Mohrfeld has turned his sites back down the bluff.

A new state workforce housing tax credit has made completing Green Oak Development, which Mohrfeld started in 2014, a workable project again.

The 2000 Fort Madison High School graduate started Mohrfeld Electric in 2006, then branched into development with Green Oak Development, started building homes on farmland on the city's northwest side, started a solar installation company, shifted to the Woodland Estate condos in 2017,



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

A mower takes care of the grass that's part of the Green Oak Development project in Fort Madison Wednesday. The project could get a boost from a workforce housing tax credit that developer Michael Mohrfeld recently approached city officials about.



MOHRFELD

and now is looking to finish the Green Oak project.

Mohrfeld has built 51 homes and condominiums in Fort Madison in less than seven years, adding about \$15 million in real estate value to the city. He's also

built homes in West Point south of South Park.

The credit that requires support of the cities involved and requires that the homes be marketed under \$200,000.

When Mohrfeld started building homes in 2014, he said his goal was

to be in that price range.

"Our goal in 2014 was to hit the market at the \$150,000 to \$200,000 price point and the very first thing we found out is that it's virtually impossible to do. We were going upside down on the homes," he said.

Green Oak built about 28 homes in five years, but he said the demand for multiple car garages, finished basements and another needs pushed the market to over \$300,000.

In 2018, he stopped building on Green Oak and moved to tackle some demand for upper level,

See HOUSING, page 8

REYNOLDS

Governor ends 50% capacity rule on Friday

Officials cancel Iowa State Fair for 2020

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – Most state businesses can go back to full capacity starting Friday, June 12 at 8 a.m.

At a Wednesday morning press conference from the state capital, Reynolds made the announcement and said businesses need to still adhere to six foot social distancing guidelines, while enhancing hygiene and sanitation practices.

"Eliminating capacity restrictions will allow businesses the flexibility to adjust their specific operations accordingly to best meet the needs of staff and clients," Reynolds said.

She said the move also applies to salons, barbershops, tattoo parlors, swimming pools and senior centers, casinos, racetracks, malls, venues, and other businesses the limitation applied to.



Iowa has seen more than 200,000 residents tested, or 1 of every 16 Iowans. Reynolds said since the end of April numbers have been trending down. Overall, test of the state's residents are coming back with an 11.1% positive rate. Reynolds said even with the increased number of tests being done the positivity rate for Tuesday was 5.4%.

Iowans hospitalized with the virus stood at 245 across the state as of Tuesday with 73 in Intensive Care Units. Those numbers compare to 394 hospitalizations one month ago, 152 of whom were in ICUs.

"Changes are a result of the positive forward momentum that were generating in Iowa and we must keep it going."

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
THU 11 Jun.....Clear Skies, 75.2° F / 62.6° F
FRI 12 Jun.....Sunny & Warm, 79.7° F / 62.0° F
SAT 13 Jun.....Broken Clouds, 68.1° F / 55.8° F

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 06/09.....15 9 10 23, Mega Ball: 22 Megaplier: 2
PICK 3 06/09 MIDDAY.....3 8 8
PICK 3 06/09 EVENING.....6 4 9
PICK 4 06/09 MIDDAY.....4 6 7 0
PICK 4 06/09 EVENING.....5 6 7 4

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Obituaries/Iowa News

OBITUARIES

MARY M. CAMPBELL (PETERSON)

This is the story of Mary Marjorie Campbell (Peterson). To us she was Mom, Big Grandma, and Gigi. A spunky, strong-willed, independent, and loving woman.



CAMPBELL

Her story began on October 6, 1926 born to Ross and Francis Peterson. She was their third child of four children and the only girl. She was raised here in Keokuk but traveled all over the United States. She married right out of high school and had a daughter Constance (Harris). She then divorced and raised her daughter as a single strong woman with the help of her parents.

Her daughter then married Gregory and gave her four grandchildren, Sunshine, Noah, Daniel and Marietta. She was an amazing grandma, teaching them to skateboard, play ping-pong in the kitchen (extra points if you got it in a coffee cup) and even played potpourri, making, always willing to sample them. She carried on all these wonderful things to her great-grandchildren, Malachi and Mackenna. Her family was her pride and joy.

Her death was no surprise to any of us though, as she has been asking to die for years. The good Lord just wasn't ready for her yet. But on the day, June 8, 2020, the Lord opened the Gates for her. Taking her home to be with her family in Heaven. She died in her home surrounded by the love of her family.

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 5 pm - 7 pm at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with family meeting with friends at that time.

A private family graveside service will be held on Friday.

Memorials may be made to the Heritage Center in Keokuk for the Meals on Wheels Program.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.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.

OBITUARIES

DOLORES A. JONES

Dolores Ann Jones, 88, of Dallas City, Illinois, passed away Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at her home, surrounded by her family.

Dolores was born on July 17, 1931 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Raymond and Edith (Mitchell) Hoenig. On January 20, 1951 she married Alfred Jones in Fort Madison. He preceded her in death on June 25, 2007.



JONES

In addition to raising her family Dolores worked at Sheaffer Pen Company in Fort Madison, the former Browns Grocery Store in Dallas City and retired from Methode in Carthage.

She was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dallas City and the Dallas City American Legion Auxiliary.

Survivors include three daughters, Lisa Siemens of Niota, Illinois, Jocelyn (Tim) Johnson of Fountain Green, Illinois and Andrea Thomas of Cape Coral, Florida, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Dolores was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one brother, Earl Hoenig and two sons-in-law, Kevin Siemens and Tom Thomas.

A private graveside service will be held at the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Fort Madison. A memorial fund has been established for The Madison or Sacred Heart Catholic Church Contributions may be mailed to; Dolores Jones Memorial Fund, c/o Banks & Beals Funeral Home, PO Box 70, Dallas City, IL 62330.

Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City is assisting the family. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Dolores obituary at banksandbeals.com.

DHS starts free COVID counseling

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) is pleased to announce the State of Iowa has received nearly \$1 million

in funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to offer free crisis counseling to any Iowan who has been affected, in any way, by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The program, called COVID Recovery Iowa, is available starting today. Counseling will take place via virtual sessions, chat or phone call. People of all ages may join groups online to find support and learn new strategies to cope with the effects of the pandemic in a variety of creative ways.

"We are so grateful to

our federal partners for providing Iowa with this critical funding," said Director Kelly Garcia. "It's not uncommon to experience feelings of stress or anxiety during uncertain times. This funding will help us support Iowans across the state who are trying to find their new normal."

Iowans can access services through the following options:

- Call 800-447-1985 to connect with a counselor specializing in rural issues and agriculture 24 hours a day, seven days

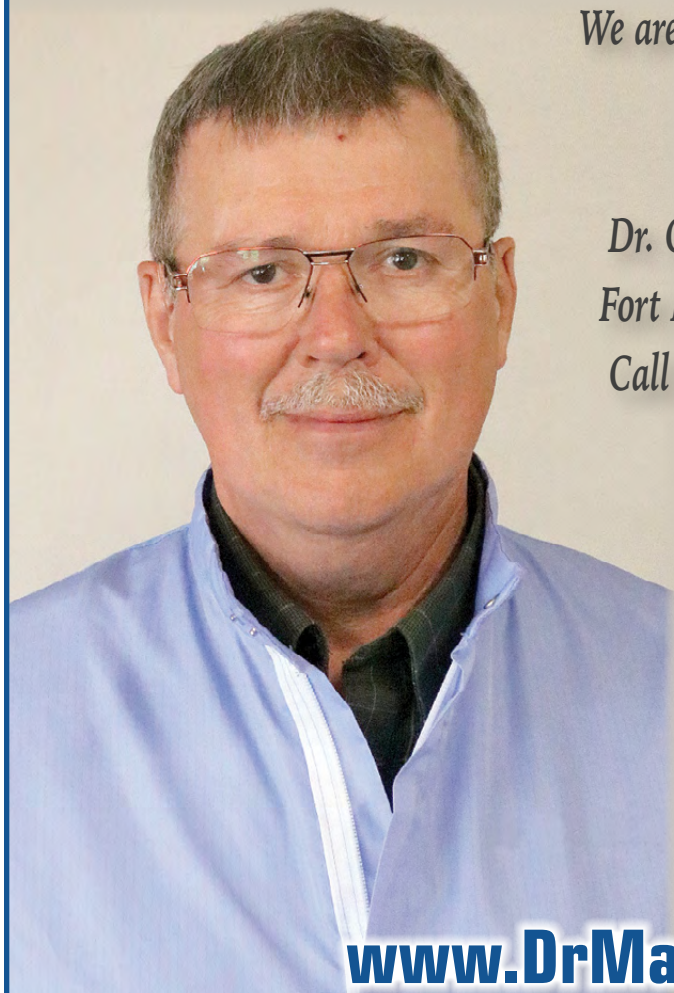
See COVID, page 8

Welcome (back)



We are honored to be joined by Dr. Courtney on June 1, after more than three decades of private practice.

Dr. Courtney will be seeing patients at our Fort Madison Family Dentistry West office. Call 319-372-4882 for your appointment.



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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Lee County News

County officials detail soft opening regulations

The following is a release from Lee County officials outlining office openings effective Monday

LEE COUNTY – Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all County Buildings have been closed to the Public since March 18, 2020. The Board of Supervisors has decided to open some buildings at a gradual pace. Social Distancing will still be practiced as well as limiting the number of people in the building at one time. Masks are required. Customers are responsible for their own PPE. If you are sick or running a fever please stay home. Drop boxes are available at each location. Consider using these or conducting business by telephone.

These procedures will be in effect until further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Our main concern is the safety of our customers and our employees. Thank you for your patience as we embark on new and safer ways to better serve our customers.

Listed below is the information you will need for each department.

Lee County Treasurer

The Treasurer's Office will conduct business by appointment only. If you are feeling sick or running a temperature, please stay at home and reschedule your appointment! Customers can call for an appointment at 319-372-3405 or email treasurer@leecounty.org. We will be in the Fort Madison Office on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and at the Courthouse in Keokuk Wednesday and Friday.

For now, we will be scheduling one driver's license appointment at a time. When making your appointment, ask what documents will be needed. If you do not have the correct documents, you will have to reschedule an appointment. The deadline for requiring the Real ID (Gold Star) has been

extended until October 1, 2021.

We will be scheduling two motor vehicle appointments at a time. If we feel you can use the drop box without an appointment, we will ask you to do so. For now, we will limit our appointments for customers we can't serve thru the drop box or mail, such as for someone moving into the State. Registration renewals and titles will still be handled by mail and drop box.

Appointments for the Tax Department will be scheduled 1 at a time.

We will continue to have a drop box inside the front door in Ft. Madison and outside the Keokuk Courthouse on 7th Street for your convenience. PLEASE include your phone number on what you drop off so we can call you with any questions.

For further information, you may call the Iowa Department of Transportation at 515-244-8725 or check their website at lowadot.gov

Lee County Recorder

The Recorder's office will be available by appointment only. Customers can call 319-376-1070 for an appointment. Appointments for the Keokuk office can also be scheduled by calling the Fort Madison number. We will continue to have a drop box at the Fort Madison office which can be used without an appointment. There is a drop box for the Treasurer at the Keokuk Courthouse on 7th Street that may be used for Recorder transactions. If you are using the drop boxes, you need to call the Recorder's office first to verify whether or not your paperwork can be processed using the drop box. Please leave a phone number with your paperwork if you place something in the drop box so we can call you if we have questions.

The only entrances that will be used are the front door at 933 Ave H in Fort Madison and front door

at 25 N. 7th in Keokuk.

If you are feeling sick or running a temperature, please stay at home and reschedule your appointment. Customers are responsible for their own PPE.

Lee County Auditor

At this time, passports are not being issued. All other business should be handled by calling 319-372-3705.

Lee County Engineer

Business may be conducted by:

Phone – 319 372-2541

Email – engineer@leecounty.org

Website – www.leecounty.org/offices/engineer

US Mail – PO Box 158; Fort Madison, IA 52627

Paper forms are available for pick up and may be dropped off in the entryway in the SW corner of the Fort Madison North Lee County Administration Building; 933 Avenue H. Records may be viewed by appointment only. 1 well visitor, per the CDC guidelines, will be allowed at a time.

Lee County Community Services

Lee County Community Services is taking all precautions to protect the public and office employees. Customers will be received by appointment only with prior phone communication and scheduling. The number to contact to request assistance and inquire about an appointment is 319-524-1052 Ext 2. We reserve the right to minimize risk for all involved in the event there are other options to solve need and/or provide information. Thank you for your attention as we strategically move forward in reestablishing our customary

See OFFICES, page 5



**“Most folks are as happy
as they make their minds up to be.”**

– Abraham Lincoln

We wish you and your family good health, peace, & happiness always.

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Education News

Central Lee announces 2019-20 teacher, staff awards

DONNELSON, IOWA — Six teachers and staff from the Central Lee Community School District have received honors for the 2019-20 school year.

This year's Teacher of the Year recipient is Suzanne Vonderhaar, a preschool teacher at Central Lee Elementary. She has exhibited an unparalleled knowledge of how students in early childhood learn. Ms.

Vonderhaar understands how to connect students with special needs to key services, sometimes following them to the next grade level to ensure they continue to make progress.

"Suzanne has been a tremendous asset for our preschool program," said Dr. Andy Crozier, CLCSD Superintendent. "Our parents, children and educators all appreciate the energy and dedication she puts into ensuring we have one of the best preschools in the area."

Director of Facilities Chris Gray has received a CLCSD Employee of the Year award. Mr. Gray keeps the district running smoothly by performing maintenance on a wide variety of equipment and systems. He is truly a jack of all trades whose knowledge and skills make him an invaluable member of the district's staff.

"Chris is an amazing asset for the Central Lee School District," Crozier said. "He has a wealth of knowledge and experience gained through his more than 40 years of experience with us. I am excited we are able to honor him this year. He never looks for



BOATWRIGHT



GRAY



ROBINSON



YOUNGQUIST



HOLMES



VONDERHAAR

recognition, but is very deserving of it."

Classroom Associate Kathleen Robinson has also been named Employee of the Year for the 2019-20 school year. She is known for being flexible in her job and placing the child at the center of the decision-making process. During the recent school closures, she has been reaching out to students with special needs to provide lessons and let them know she is thinking about them.

"Kathleen is diligent in her efforts to positively impact each child she connects with each day. Being a certified teacher, she possesses instructional skills at a high level that support student learning," said

Heather Fuger, Principal at Central Lee Elementary. "She also has a background in socio-emotional learning, which is infused into every student interaction. Her whole heart is invested in making a difference in our school."

The 2019-20 Bus Driver of the Year is Ashlee Boatwright. She is always helping other drivers prepare for routes, clean buses and make extra trips whenever needed.

"Ashlee has an energetic personality that is contagious," said Kim Ensminger, CLCSD Director of Transportation. "She is willing to do anything asked of her—and even when

not asked. She has been a great addition to the transportation department."

Finally, Custodians Jeff Holmes and Tracy Youngquist have been named CLCSD Newcomers of the Year.

Mr. Holmes has come to the district with an attitude of positivity and hard work. He regularly interacts with students in positive ways and is always ready to respond when help is needed.

Ms. Youngquist is known for being extremely conscientious about her work, which shows in the improved cleanliness of Central Lee schools. She attends to every area and every classroom, each and every day.

"Jeff and Tracy have been tremendous additions to our culture at Central Lee," said Crozier. "Each of them come to work with a positive attitude and a focus on making our buildings clean and safe for kids. We are so appreciative of their outstanding work."

Each year, the district recognizes staff members who have gone above and beyond in serving students and families. Over the coming days, CLCSD will be celebrating these award recipients via social media.

FMCH Auxiliary, Foundations scholarships awarded

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Community Hospital Foundation and the FMCH Auxiliary award annual scholarships to area students who are pursuing healthcare careers. This year they provided a combined total of \$14,000 to area students. Congratulations to the following students were recipients of this year's FMCH scholarships.

Kathleen Canella Family Scholarship

The Kathleen Canella Family, in coordination with the Fort Madison Community Hospital

Foundation, provides scholarships to high school seniors or recent high school graduates of area high schools within the FMCH market area pursuing a career in a medical field. It is also available to non-traditional college students. Scholarship recipients were chosen based on grades, leadership, character, community activity and financial need. This scholarship was established in memory of Kathleen Canella, a longtime volunteer and member of the FMCH Auxiliary.

The 2020 recipients are:

Maille Sheerin, HTC, attending the University of Iowa, majoring in Public Health.

Ashlyn Haas, HTC, attending Indian Hill Community College, majoring in Sports Medicine.

John Underwood, Central Lee High School, attending the University of Iowa, majoring in Pre-Medicine.

Dalton Westercamp, Central Lee High School, attending Coe College, majoring in Athletic Training.

Teagan Kruse, Danville High School, attending Southeastern Community College, majoring in nursing.

See AWARDS, page 8

20% Off All Dump Containers

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Present this coupon and get 15% off anything from our party supplies department. Offer valid until June 30, 2020. Not valid with any other discounts.

All TB & Immunization Clinics Have Been Postponed

In order to protect the health & safety of Lee County residents during this time, clinics have been postponed through June 15.

Please call our office with any questions and watch our Facebook page for more information:
@ LeeCountyHealthDepartment

**LEE
CHD**

(319) 372.5225

#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison
www.leecountyhd.org

Health News/From the Front

LCHD offering immunizations by appointment

OFFICES - Continued from Page 3

business processes post Covid-19.

911 Addressing

The application form for 911 address assignment can be downloaded from the Lee County website. <https://leecounty.org/offices/911/index.htm>

Once completed, the form may be returned for processing by any of these methods:

Email to GIS@leecounty.org or mail to Lee County IT/GIS, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, IA 52645. If questions, please call 319-376-1075

Lee County Health Department

Lee County Health Department will be resuming programming with some continued restrictions. TB, lead testing, and Immunization services will be provided by an appointment-only schedule. Those who need a TB test, lead test, or immunization services are encouraged to call LCHD to make an appointment. Additional screening and guidance will be provided when scheduling these appointments.

LCHD will not be resuming direct dental services in public health settings until restrictions from the Iowa Department of Public Health are released. LCHD is continuing to provide dental care coordination services. Individuals may call LCHD for assistance finding a dentist, payment source, transportation, etc. related to dental needs.

LCHD Environmental Department is requesting appointments be made for Delay of Installation Permits, Septic Permits, and Demolition Permits.

More information about LCHD services can be found at www.leecountyhd.org. If an appointment is needed or if there are requests for more information please call (319)372-5225 or 1-800-458-6672.

Lee County Assessor's Office

In an attempt to maintain continuity of operations and limit potential exposure due to the Corona Virus/COVID-19 the Lee County Assessor's Office will continue to offer services by mail, phone, and drop box. The drop box is located on the exterior of the 25 N 7th St entrance in Keokuk. Business matters that require immediate attention will be done by appointment by calling 524-1375 or 372-6302.

Lee County Sheriff's Office/Lee County Jail

The Sheriff's Office lobby is open to all business from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but please limit it to one person at a time due to Covid-19 social distancing. Questions regarding the jail can be answered by calling 319-376-2355.

Most downloadable forms can be found at LeeCounty.org under Sheriff's Downloadable forms. Questions about gun permits can be answered by calling 372-1152 as usual.

State PPE supplies rebounding

FAIR - Continued from Page 1

Reynolds said.

"We know COVID will remain in our state for a while, but we also know what we can do to mitigate, manage, and contain it while we safely and responsibly move forward with life."

Iowa Department of Public Health Director Dr. Caitlin Pedati encouraged Iowans to continue to stay informed about the progress of the virus and to use good personal protective measures to help limit the spread of the virus.

The state personal protective equipment stockpile are also on the rebound according to Reynolds. She said the state has current supplies for a minimum of 14 weeks on hand, while still building regional and state stockpiles that will be capable of a 90 day supply.

Reynolds said the state's budget is in decent shape despite the impact of the virus.

"We're very fortunate Iowa was in a good fiscal position. Our cash reserves are full and the tax payer trust fund has some funding in it as well," she said. "We were at a good spot to really absorb this and we didn't have to do any cuts for the fiscal year we're in right now."

In Lee County, health officials have confirmed eight new cases since June 1 for a total of 37. One death has been reported out of Lee County to date. A marked jump has been reported in Jefferson County where 19 new cases have been reported in the last 12 days surpassing Lee County for the first time with 42 positive tests.



2020 To Do List Save Our Planet

Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Don't put plastic bags in recycling bins
- Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
- Place all recyclables loose in bins
- Don't recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste



Ft. Madison Main Office:
2092 303rd Ave
Fort Madison, IA
1-319-372-6140

Keokuk Transfer Station:
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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Lee County Iowa Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Testing
Saturday, July 11, 2020 9 AM - 12 PM
Lee County Iowa Sheriff's Office
2530 255th Street, Montrose, Iowa 52639

Applications are available at the Lee County Sheriff's office or on the Lee County website at <https://www.leecounty.org/announcements.htm>

Application to test must be returned to the Lee County Sheriff's office by Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 3:30 PM.

Lee County Sheriff's Office
C/O Detective Sgt. Clint Wray
2530 255th Street
Montrose, IA 52639
(319) 372-1152

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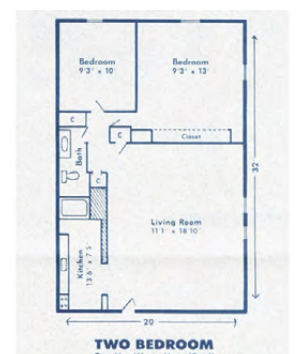
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backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. 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.



HOME HEALTH AIDE

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Certified Home Health Aide to work in the agency's homecare and hospice programs. This position requires travel to client homes in the agency's service area. Submit either a Letter of Interest or Resume to Tammy Wilson, Finance Director, at LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or email to twilson@leecountyhd.org by June 12, 2020. LCHD is an EOE.



PRE-K TEACHER

Holy Trinity Catholic Schools System is looking for a qualified Pre-Kindergarten Teacher who is ready to make a difference with an interactive teaching approach that engages early learners.

Requirements

- Excellent understanding of the principles of child development and pre-kindergarten educational methods
- Familiarity with safety and sanitation guidelines for classrooms
- Excellent communication and instructional skills
- Able to understand and complete all Iowa DHS regulations
- BS/BA in Early Childhood Education or relevant field
- Valid Iowa teaching license

Job Type: Full-time with benefits

Please contact Judi at judi.dinwiddie@holytrinity-schools.org for application information.



Classifieds

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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How can chiropractic therapy help you?
BENEFITS OF CHIROPRACTIC
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Health News/Education News

Offenders, students helping project

HOUSING - Continued from Page 1

maintenance-free condos that are now Woodland Estates nestled up the bluff from the Green Oak project.

Mohrfeld said he's been working with Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission Director Mike Norris and thinks the housing tax credit can jump start the Green Oak project again, along with some other unique ideas.

"We've applied for the tax credit in West Point and Fort Madison," he said. "The biggest thing for me is that there's no restrictions on the consumer. No income guidelines and we liked that."

The tax credit program caps materials and hard costs on the project at \$200,000, which triggers the credit. That could make marketing the homes at the original price point goal doable, which would bring additional mid-market home stock to Fort Madison.



NORRIS

"I don't want to say it's hitting the reset button, but it gives us an opportunity to get back closer to what that initial goal was and incentivizes that," he said.

"What's neat about the program is that there's a three-year time period to complete the project.

It incentivizes us to build out the remaining 23 lots. We were on pace to do that before, but started on the condominium project and took all our resources up there for two years.

Qualifying for the tax credit is highly competitive with the value of project applications outpacing the funds available by almost a 4:1 ratio, Mohrfeld said.

To help increase the pace of the homes being built, Mohrfeld is also working with Homes for Iowa, a program where inmates at Newton Correctional Facility build homes and then the homes are sold to contractors who relocate them on trucks and set them on foundations.

Norris has also been instrumental in getting the Homes for Iowa program and has helped Mohrfeld navigate that program as well.

Although the tax credit, and the Homes for Iowa, program are not connected, Mohrfeld said that's a win-win for Iowa.

"It's a great program that teaches inmates skills

and a trade, and we all hear the stories about the skills gaps in the state," he said. "Not only are they creating much needed housing stock, but there also helping offenders get back on their feet."

Mohrfeld would purchase the homes, which could be eligible for the tax credit since the hard costs of the building would come in under the \$200,000 threshold.

"Our plan would be to put in the foundation and set the home there, while we're conventionally stick-building one next to it," he said.

Mohrfeld is looking to use the Homes for Iowa program in Fort Madison and West Point. He said he's committed to one Homes for Iowa in West Point, and is close to making another commitment for a home in Fort Madison.

He said the main product for consumers would be an unfinished basement home with an attached garage, and extremely energy efficient."

In addition to partnering with Homes for Iowa, Mohrfeld also has a on-going relationship with the Fort Madison High School Building Trades class

Those students would also be engaged in helped get structures up. Mohrfeld has incorporated the class into other home building projects as well. A portion of the proceeds from the sales of homes the class helps build is donated back to the program in the form of supplies, tools and equipment.

But he said the bigger win is the skills the students are learning while working in southeast Iowa. Mohrfeld sits on the board of the Lee County Economic Development group is fully aware of workforce issues in this area.

"Being on the Lee County Economic Development Group board, the biggest cry out there is workforce. Training these guys that this is a long-term career – you can't make great income, and even stay in southeast Iowa," he said.

"If the coronavirus has taught us anything, it's maybe small town Iowa isn't such a bad place to be."

Mohrfeld said he will know whether the West Point and Fort Madison projects qualified for the tax credit program in August. In the meantime – he keeps building.

Six get FMCH Auxiliary award

AWARDS - Continued from Page 4

Isabella Smith, Danville High School, attending the University of Iowa, majoring in Healthcare Administration.

Samantha Zeleny, Newman University, majoring in Nursing.

Hannah Torgler, attending the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in Social Work.

Nicolas Guzman, St. Ambrose University, pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

Carol Yoder, attending Southeastern Community College, Occupational Therapy Assistant.

FMCH Auxiliary Scholarship

The FMCH Auxiliary Scholarship is awarded to students graduating from any area high school within the market area of FMCH. Non-traditional students were also considered. Scholarships were given to students pursuing a degree in a medical profession. Points for consideration included grades, leadership, character, community activity and financial need.

The 2020 recipients are:

Maille Sheerin, HTC, attending the University of Iowa, majoring in Public Health.

Ashlyn Haas, HTC, attending Indian Hill Community College, majoring in Sports Medicine.

Isabella Smith, Danville High School, attending the University of Iowa, majoring in Healthcare Administration.

Jamie Sobczak, attending Midwestern University Dentistry program.

Hannah Torgler, attending the University of Iowa, majoring in Social Work.

Carol Yoder, attending Southeastern Community College, Occupational Therapy assistant.

Tracey Howe Scholarship:

The Tracey Howe Scholarship is awarded to nursing students attending Southeastern Community College in Keokuk or West Burlington. The FMCH Foundation provides up to two \$1,000 awards for scholarship assistance to new or continuing nursing students. This scholarship was established in memory of Tracy Howe, a RN at FMCH.

The 2020 recipient is:

Teagan Kruse, Danville High School, attending Southeastern Community College, majoring in nursing.

The FMCH Foundation and the FMCH Auxiliary offer these scholarships annually. Information and applications can be found at www.fmchosp.com.

FEMA chips in with \$1M for counseling

COVID - Continued from Page 2

a week

- Call the Iowa Warm Line, 844-775-9276; to connect with a peer counselor or request to get in touch with a COVID Recovery Iowa counselor

- Visit www.COVIDrecoveryiowa.org and complete a contact form and a counselor will get back to you

DHS has contracted with five providers throughout the state to provide counseling, virtual activities, referrals and help finding resources. COVID Recovery Iowa will announce additional programs in the coming weeks to help Iowans build coping skills and resilience.

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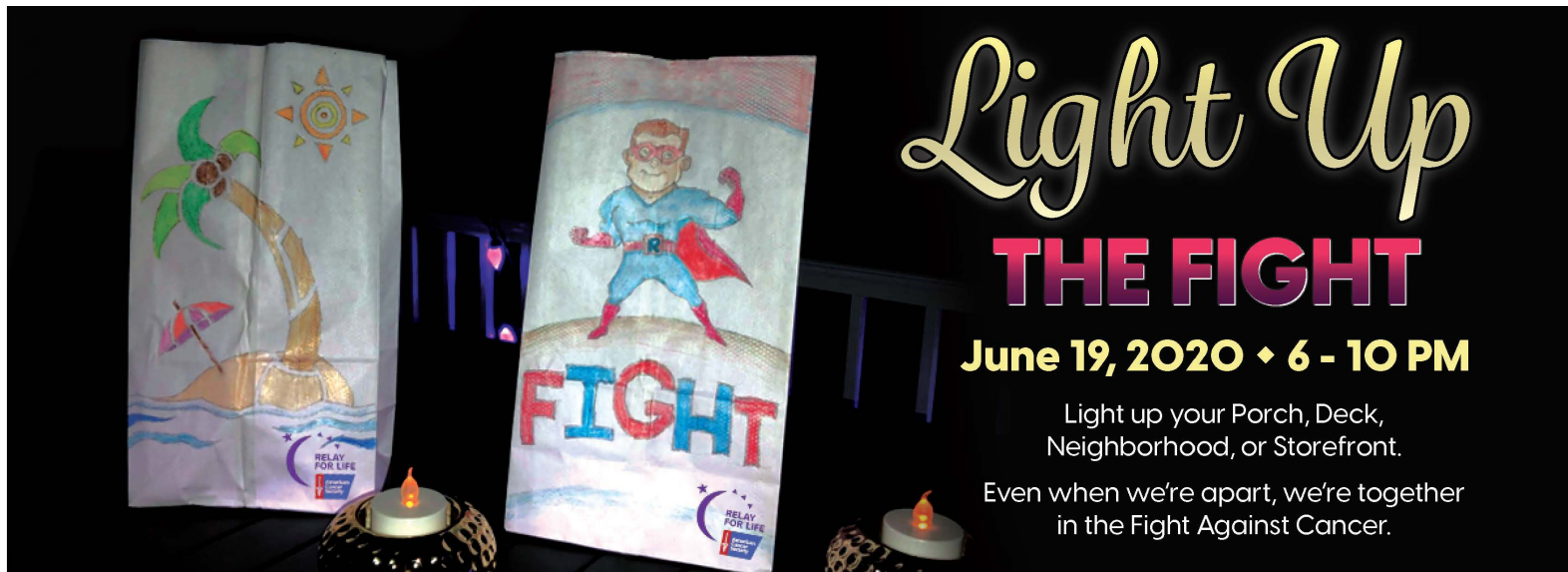
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Join us as we *Light Up The Fight* on **June 19 from 6:00 - 10:00 PM.**

This year we are asking our community members to purchase Luminaria Bags and place them at their home, neighborhood, or storefront then cruise around, taking pictures & posting on the North Lee County Relay for Life Facebook Page.

Undecorated bag with "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" with the name of Recognized Person on Label.

Want a community member to decorate your bag for you? Will also include Recognized Person Label.

1 bag for \$5

1 bag for \$10

5 bags for \$20

5 bags for \$40

12 bags for \$50

12 bags for \$100

Deadline for purchase with customized label is Monday, June, 15.

Deadline to purchase decorated bags is Monday, June 15.

Un-customized bags available for purchase Wednesday, June 17 from 3-6PM at Central Park.

A Relay for Life Committee Member can also deliver your bags and glow-sticks to your door for a \$5 fee.

Pick up your luminarias at Central Park from 3-6 PM on Wednesday, June 17.

Please call 319-376-2249 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of The American Cancer Society and the Fight for more Birthdays!

~ The North Lee County Relay for Life.

