

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Wednesday, July 8, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 135



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Timberlane group opposes PORT path

15TH STREET: Neighbors worry about safety, trash, and maintenance of trail

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A \$1.5 million proposed section of the P.O.R.T. trail running up 15th Street in Fort Madison to Rodeo Park is getting opposition from several homeowners in the Timberlane Drive area.

The neighborhood is in county territory so one resident took the matter up with Lee County Supervisors at the board's regular meeting Tuesday morning.

Valerie Natoli, who lives on Timberlane Drive said several residents in the area were opposed to the 10-foot wide concrete trail that is being proposed to go up the west side of 15th Street to connect the city to Rodeo Park.

In August last year, Great River Health Systems' Community Health Foundation made a commitment of \$1.5

million to the trail project. P.O.R.T. has already built concrete trails between Bluff Road and Ivanhoe Park and west to Baxter Sport Complex.

Future plans include the extension to Rodeo Park and a west trail from 48th Street to Fort Madison Community Hospital as well as widened path on 48th Street from the sports complex to Bluff Road on the west side.

Natoli told the board many issues are of concern to the residents including safety, maintenance and vandalism. She said the board should consider other options before approving plans for the new section of the trail.

"Traffic is heavy there and there are heavy duty vehicles using that road," Natoli said. "If you give the right of way to the city, do they have rights to that path? I just don't

See **TRAIL**, page 8

AVENUE B

Resident asks city to amend code for trails

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – An amendment to the Fort Madison City Code may be written to protect residents living along a proposed addition to the PORT Trail system in the city.

During Tuesday's regular Fort Madison City Council meeting, Public Works Director Mark Boussetot updated the council on the status of the new 10-foot path that will run from Fort Madison High School along Avenue B east from 18th Street to 15th Street and then up to Rodeo Park.

The project is being mostly financed by a \$1.5 million Great River Health Systems Community Health Foundation grant. The city is the governmental agency that applies for state and federal grants and secures the construction and design services for the PORT group.

"We're still missing a few segments of this project," Boussetot said. "We're still working on an easement with high school, and a 28E agreement with county."

The Lee County Board of Supervisors discussed the issue earlier in the day after it was brought up during the public comment section.

Boussetot said after talking with City Manager David Varley, that an amendment will probably be drawn up that will relieve property owners of the responsibility of the trail, which will be built on the city easement where sidewalks are now.

Michael Chapman, who lives in the 1600 block of Avenue B told the council that responsibility for the

See **PATH**, page 2



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Melissa Monroe works with a dog Tuesday morning at a new pet grooming business, Sham-Pooches, at 707 9th Street. Monroe takes appointments and walk-in customers.

CAR ACCIDENT

Wever man identified as victim of DM car accident

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – The Polk County Medical Examiner's Office has released the name of a Wever man killed in a car crash on the city of Des Moines' south side.

Zachary McBride, 23, of Wever, was identified as the fourth fatality as a result of the single-vehicle car accident that occurred about 2:25 a.m. Sunday, July 5th on George Flagg Parkway southwest of the Des Moines International Airport.

Preliminary examination of evidence at the scene indicates that the 2013 Volkswagen Golf was being driven westbound on George Flagg Parkway when it left the roadway to the north. The vehicle returned to the roadway, crossing the eastbound lanes and then leaving the roadway to the south. It stopped as it struck a tree. The vehicle then caught fire.

The identities of three of the other four crash victims were also released. They are 22-year-old Des Moines resident Ross Jacob Welsher (driver), 22-year-old Des Moines resident Jordan Van Gundy (passenger), and 24-year-old Des Moines resident Jacob Lee Van Gundy (passenger).

A fourth passenger rescued from the vehicle by a Des Moines Police Department patrol officer has been identified as 22-year-old West Des Moines resident Rheanne Elise Ames. She has been released from the hospital.

Excessive speed and failure to maintain control appear to be significant contributing factors to the crash.

The Des Moines Police Department Traffic Unit continues the technical investigation of the crash.

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WEATHER

WED 08 Jul..... Hot, Light Rain, 86.8° F / 73.6° F
 THU 09 Jul..... Hot, Light Rain, 86.3° F / 76.0° F
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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

FRANK W. SUNDEN

Frank W. Sunden, 79, of Donnellson, IA, passed away on Monday, July 6, 2020 at his home.

He was born on September 23, 1940 in Argyle, IA to Oscar and Mabel Fickel Sunden. Frank retired from DuPont after thirty two years of service and was also a commercial fisherman. He was a member of the Eagles, the Moose and the Tri State Gun Club. Frank loved to hunt, fish and go to the races. Most of all he loved spending time socializing with his friends and family.

Survivors include two daughters, Shelly (Tom) Cutkomp of Donnellson and Denna (Pat) Beelman of Farmington; two grandchildren, Natalie Dauma and Clint Smith; two great grandchildren, Karter and Quinlyn; his companion and best friend, Kiki Prado of Ft. Madison; two brothers, Don Sunden and Larry Sunden both of Ft. Madison and three nieces. Frank was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Steve.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date at the Eagle's Club.

A memorial has been established for the Ft. Madison Eagles Club and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.



SUNDEN

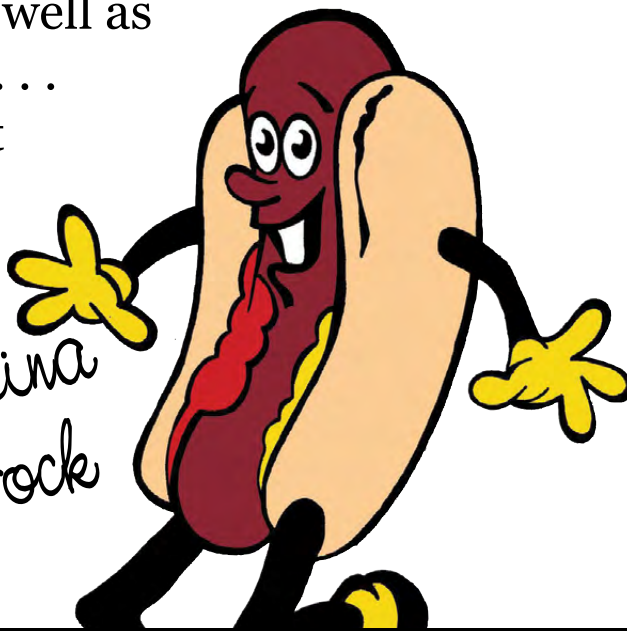
Pen City Current obituary policy

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.



The Sonny's staff sends a heartfelt Thank You to our friends, old and new, who have supported us during the COVID-19 situation. As always, we work hard to stay stocked while providing personal service to our customers.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued business during this crazy time, as well as after it passes. . . whenever that may be.



Dale & Denna Merschbrock

Council approves \$100K Ave. H. work change order

PATH - Continued from Page 1

trail path shouldn't fall on residents for maintenance and repair like sidewalks do. "Along Avenue B, as code reads now, we'd be responsible for removing snow and when water gets under the concrete and damages it, we'd be responsible for that, too," Chapman said.

"I'm not against the trail itself, but you need a new code to define the trail system outside of the city's sidewalk ordinance."

Chapman also asked if all the trees on the north side of the street, where the path is proposed to run, would have to be removed.

Councilman Bob Morawitz asked if cuts could be provided to allow the trees to stay. Boussetot said that wasn't in the plans, but there is talk of possibly reducing the path to 8 feet instead of 10 in some areas to accommodate some of those concerns.

The Foundation has a timeline behind the grant money and Boussetot said the project will be put out for bids this month.

"We need to keep moving forward with the bidding to meet the time frame the hospital laid out for us," Boussetot said.

The trail will then turn north on 15th Street and travel along on the west side of the street up to Rodeo Park past Timberlane Drive.

Councilman Chad Cangas said the council should look a little deeper into an ordinance, but said there should be an amendment that would be a catch all for anything the city designates as part of the PORT trail system in the city to relieve residents of responsibilities associated with the path.

In a related issue, the city also approved Mayor Matt Mohrfeld's signature on an agreement with Poepping, Stone, Bach, and Associates of Keokuk for staking and construction services for Phase 3 of the FMCH connector trail. That trail connects 48th Street west to the FMCH campus.

The cost of the services will be \$37,110, bringing the total cost of the engineering agreement for the project to just over \$60,000.

In other action, the council:

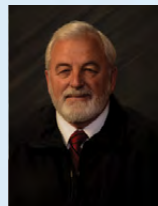
- approved a \$100,000 change order for sewer and subsurface changes on the Avenue H reconstruction project bringing the total cost of the project to \$2.5 million from the original contract of \$2.39 million.
- approved the first reading of an amendment to the city's Golf Carts, ATVs and UTV that changes the hours of operation section to include golf carts from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. It also amends registration requirements.
- voted 5-0 to reappoint Melinda Blind as the City Clerk through July 1, 2022.

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Education News

HOLY TRINITY HONOR ROLLS

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity Catholics schools has announced its honor rolls for the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year. Pen City Current joins our advertisers and readers in congratulating these students on their academic success during this unique and trying year. Excellent job!

4.0 Honor Roll

Grade 7

Anna Bendlage, Isabella Callison

Grade 8

Taegan Denning, Connor Gehling, Natalie Randolph

Grade 9

Kayla Box, Laura Mehmert, Jacob Pothitakis

Grade 10

Jackson Blint, Lucy Graham, Abby Holtkamp, Jack Malinski, Mitchell Pothitakis, Kassidy Randolph, Anna Sobczak

Grade 11

Danny Caruso, Taylor Crabtree, Tina

Huang, Ava Peitz, Claire Pothitakis, Maria Rauenbuehler, Alison Robu, Chandler Rung, Annabelle Scheetz, John Stinson, Jason Thurman, Vasin Thurman

Grade 12

Ambrosia Dustin, Reagan Garrels, Claire Graham, Ashlyn Haas, Jacob Mohrfeld, Ryan Otte, Nicole Pothitakis, Samantha Pothitakis, Elle Rashid, Quentin Schneider, Maille Sheerin

A Honor Roll

Grade 7

Kylie Fortune, Henry Graham, Luke Hellige, Mason Kruse, Ellie Lake, Teagan Snaadt, Adam Sobczak, Tobias VanHamme

Grade 8

Mary Kate Bendlage, Michael Chapman, Jenna Hellman, Andrew Mehmert, Seth Moeller, Ethan Peitz, Maddox Rung, Mary Elizabeth Scheetz

Grade 9

Emily Boeding, Alexa Dingman, Elliott Dostalek, Rachel Menke,

Brianna Wright
Grade 10

Tessa Gendron, Mya Schmitz, Raquel Schneider, Jackson VanHamme

Grade 11

Katherine Denning, Bailey Hellweg, Emma Torgler, Mia Vradenburg

Grade 12

Hollie Burford, Blake Crabtree, Brandon Delaney, Abby Dingman, Rhett Fullhart, Matthew Hellige, Wyatt Hellman, Jayde Watznauer, DaYeong You

B Honor Roll

Grade 7

Spencer Barnes, Cade Goodrich, Brayton Schneider, Gus VanHynning

Grade 8

Jacob Hummel, Edward Schroeder

Grade 9

Jenna DiPrima, James Scheetz, Riley Timmerman

Grade 10

Tyler Snaadt

Grade 11

Colby Bredemeyer, Elizabeth Ebbing, Trev-

or Mohrfeld
Grade 12

Avery Hopper, Jason Rees

Holy Trinity Catholics schools hasalso announced its honor rolls for the fourth quarter of the 2019-2020 school year.

4.0 Honor Roll

Grade 7

Anna Bendlage, Isabella Callison, Mason Kruse, Teagan Snaadt

Grade 8

Mary Bendlage, Taegan Denning, Natalie Randolph

Grade 9

Kayla Box, Alexa Dingman, Laura Mehmert, Jacob Pothitakis

Grade 10

Jackson Blint, Lucy Graham, Abby Holtkamp, Jack Malinski, Mitchell Pothitakis, Kassidy Randolph, Anna Sobczak

Grade 11

Danny Caruso, Taylor Crabtree, Ava Peitz, Claire Pothitakis, Maria Rauenbuehler, Alison,

Robu, Chandler Rung, John Stinson, Jason Thurman, Vasin Thurman

Grade 12

Abby Dingman, Ambrosia Dustin, Reagan Garrels, Ashlyn Haas, Matthew Hellige, Jacob Mohrfeld, Ryan Otte, Nicole Pothitakis, Samantha Pothitakis, Elle Rashid, Maille Sheerin

A Honor Roll

Grade 7

Kylie Fortune, Ellie Lake, Tobias VanHamme

Grade 8

Michael Chapman, Conner Gehling, Andrew Mehmert, Maddox Rung, Mary Elizabeth Scheetz

Grade 9

Emily Boeding, Elliott Dostalek, Rachel Menke, Brooke Mueller, Brianna Wright

Grade 10

Mya Schmitz, Raquel Schneider

Grade 11

Katherine Denning, Bailey Hellweg, Tina

Huang, Annabelle Scheetz, Emma Torgler, Mia Vradenburg

Grade 12

Hollie Burford, Blake Crabtree, Brandon Delaney, Rhett Fullhart, Claire Graham, Wyatt Hellman, Jayde Watznauer, DaYeong You

B Honor Roll

Grade 7

Spencer Barnes, Cade Goodrich, Henry Graham, Luke Hellige, Brayton Schneider, Adam Sobczak, Gus VanHynning

Grade 8

Ethan Peitz

Grade 9

Jenna DiPrima, Mary Hellige, James Scheetz, Riley Timmerman

Grade 10

Tyler Snaadt, Alexis Stalcup, Jackson VanHamme

Grade 11

Elizabeth Ebbing, Kyle Knepp

Grade 12

Quentin Schneider

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Sports

Lady Hounds come up short in bid for sweep

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds used a big eight-run sixth inning to win game one and split a doubleheader 11-7, 6-7 with Burlington Monday night at home.

The split leaves the two teams tied at 7-3 in the loop play good enough for second place in the Southeast Conference standings. Fort Madison is 9-6 overall while Burlington stands at 14-4. Both trail sizzling No. 9 Fairfield which is 10-0 in loop play and 18-1 on the year.

Lauryn Helmick (3-0) went all seven innings in the opener giving up eight runs, six earned on 11 hits and five walks, while striking out nine.

Logan Johnson led Fort Madison at the plate going 3-for-4 with a double, three runs scored and an RBI. Kylee Cashman was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Neely Rehm had double and drove in three. Emily Steffensmeier, Helmick, Ivy Geerdes, Dalyn Wondra, and Allyson Helmick all had hits in the game.

The Grayhounds held a 4-2 lead going into the fourth inning when Helmick would give up a single and a walk before coaxing two fly outs to end the inning unscathed.

Fort Madison would close to within one when Lauryn Helmick doubled with two outs to left field scoring Allyson Helmick from second. Burlington's Adessa Brandenburg, who dominated the Hounds in a loss two weeks ago, would get control and retire the side.

Burlington would get one back in the top of the fifth when Hannah Heuvelmann would stroke a two-out double to left scoring Carley McGinity who doubled to open the frame. Helmick would get Brynn Casady to strike out swinging for the third out.

Fort Madison would get a walk and a single to start the top of the fifth, but three straight infield pop ups ended the inning. Burlington would score again to make it 7-3 in the sixth when McGinity tripled to center scoring two, again with two outs. Helmick would get a strike out to end the inning and move to the bottom half of the sixth.

Brandenburg would issue three straight walks to load the bases before Steffensmeier would single over short scoring Allyson Helmick. A throwing error on the play allowed Rehm and Lauryn Helmick to score to tie the game at 7-7 and chase Brandenburg from the mound.

Johnson would then lace a one-run single to center scoring Steffensmeier.

Kylee Cashman would work a walk and Lexi Whaley would be called out on an infield fly to second holding everyone with one out. Johnson would score on another error that moved Cashman to second, but she would get called out trying to swipe third for the second out.

Geerdes would single to center with two outs and Wondra would follow with a double to right moving Geerdes to third. Allyson Helmick worked a two-out walk to load the bases with Fort Madison up 8-7. Allyson Helmick would walk on five pitches and then Rehm would double to deep center clearing the bases for an 11-7 lead.

Burlington would manage one run in the top of the seventh, but Helmick would get Brandenburg to fly out to Wondra in left to end the game.

In the nightcap, the Bloodhounds put up three runs in the first and third inning, but Burlington countered with a four-run third to set up a game winning run in the top of the sixth.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Ivy Geerdes tries to make a play at second in the first game of a split with Burlington Monday night. The Lady Hounds won the first game 11-7, but came up short in the bid for the sweep with a 6-7 loss in game two.

In the sixth, Taylor Blythe would walk on four straight and would be moved over on a sacrifice bunt. Bryanna Mehaffy walked and took second with Blythe standing at third with one out. Brandenburg then singled to right scoring Blythe for what would be the game-winning run.

The Hounds would work a double play to end the inning. Fort Madison wouldn't score in the sixth and would set the Grayhounds down in order in the seventh.

Wondra would hit a single at shortstop and moved to second on an error, and third on a wild pitch, Rehm would hit a grounder to short and Mehaffy gunned down Wondra trying to score from third for the second out. A lineout to short would end the game.

Whaley and Wondra each had two hits in the second game for Fort Madison. Lauryn Helmick and Rehm each had hits. Rehm had two RBI, for a total of five on the night. Wondra had four RBI in the loss.

Rehm (4-4) went the full seven giving up six runs, four earned on six hits and four walks, while striking out four.

The Hounds wrap up the season with a single game against Class 3A No. 14 West Burlington Thursday and then a double header with Central Lee in Donnellson Friday night.

The girls start Class 4A Regional action July 16 when the Bloodhounds host Keokuk at 7 p.m. The winner will travel to Fairfield on July 18 for a 7 p.m. matchup. The regional championship is set for July 21 at a site to be determined. The top side of the bracket has Burlington/Mt. Pleasant opening play on the 16th with the winner facing Oskaloosa at Oskaloosa.

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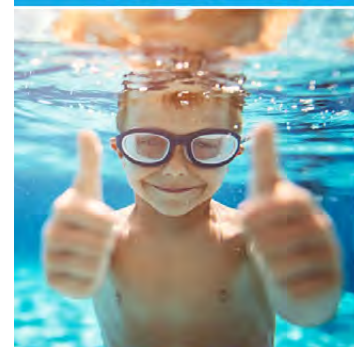
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Sports

Central Lee boys fall from the ranks of the unbeaten

DONNELLSON – The Central Lee Hawks suffered their first loss of the season in a 6-2 loss to visiting Cardinal Monday night.

Central Lee pitchers Evan Pohren and Kade Myhre combined for six walks and gave up nine hits in the loss.

Pohren gave up a double to Cardinal's Landon Becker on the first pitch of the night. Pohren would get the next hitter to line out before a single from Blaine Bryant got the Comets on the board 1-0.

The Hawks returned the favor with a single and walk to open the bottom half before Jadon Hawk singled to center scoring TJ Stutes. The next three hitters would all fan to end the inning.

Cardinal would again go to work in the top half of the third with one out. Two errors to start the inning put Becker and Peyton Johnson on. Bryant flew out to short for the first out, and then Dawson Lewis would fly out to left center allowing Becker to score on the tag. Logan Chickering would double to right scoring Johnson for a 3-1 Cardinal lead.

Central started well in the bottom half of the third putting Stueker and Hawk on with no outs, but a



ground out and two fly outs from the center of the lineup ended the inning.

Becker would come up big again for Cardinal with a no-out double scoring Tristan Cloke and Jentry Arbogast for a 5-1 Comet lead. After a line out and a walk, Lewis would reach on an error at short allowing Matt Streeby to score before Myhre would come on in relief, ended the inning with a fielder's choice.

The Hawks would go 1-2-3 in the fourth and the fifth. Boeck would single in the sixth and Alex Sandoval would reach on an error with two outs, but an infield popup stranded two.

Stueker and Stutes would both reach in the bottom of

the seventh with one out. Hawk would line out to left field for the second out. Simmons would single to left scoring Stutes, but an infield fly would end the night for the Hawks.

Hawk and Stutes each had two hits on the night. Boeck, Snider, and Simmons all had singles in the loss. Hawk and Simmons each had RBIs. Stutes scored both runs for Central Lee.

Evan Pohren went three innings in getting the loss giving up three runs, one earned on three hits and a walk. Kade Myhre came on in relief and threw four innings giving up three runs, two earned on six hits and five walks.

The Hawks are 3-1 in the Southeast Iowa Superconference's South Division and 8-1 overall. Class 2A District 10 action starts on July 14th for the Hawks as they get a bye and host the winner of Van Buren and West Burlington at 7 p.m. in Donnellson. The Van Buren/West Burlington matchup is played Saturday at Community Field in Burlington at 4:30 p.m.

Louisa-Muscatine, Danville, and Mediapolis are in the bottom of the bracket with the district title game set to be played in Donnellson on July 18.

Lady Hawks fall in 3-run, 7th-inning Cardinal rally

Central Lee girls sliding as regionals just a week away

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

ELDON – A one-out single with two on in the bottom of the 7th scored the winning run for Cardinal in 6-5 win over the Central Lee Lady Hawks Monday night.

The Lady Hawks had put up a three-spot in the top half to overcome a one-run deficit going into the final inning.

Halo Arrowood walked to start the seventh, followed by a Daly Brisby single to left. With those two at first and second, Meghan Hopp doubled on a line drive to center scoring both Brisby and courtesy running Sophie Woodley.

Cardinal hurler Cassidy Verrips got the next two Central Lee hitters out and then Sophie Turner ripped a triple to right field scoring Hopp to make it a 5-3 game. Andrea Benner would pop out to second to end the top half.

Turner would then give up a single to center to start the bottom half of the seventh. An error on the throw allowed Cardinal's Kinsey Hissem to advance to second. Another error in right on a fly ball from Caitlyn Reber moved Hissem to third.

Alexia McClure would then hit a 1-2 pitch, after three consecutive foul balls, into center field scoring Hissem and Reber to tie the game at 5 all.

Turner then hit the next batter to put the game-winning run at second with no outs. Cardinal's Rachel Lewman would line out to left holding all the runners for the first out, but a single on a looper to center from Ella Thompson plated McClure on a close play at home to give Cardinal the win.

Brisby led Central Lee going 3 for 4 with two runs scored. Hopp went 1 for 4 with a double and 2 RBI. She also scored two runs. Shanna Buford had two RBI going 1 for 3. Arrowood, Morrison, and Turner also had hits for the Lady Hawks.

Sophie Turner went 6 1/3 innings giving up six runs,

four earned on 11 hits and no walks. She struck out one.

The Lady Hawks are now 3-3 in conference play and 5-10 overall, with three regular season games remaining. They take on Keokuk on the road tonight at 7 p.m. and then host Fort Madison on Friday in a double header starting at 5:30 p.m.

Class 3A Region 8 post season action starts on July 15 with a 7 p.m. matchup against No. 14 West Burlington at Barb Carter Field. The winner will travel to West Liberty on July 17 to face the winner of the West Liberty/Camanche July 15 game.

The top side of the bracket has Davenport Assumption/Columbus and Tipton/Mid Prairie. The regional championship is played on July 20 at 7 p.m. at site to be determined.



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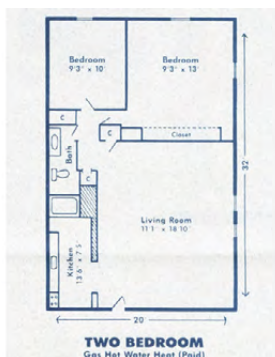
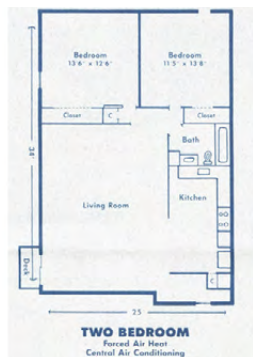
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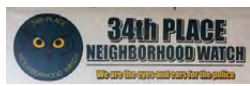
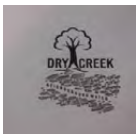
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From the Front

Residents concerned about infringement of path on neighborhood

TRAIL - Continued from Page 1

think it's a good idea for that area and many of the residents up here are opposed to it coming through this area."

Natoli said she was also concerned that Fort Madison's ATV ordinance couldn't prohibit those vehicles from using that path.

Nancy Booten, another resident living on Timberlane agreed that the trail would prove to be unsafe and could lead to additional trash in the area.

"I'm going to agree with Valerie, I don't think this is safe. Cars are going off their all the time. A lot of trash is accumulating in that area already, but my biggest concern is the safety."

Rachel Benda, who chairs the P.O.R.T. committee said she understands the concerns brought up,

but said the entities need to work together because losing the donation to P.O.R.T. would be a big loss to the city.

"I just urge you to work with foundation and their large donation. I can tell you how hard it is to raise the little money we have for this project," Benda said.

Jenny Steffensmeier of Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing also sits on the P.O.R.T. committee and echoed Benda's concerns.

"I'd hate to see a \$1.5 million donation to Fort Madison go away and I concur with Rachel on the hard work the committee has put forth," Steffensmeier said.

"Hopefully we'll all continue to be informed and move forward for the better of the county and the community."

Natoli also read a letter from Frank and Eunice

Nolte who live on Timberlane and oppose the project.

County Engineer Ben Hull said he's been in on the planning and design of the project and said the road is one of the widest in the county and there were some maintenance issues in original plans, but he said the committee, GRHS, the city, and the county have worked well together to mitigate the issues.

He said anytime you put roads and pathways in residential areas there is a safety concern

"As far as safety it is a concern and that's a balancing act," Hull said. "Anywhere there are people and roads there's going to be accidents. But we're all working together to come up with the best design we can. The city has taken that seriously and taken some changes out per our request."

Natoli said the people making the decisions don't live in the neighborhood.

"Its one thing to say its a great thing. but you don't live up here and don't see what we see. It's just the wrong location. Why not come up Denmark Hill. They could take it up there.

"The deal says the path must go to Rodeo Park, but it doesn't say what direction they had to take to do it. Go back and find another place to put it."

Board Chairman Ron Fedler said he's received many comments on the proposed trail.

"I've had many calls, and I understand from people in the county especially on Timberlane Drive," he said. "They like their privacy and if the trail had been there before it would be a different issue. I know people are passionate for and against it."

Fedler said he's also heard putting the trail along side of the neighborhood may encourage the city to annex all of Timberlane Drive into the city, which is something else some residents there don't want.

Nathan Unsworth, the director of the Lee County Conservation District said people who use trails are typically healthier and more concerned with keeping the trail clean and maintained.

"I give the PORT group a lot of credit for work they've done for trails in Fort Madison," Unsworth said.

"One thing about trails, and I was just on a trail this weekend - there was no trash. Bikers that are out exercising, they don't want to carry extra things. They're not dumping trash on trails, of course you have the bad actors, but most people want to continue to use those and do their part to keep those areas clean and safe."



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