

**SPORTS:** All area sports have been cancelled for the next four weeks

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 | 6 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 57



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**COVID-19:** Local calendars in tatters as groups issue mass cancellations

## State doubles hygienic lab staff

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Gov. Kim Reynolds indicated Monday afternoon that the state Hygienic Lab will add a shift to double the number of tests conducted each day from 54 to 108.

Reynolds, conducting the almost daily press conferences, from the State Emergency Operation Center, and held a meeting with state directors this morning on what plans are being implemented.

She also met with state health organizations to determine readiness to deal with the expanding spread of the virus. The state currently has a 23 total positive cases to date, but with the expanding testing, numbers are expected to increase.

“Now is a critical time when we can mitigate and slow the spread of the virus in our state,” she said.

“But it takes all of us working together and to do the right things to make that happen. So I just urge all of you to follow the CDC guidelines and preventative measures to protect your health as well as the health of others.”

She said Iowa residents should consider staying home as much as possible especially if you are in vulnerable populations with underlying conditions. She also said avoid traveling, especially



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

A sign Monday morning tells the tale as schools across Iowa, including Fort Madison, Central Lee, and Holy Trinity Catholic cancelled classes for four weeks per a recommendation from Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds.

cruises.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said he's closed the Lee County Correctional Center to any additional public meetings and is having all visitors screened for temperature by jail handlers prior to allowing entry to the facility.

“I have to make sure that my staff, the jail staff and the inmates are protected from this virus,” Weber said Monday.

“Therefore any visitor will have to be screened outside the building before being allowed entry.”



WEBER

He also said the sheriff's department is going to limit its exposure, but will continue to maintain the safety of the county.

“If we can handle something over the phone, we're going to be doing that. If something can be handled by phone or digitally, we'll do that as well.”

See **TESTING**, page 3

### CITY BEAUTIFICATION

## City's partners taking role in clean up efforts

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

*The following is the second article in a series looking at efforts citywide to clean up Fort Madison*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With city officials taking the lead on identifying dilapidated properties, several other groups are continuing to work with their resources to help spruce up the city.

One of the major and most impactful events is the Fort Madison Partners' annual Paint-a-thon, where up to four houses get a fresh scrape and paint and some light repair and landscape work.

The effort is totally volunteer-based and sponsored by Southeast Iowa Community Action, Kempker's True Value & Rental, Inc, and the Partners group.

Aside from that annual project, which is in its fourth year, Fort Madison Partners' Executive Director Tim Gobble, said there are many other events, projects, and groups that people can contribute funds or sweat equity to in order to generate a better curb appeal for the city.

“The way we fit in with the city's initiative right now is on a smaller scale. That being the traditional clean-ups involving the Fort Madison High School's Green Team. They have a monthly cleanup they are doing and they hit different segments of town,” Gobble said.

He said Savanna Collier, the chamber coordinator, is the adult point-person for that program and can answer any questions regarding that group's efforts.

The Chamber still hosts the annual fall cleanup in the spring which is



GOBBLE

See **PARTNERS**, page 6

### IOWA WORKFORCE

## Unemployment criteria eased as state deals with virus

*The following is a Monday release from Iowa Workforce Development.*

DES MOINES – Governor Reynolds today announced assistance for workers and employers impacted by layoffs related to COVID-19. The guidance includes information for employees filing for unemployment insurance

claims, as well as information on programs available for employers.

“Iowa has incredible employers accommodating the needs of Iowans during the disruption caused by COVID-19,” said Gov. Reynolds. “The state of Iowa is doing everything we can to ease the process and shorten the time it will take for Iowans to

receive unemployment benefits. All of our state agencies continue to work as one team to lessen the impact COVID-19 will have on our economy and our people.”

“Iowa Workforce Development is taking steps to reduce the impact of these claims on employers who have had to temporarily lay off staff due to closures or

slowdowns,” said IWD Director Beth Townsend. “IWD encourages all employers to utilize paid leave and telework options for employees before utilizing temporary layoffs. Iowa Workforce Development will continue to monitor the situation, working with our stakehold-

See **WORKERS**, page 3

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### WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap  
TUE 17 Mar .....Broken Clouds, 47.0° F/ 42.4° F  
WED 18 Mar .....Heavy Intensity Rain, 45.4° F/ 44.5° F  
THU 19 Mar .....Moderate Rain, 60.5° F/ 56.1° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

PICK 3 03/15 MIDDAY.....439  
PICK 3 03/15 EVENING.....459  
PICK 4 03/15 MIDDAY.....5073  
PICK 4 03/15 EVENING.....4798

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### TAWNYA K. AMMER

Tawnya K. Ammer, 62, of Lake of the Oaks, near Canton, Missouri, formerly of Nauvoo passed away at 9:14 a.m. Saturday, March 14, 2020 at her home.

Tawnya was born on May 22, 1957 in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of David and Gee Gee Wood Hamma. On July 26, 1975 she married Doug Ammer at the Christ Lutheran Church in Nauvoo.



AMMER

Tawnya was a graduate of Nauvoo-Colusa High School. She served her community as a waitress at many local restaurants. She then became an optician and since then excelled in the optical field. She went on to become an Ophthalmic Technician with Quincy Medical Group. Tawnya was a member of First Christian Church, Keokuk, before that an active member of Christ Lutheran Church, Nauvoo, Nauvoo Grape Festival Association, Nauvoo Car Show and the Nauvoo Jayceettes.

Tawnya loved her church and time spent with her family at the Lake of the Oaks.

Survivors include her husband, Doug; one son, Kirt (Mindy) Ammer of Smithville, Missouri; one daughter, Tiffany (Chad) Taylor of Stevens Point, Wisconsin; eight grandchildren, Ethan, Evan, Ean, and Easton Ammer, Dominic and Noah Aguilera and Alaina and Jackson Taylor. Also surviving are three brothers, Mike Hamma of Delavan, Illinois, Dennis (Jane) Hamma and Wally (Cindi) Hamma all of Nauvoo.

Tawnya was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents and one brother in infancy, Timothy Hamma.

A memorial service will be held at 12:00 noon, Saturday, March 21, 2020 at the First Christian Church in Keokuk with Pastor David Turner officiating. Inurnment will follow in the Nauvoo City Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. until time of services at the church.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established for Hospice of Northeast Missouri, First Christian Church, Keokuk or Lake of the Oaks, Canton.

Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. To leave a condolence please visit Tawnya's obituary at [sbbfuneralhome.com](http://sbbfuneralhome.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

### KEITH J. LANDIS

Keith J. Landis, 58, of Ft. Madison passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 9:31 AM at his home.

He was born on May 19, 1961 in Oahu, Hawaii to Robert and Odetta "Doris" Stayline Landis. On February 5, 1983 he married Gayle Resnik in Reno, NV. Keith retired from the US Marine Corp. He was also a motorcycle mechanic and worked security. He enjoyed going to the gym and lifting weights and driving around town in his Dodge Challenger. His greatest love was his wife Gayle as he was her lifelong caregiver and friend.



LANDIS

Survivors include his wife, Gayle Landis of Ft. Madison; his friends Kelly and Tim Sanderson of Hamilton, IL; and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A graveside service with full military rites will be held at a later date in Soldiers' Circle, Oakland Cemetery. Online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### EDNA M. BENTZINGER

Edna Martha Bentzinger, 102 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Thursday, March 12, 2020 at Unity Point, Keokuk, Iowa. She was born August 31, 1917 at New Boston, Iowa, a daughter of Frank and Clara (Hagen) Fowler. She married Oswhin C. Bentzinger. He preceded her in death.

She graduated from Argyle High School. She worked for Northwestern Bell as a service assistant for more than 30 years. Edna was a member of the Argyle Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by one daughter, Leah (Lee) Tucker of Durango, Iowa; three grandchildren: Lee Todd Tucker, Johnathan (Jane) Tucker, and Rebecca (Brian) Purvis; six great grandchildren, nieces and one nephew. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two brothers, Earl and George, and three sisters: Marie, Mabel, and Mildred.

A private burial was held at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Keokuk. Services will be held at a later date. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Bentzinger family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorial-chapel.com](http://www.barrmemorial-chapel.com).

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## King-Lynk Funeral home issues new temporary policies

To our friends and family in Fort Madison and the surrounding communities we serve:

We at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory always strive to serve our families to the best of our abilities and celebrate each and every person entrusted to our care. Our care also extends to the families and friends of these we serve.

We know these are unprecedented and trying times and so many things are uncertain during this COVID-19 pandemic. Our care of you and your loved ones will continue during this pandemic, but some concessions must be made for the safety of everyone. We have thought long and hard after these new CDC mandates were handed down to try to find solutions for each of these issues, and we feel that this is the best course of action given the current set of circumstances.

The CDC has ruled that we should not have visitations and services to exceed 50 people. This is exceedingly hard for us to do, as most services have many more attendees than that. As always, we encourage you to send your condolences to the family through our website's tribute wall for each obituary. Our website can be found at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

We will still try to celebrate each life, but these celebrations may look a bit different temporarily. Our staff will be glad to listen to any and all of your concerns and come up with a plan that best suits each and every family. We appreciate your understanding.

King-Lynk Funeral Home Staff

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## From the Front

# Groups report cancellations and schedule changes during outbreak

**TESTING** - Continued from Page 1

The Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday has been moved to the North Lee County Office building at the same 9 a.m. start time.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said the city is taking a common sense, day-to-day approach, in dealing with the spread of the coronavirus.

"The City remains focused on the continuity of critical operations: the police and fire departments, providing clean water, sewer services and trash collection" he said.

"City Hall remains open, but we are suggesting the public limit trips for only essential reasons."

Utility bills can be paid online, over the phone, by using the US postal service or the drop box at City Hall.

"As a community, we must move on with day to day life. We have city functions to perform. We have jobs, businesses and families to maintain," he said. "But we must all work together as a community to take preventive steps as identified by the CDC."

Fort Madison Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said following Monday's regular school board meeting that no additional decisions have been made regarding school schedules, meals, etc.

"We're working on it," she said. "As soon as we know anything we'll let you know."

Other Fort Madison/Lee County event changes.

Other changes, in addition to all schools and sports activities for all area schools being cancelled for the next 14 days, have been reported to Pen City Current.

- United Way of the Great River Region's Spaghetti Dinner scheduled for March 23 has been cancelled. Ticket holders are asked to hold onto those as the event will be rescheduled when prudent to the health and safety of everyone.

- U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack has closed all his physical offices including Davenport, Iowa City and Washington D.C. effective March 17, including all local representa-

tive office hours.

- Fort Madison Partners has cancelled it's Legislative Luncheon planned for Friday at River Rocks Bar and Grill.

- Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce is offering the following suggestions for the continuation of retail business in Fort Madison.

- order take-out or delivery - many of our members are offering curbside pickup and delivery during this time

- visit your favorite retailers/service providers during off hours with less crowds

- support local business online or via social media

- purchase gift cards from businesses you frequent to use later in the year

- FMAAA has rescheduled Expressions Art Auction to June 6th at Quality Inn in Ft. Madison

- HTC's Blue & Silver Celebration originally planned for Saturday, March 21 has been cancelled.

- Fort Madison's Kiwanis meetings have been cancelled while school is out. The Kiwanis have also cancelled this year's Carnation Sale Fundraiser.

- Great River Medical Center has implemented visiting restrictions that will be announced Wednesday. The system has also changed processes for QuickCare.

Patients should call 319-768-4320 to request an appointment, check in on arrival and then wait in their vehicles until a room is available. Patients without vehicles will be allowed inside while wearing a mask. The patient and only one person may be in an exam room, unless the parent has more than one child. Most public events scheduled by the GRHS have been cancelled through April 30.

- All Iowa DOT centers are booking appointments online or by phone prior to arriving at the centers. The number to call is 515-244-8725.

# Employers won't be charged for unemployment claims

**WORKERS** - Continued from Page 1

ers and updates will be released on our webpage."

Unemployment insurance claims:

If you are laid off due to COVID-19 or have to stay home to self-isolate, care for family members or due to illness related to COVID-19, you can receive unemployment benefits, provided you meet all other eligibility requirements. Those requirements essentially include working for wages from an employer who claims you as an employee in six of the last eighteen months and have earned at least \$2,500 in the same time period. More specific explanation of benefit eligibility can be found at: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/2019-unemployment-insurance-claimant-handbook>

Claimants can expect to receive payment within 7-10 days after the date the claim is filed.

Claims that are filed and identified as a direct or indirect result of COVID-19, will not be charged to employers. Fact-finding interviews for these claims will be waived and not be held although employers will be notified of claims received.

IWD will process unemployment insurance payments to ensure payment will continue to be paid in a timely manner.

"The Iowa Workforce Development team is dedicated to providing assistance to employees and employers affected by COVID-19. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or our team for assistance at 1-866-239-0843," said Director Townsend.

For more information, visit [www.IowaWorkforceDevelopment.gov](http://www.IowaWorkforceDevelopment.gov) Updates will be released as they become available.



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# Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 2/18/2020

The Fort Madison City Council met in adjourned session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Bowker, Morawitz, Andrews, Miller and Lair present. Council Members Rink and Cargas were absent.

On motion, Council approved the agenda. On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 2/4/2020 Council meeting and Budget Work Session; Payroll of 2/14/2020; and Liquor License Renewal: Eagles Club, 4821 Avenue O, effective 1/31/2020 and Columbus Club, 807-809 Avenue H, effective 2/5/2020.

Mohrfeld opened the public hearing Concerning the Fiscal Year 2021 Maximum Property Tax Dollars Levy at 6:04 P.M.. There were no oral or written comments. Mohrfeld closed the public

hearing at 6:07 P.M. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-010, setting the Maximum Property Tax Dollars Levy for Fiscal Year 2021. On motion, Council adopted Resolution 2020-11, granting property tax exemption for: Willaim F Britton, 2412, Avenue D and DJI Real Estates, LLC, for property located at 1001 Avenue H.

On motion, Council approved Claims dated February 13, 2020, January 2020 Manual Claims and the January Financial Report. On motion, Council accepted the Civil Service Commission's Fire Department Captain Promotional List. On motion, Council received and reviewed the 2019 Certified Local Government Annual Report.

A discussion was held regarding the Library Budget and water rates were reviewed and discussed.

At 7:12 P.M., the meeting adjourned until March 2, 2020, at 5:30 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

REVENUES	2/15/2020
General	\$40,394.11
Special Revenue	260,534.49
Road Use	150,300.82
Debt	2,944.20
Capital	17,432.16
Water	301,664.41
Sewer	263,980.93
Solid Waste/IWC	68,899.52
SW Utility	18,672.78
	<b>\$1,124,823.42</b>

PAYROLL	2/14/2020
General	\$179,693.28
Special Revenue	3,951.39
Road Use	27,041.70
Water	29,245.49
Sewer	38,604.91
Solid Waste	11,592.17
Airport	312.77
Storm Water	3,647.39
	<b>\$294,089.10</b>

CLAIMS - 2/18/2020	
3E ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, WIRE..	256.71
ABC FIRE EXTINGUISHER, INSPECTION/PARTS	56.60
ALEXIS FIRE EQUIPMENT CO, COUPLER/ VALVE/FITTING ...	261.69
ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC.....	2,847.57
ALTORFER INC., VALVE	137.38

EXPENDITURES	2/15/2020
General	\$39,023.00
Special Revenue	3,750.01
Road Use	9,662.68
Capital	19,250.85
Water	102,641.48
Sewer	15,885.28
Solid Waste/IWC	5,267.07
	<b>\$195,480.37</b>

ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM	742.96
AUGE, PAIGE, I-PLDGE PROGRAM.....	60.00
AWWA/WUC, WATER TRAINING .....	200.00
B&B PROPANE, PROPANE/HEAT.....	839.40
BARCO MUNICIPAL PROD INC., NUT/ SQUARE POSTS	1,288.29

BOE, RANDY, SAFETY BOOTS .....	259.65
BROZENES HYDRAULIC EQUIPMENT, ASSEMBLY KIT.....	102.35
BUILDING MATERIALS INC, SUPPLIES/PARTS .....	656.55
BURLINGTON GLASS COMPANY, REPAIR DOOR PANIC .....	134.50
BURLINGTON MUNI WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE .....	85.00
CENTRE STATE INTL TRUCKS, VALVE KIT .....	939.80
CITY OF FORT MADISON, LEACHATE DISCHARGE .....	1,662.75
CULLEN PEST CONTROL, REFILL STATION .....	150.00
CURE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC, MONTHLY AGREEMENT....	3,100.00
DAILY DEMOCRAT, CLAIMS/HEARINGS/ POSTING .....	798.70
DAVE'S MARINE, COVERS .....	658.78
DIGITAL ALLY, CHEST CAMERA .....	720.00
DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, THERMAL LAMINATING.....	44.70
DR&G SERVICES, BULK REFUND - RG406 ..	26.60
EBERT SUPPLY, TOWELS.....	97.00
ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS, REPAIRED 2 CAMERAS.....	280.00
FIERGE AUTO PARTS CO., BUMPER.....	300.00
FLOYD'S E-Z WAY, GARBAGE PICK-UP....	366.10
FORT MADISON COMM. HOSPITAL, RANDOM DRUG TESTING ....	56.00
GREAT RIVER REGIONAL WASTE, GARBAGE .....	12,901.42
HENDERSON PRODUCTS, INC, PLATE/ FLANGE .....	311.00
HILL PRINTING, RED DOOR HANGERS	360.00
HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE - AVE I DRY CREEK .....	51,619.90
HUEBNER, CASEY, INDUSTRIAL WASTE TRAINING .....	155.00
HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, OXYGEN/ ACETYLENE .....	639.24
HYDROFIT, FIT TEST .....	400.00
IDEAL READY MIX COMPANY, INC, FILL SAND .....	827.74
IOWA ASSOC OF MUN., UTILITY MEMBERSHIP 2020-2021 .....	1,413.00
IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY, TESTING/QUALIFICATIONS .....	3,650.00
IOWA MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFF, MEMBERSHIP .....	40.00
IOWA PRISON INDUS-	

TRIES, SIGNS.....	554.13
KIESLER'S POLICE SUPPLY, INC, PISTOLS .....	2,928.00
LEE COUNTY RECORDER, RECORDING FEE .....	22.00
LISCO, PHONE .....	2,036.73
LYNCH DALLAS P.C., NEGOTIATIONS .....	1,083.33
MASTERCARD, BODY VALVES .....	4,493.77
MCFARLAND, TOWELS/ GLOVES/SOAP.....	81.45
MCMASTER CARR SUPPLY CO, STAINLESS STEEL SHIMS.....	139.25
MENKE PROFESSIONAL AUTO PARTS, FLAT .....	76.73
MID-IOWA SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT, PARTS - SEWER JETTER .....	131.51
MIDLAND SCIENTIFIC INC., FILTER PAPER .....	175.64
MIDWAY FREIGHTLINER, INC, UNIVERSAL SHAFT .....	295.21
MT. HAMILL ELEVATOR & LUMBER, SCALE USE .....	28.00
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY COMPANY, METERS/ DUAL PORT ....	11,060.32
NORTHERN SAFETY CO. INC., BB PATHOGEN KIT/SUPPLIES .....	343.35
O'REILLY AUTO PARTS, PARTS .....	2,096.13
PAUL'S PLUMBING & HEATING, REMODELED PD RESTROOM...990.00	
POEPPING STONE & BACH, PROF FEE - 732 AVE G .....	1,076.32
QUALITY FLOW IOWA, INC, MAGNUM COMPACT .....	4,015.75
QUILL CORPORATION, INK/PENS/CLIPS .....	111.02
ROBERT N. JOHNSON III, MONTHLY SUBSIDY .....	1,383.60
S.H. ENTERPRISES LTD., HAULING SLUDGE .....	8,470.00
SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, L.L.C., SUPPLIES ..	21.10
SELECTIVE INS. CO OF SOUT, FLOOD INSURANCE.....	1,911.00
SERVICE MASTER, REFINISH BREAK RM FLOOR .....	1,511.50
SMARTCOVER SYSTEMS, INC., YEARLY PROTECTION...3,579.00	
SOUTHEAST IOWA CITY CLERK CITY, CLERK MEMBERSHIP .....	20.00
STEWART AUTOMOTIVE, TRANSMISSION FLUSH.....	149.99
TESTAMERICA INC., WEEKLY SAMPLE .....	409.50
THACHER TREE CARE, TREE REMOVAL @	

CEMETERY.....	3,125.00
TIM'S REPAIR SHOP, PARTS.....	215.45
TRANS-IOWA EQUIPMENT, BRAKE TUBE .....	686.10
TRUCK REPAIR INC., BATTERY .....	819.17
TRUeline FIRE & SAFETY, JACKET ..	87.21
UPS, SHIPPING.....	13.99
VISION INDUSTRIAL SALES, OIL .....	450.00
VOGELGESANG, DAWSON, I-PLDGE PROGRAM.....	10.00
VRADENBURG, DAVE, CH SECURITY WALL/ DOOR.....	2,654.00
WELLMARK BC/BS, HEALTH PREMIUMS .....	91,233.30
WILSON DISTRIBUTOR SERVICE, CHERRY BOMB .....	69.00
WINDSTREAM, PHONE/ INTERNET.....	243.63
GENERAL .....	26,423.60
SPECIAL REVENUES .....	96,544.03
ROAD USE.....	13,034.88
CAPITAL PROJECTS .....	52,119.29
WATER.....	18,192.41
WASTEWATER .....	15,038.44

SOLID WASTE .....	15,153.85
AIRPORT.....	1,595.06
STORM WATER ...	146.00
.....	238,247.56
<b>MANUALS - JAN 2020</b>	
ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC.....	24,754.40
B&B PROPANE, PROPANE .....	1,113.83
EASYPERMIT, POST-AGE WATER/PASTDUE/ RECYCLE SCH/REFIL .....	4,174.76
IOWA BRIDGE & CULT, PAY EST #12 .....	39,247.21
JUSTIN CAIN, TUITION/ BOOKS.....	1,513.97
U.S. CELLULAR, SMART PHONES .....	311.10
WEX BANK, FUEL USAGE .....	9,794.14
TOTAL .....	80,909.41
GENERAL .....	6,753.02
ROAD USE.....	15,957.87
CAPITAL PROJECT .....	39,274.80
WATER.....	1,979.68
WASTEWATER .....	13,401.55
SOLID WASTE ..	2,772.90
AIRPORT.....	769.59
TOTAL .....	80,909.41

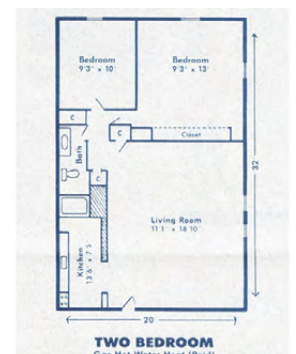
## APARTMENTS FOR RENT

### Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent



Extra clean & quiet with free YMCA membership included. 2 bedrooms, some with decks/patio. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, built-in microwave. Non-smoking, no pets. Very affordable security deposit \$300. Must pass background & credit checks (no felonies). Large

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## From the Front

# Paint-A-Thon, city cleanups are outside city's focus

**PARTNERS** - Continued from Page 1

focused on picking up trash along highly traveled roadsides and other areas of the city, again all with volunteer help and donations.

"The last piece, as far as cleanups would be, is right before the boats come in," Gobble said referring to the American Cruise Lines' Fort Madison ports of call in the summer.

"Again, this is all volunteer-based, but we come in and try to spruce up the historic district right before the boats come in. These are smaller ticket efforts, but they make a huge difference right away and that's good for the city on many levels."

New this year, the Chamber is partnering

with the city and would like to host an adoption program for the city parks where individuals or groups would adopt a bench or a shelter house to try to alleviate the burden on city employees to maintain those areas.

"The idea is to have the group(s) go in and clean those up, possibly partnering with local schools when the opportunity arises. With all that is going on now, it might be tight to get much accomplished this year, but maybe next year we can get some things done."

At the Community Neighborhood Watch meeting last week, Larry Lee Stewart, one of the leaders of the combined groups, said they

are considering adopting a city park. Rotary has adopted Central Park and has been responsible for maintenance and improvements there for many years, while the Old Settler's Association has taken responsibility for Old Settler's Park.

Stewart told about 50 attendees at the watch group meeting, that plans were being discussed but nothing formal had been decided at this point.

He said it's efforts and ideas like that that will help private efforts complement what the city is doing on its end.

"Rotary has adopted Central Park and Old Settlers Association has adopted Old Settlers. But if we could find

groups that would be interested in taking those on that would be great. Ultimately, it would be fantastic if all the parks have some kind of volunteer groups helping them out," he said.

Gobble said a new piece in private efforts is the Fort Madison Community Beautification Foundation.

"This will be the 501c3 organization that could take on donations that could be earmarked specifically for areas of town – for example downtown," Gobble said.

"Once the sidewalks get done, maybe that money could be specifically donated to light fixtures or other accessories downtown and we could break that down into more specif-

ic uses," he said.

Gobble said he hopes the recent push for self-isolation as the country deals with the coronavirus outbreak, isn't a detriment to clean up efforts, specifically the Paint-A-Thon set to begin in April 27.

"A lot of the virus protections involve enclosed gatherings, but I'm not sure if I had 10 people spread around a house, if that's something public health officials would caution against," he said. "At this point, I hope not."

He said volunteers and donations are still being accepted for the program, as they are for most of the coordinated clean up efforts.

"A lot of it's the money goes toward buying the things we need. We have different events

throughout the year that help build pools of money. But those are smaller fundraisers, \$500 here or \$400 there that have enabled us to buy rakes, weed eaters, and that kind of thing," he said.

"Doing the Paint-A-Thon we've found that pressure washers help speed up the prep work, but we burned one out last year as it wasn't meant for that much use, and we have to replace those. It would be great to find a sponsor to help maybe keep some better washers in house and use them year to year."

Gobble said the city is heading in the right direction.

"Are things working as fast as people want them to do. Probably not, but there is a lot of red tape and legal things that make these projects not as easy as we'd hope," he said.

"The city is working within the parameters they can, but ultimately it comes back on the property owners. If you own a home, try to make sure you're doing your part in keeping it up."

The aging stock of Fort Madison homes is also a hurdle. It's going to be costly to get some of these things done," he said.

"And a lot of these homes, especially in the older part of town, are rentals. Are owners putting some of that rent back into the property? Is the city holding their feet to the fire to make sure properties are aesthetically pleasing and up to code?"

He also reminded residents of the app the city has that can be downloaded to your phone from Google Play or the App Store. The app allows anyone to report an issue of concern in the city and the item is immediately logged into a public works queue at City Hall for action.



## 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.

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