

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, June 15, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 119



www.pencitycurrent.com

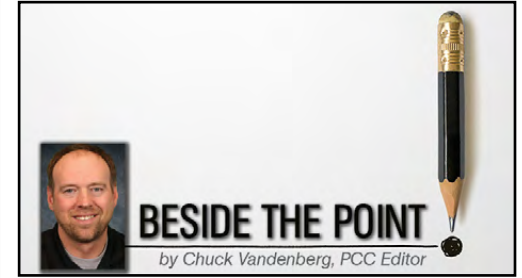
PAVING BEGINS ON OLD 61



Special to the Pen City Current

Crews from Jones Contracting of West Point start pouring concrete Thursday morning just past the Avenue G and 2nd Street intersection.

PANDEMIC



Did Congress just outline a living wage?

I'm trying to be a little more edgy in my editorials. I think the readership deserves it. Pushing the envelope last week was met with a little criticism, but not much.

I got wrapped up this morning in a piece by Des Moines Register Watchdog reporter Lee Wood, who picked apart the Iowa Economic Development Authority's handling of grants made through federal CARES Act funds.

Wood points to the inconsistencies of the process, and how the state is now asking for some of the money back after deeper dives into the grant applications.

It's been my opinion from the outset that the government was throwing too much money at the problem from all angles. Grants... Paycheck Protection Program loans, FPUKE... I mean FPUC, the \$600 stimulus that's currently in play with the state unemployment packages, and stimulus money.

No real clear picture of how all this is getting paid for, should give everyone a bit of pause. Our elected lawmakers saw the need to infuse money into the system, not just for health and safety, but for commerce as well.

But Wood points out that there are many inconsistencies with how the government doled out the money. She mentions Fort Madison's Cobblestone Inn as one operation that saw no grant money, when four other properties under the brand did.

We've had businesses close up shop, after receiving the grant when the money was specifically programmed as gap funding. There's thought that money should be reimbursed? I've talked informally with restaurant owners who've said business has been good, even increased year to date sales.

But they got creative, as the market de-

See COUNCIL, page 8

See WAGES, page 4

CITY COUNCIL: Resignation deal amounts to contract requiring City Council vote

Attorney says "nothing weird" in police captain vote

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – In a weird twist of protocol, a police captain's retirement agreement is going in front of the Fort Madison City Council.

Police Captain, and former police chief, Bruce Niggemeyer through his attorney Tom Skewes of Fort Madison has asked that an agreement outlining his retirement be signed by Mayor Matt Mohrfeld, which requires a majority vote of the city council.

According to Fort Madison City Code, City Manager David Varley has authority over action concerning city employees with the exception of the police and fire chiefs, which require city council approval.

On Friday, Varley said he was perplexed as to why Niggemeyer and Skewes have asked to have the agreement signed by the mayor.

"It's pretty clear that there's a lot of stuff in there and I think that's why the attorneys wanted it to be more of a contractual agreement, rather than the typical resignation letter," Varley said.



VARLEY

"I'm very perplexed by it, but this is the way our attorney and their attorney wanted to move forward with it, so it had the backing of the City Council."

Patrick O'Connell, the city's attorney with Lynch-Dallas of Cedar Rapids, wrote in an email to Pen City Current Friday, that section of city code delineates the Manager's authority to make employment decisions.

"However, a contract intended to be binding upon the City, including a contract of resignation, must be approved by the City Council and signed by the Mayor, in order for it be binding. That is our usual process for approval of contracts," O'Connell said.

"There is nothing weird going on here."

The agreement is a six-page document that was attached to all City Council members' pre-meeting packets Thursday night.

The agreement in essence provides for a hold-harmless agreement for the city, in which Niggemeyer gives up any right to sue the city going forward as well as

INDEX

Business Directory.....P.7
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.5-7
Complete Rental.....P.2
Fort Madison Community Hospital.....P.4
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....P.2
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.4,8
Great River Regional Waste Authority....P.3
HEALTH NEWS.....P.3

LEE COUNTY NEWS.....P.3
LOCAL NEWS.....P.8
North Lee County Relay for Life.....P.9
OBITUARIES.....P.2
• Cheryl Connors, 70
• Peggy F. Davis, 86
• Steven A. Rankin, 72
OPINION.....Ps.4,8

Pen City Current.....P.7
Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....P.8
Public Notices.....Ps.5-6
Scotts Miracle-Gro Company.....P.5
Sonny's Super Market.....P.4

WEATHER

MON 15 JunBroken Clouds, 72.5° F/ 60.8° F
TUE 16 JunBroken Clouds, 76.9° F/ 63.1° F
WED 17 JunClear Skies, 78.6° F/ 64.4° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 06/133 16 26 29 40, Star Ball: 8, All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 06/119 24 25 29 42, Lucky Ball: 6
MEGA MILLIONS 06/129 14 57 67 70, Mega Ball: 2 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 06/11 / 06/12 / 06/13 MIDDAY28 4 / 6 7 6 / 7 6 8
PICK 3 06/11 / 06/12 / 06/13 EVENING078 / 421 / 728
PICK 4 06/11 / 06/12 / 06/13 MIDDAY5975 / 8495 / 0433
PICK 4 06/11 / 06/12 / 06/13 EVENING0180 / 5184 / 5799
POWERBALL 06/132 12 32 50 65, Powerball: 5, Power Play: 3

SUBSCRIBE

Scan the code to subscribe today
Paid & Free Options Available!



Obituaries

OBITUARIES

STEVEN A. RANKIN

Steven A. Rankin, 73 of Lomax, IL died Saturday, June 13, 2020. He was born March 10, 1947 in LaHarpe, IL, the son of John Dale and Aletha Bradford Rankin. On August 17, 1969, he married Margaret Six in Dallas City, IL.



RANKIN

Steve served in the US Army from 1966 – 1968. As a young man, he began farming with his grandfather, William Bradford and his father. At the age of 16 he joined his dad in his trucking business. He always loved farming and especially enjoyed time spent with his daughter and grandchildren when they would visit his farm.



Surviving are his wife, one daughter, Lisa (Jimmy) Messer of Moore South Carolina, two grandchildren, Emma and Corbin Messer and one brother, Brian (Michelle) Jones of Lomax. Steve was preceded in death by his parents.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in his memory for the Henderson County Hospice. Contributions may be sent to; Steven Rankin memorial Fund, c/o Banks & Beals Funeral Home, PO Box 503, LaHarpe, IL 61450. To sign the guestbook and leave a condolence, please visit his obituary at banksbeals.com.

OBITUARIES

CHERYL CONNORS

Cheryl Connors, 70, of Ft. Madison passed away on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 10:06 PM at The Madison.

She was born on November 26, 1949 in Ashland, WI to Carl and Agnes Rabideaux Maday. Cheryl married Frank Connors, Sr. and he preceded her in death. She retired from Memorial Medical Center in Ashland after several years of service. Cheryl enjoyed playing bingo, reading and attending her grandchildren's activities.



CONNORS

Survivors include a son, Karl (Darcy) Karis of Bloomer, WI; a daughter, Rebecca (Ian Hauck) Bowker of Ft. Madison; four grandchildren, Matthew Karis, Jonathon Karis, Adam Tosch-Karis and Justin Bowker; a great grandchild, Paxton Karis; a brother, Raymond (Karen) Maday; sister and brother in laws and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband five brothers, Carl Maday, Jr, Ron Maday, Gene Maday, Marvin Maday and Stan Maday; and two sisters, Joyce Whitebird and JoAnn Maday.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A Feast and Catholic Memorial Mass will be held at a later date in Odanah, WI. Burial will be at Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Odanah, WI.

A memorial has been established for the Wounded Warriors and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

PEGGY F. DAVIS

Peggy F. Davis, 86, of Keokuk, died Friday, June 12, 2020 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

She was born on September 21, 1933 in Ft. Madison, IA, the daughter of Fred and Amie Patterson Percival.



DAVIS

On October 7, 1950, Peggy was united in marriage to Ralph Davis in Keokuk. He survives.

She is also survived by three sons, Mike Phillips (Refina) of Patterson, CA, Larry Davis of Keokuk and Steve "Gus" Davis (Diana) of Hamilton, IL, one daughter, Debbie Miller (Ronald) of Keokuk, ten grandchildren, Melissa Hilleby (Manes), Michele Presnell (Jason), Mike Phillips, Toby Davis (Irene Vega), Steve Davis, Ron Miller (Rissie), Jacob Davis (Sarah), Matthew Davis (Kayla), Cory Long (Teresa) and Heather Brown (Nate), fourteen great-grandchildren, Ella, Chase, Alex, Aaron, Mia, Aiden, Ely, Ezra, twins, Asher and Asa, Zoe, Deegan, Lincoln and Justien. She is also survived by one brother, Jerry Percival (Concetta) of Shreveport, CA, several nieces and nephews and a very special friend Sandy Pollitt (John) of Keokuk.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her siblings, Nina Smalley, Ralph Percival, Jack Percival, Fred "Bud" Percival, Betty Percival, and Frankie Gilpin.

Peggy had been employed as a hairstylist at Pat's Hair Salon in Keokuk from 1967 – 1975.

She was a member of the Living Waters Assembly of God in Keokuk. She was also a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Auxiliary.

Peggy was a wonderful cook and loved making family dinners and sitting around the table reminiscing about family memories. She enjoyed motorcycle riding, dancing and traveling. She and Ralph had traveled extensively throughout the United States and they had made a trip to California every summer for twenty-two years. Peggy was a loving wife and devoted mother and her life revolved around her family. She was always active in her children's lives and supported their every endeavor.

Funeral services will be held at 12 noon on Tuesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Larry Wallingford officiating.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 11 am – 12 noon at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends at that time. Social distancing requirements will be in place and attendees will be limited according to those requirements. Masks are encouraged. Memorials may be made to the Living Waters Assembly of God.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

20% Off All Dump Containers

JUNE RESERVATIONS ONLY

Present this coupon and get 20% off any dump container. Offer valid until June 30, 2020. Not valid with any other discounts.

20% Off All Backhoes

JUNE RESERVATIONS ONLY

Present this coupon and get 20% off any backhoe. Offer valid until June 30, 2020. Not valid with any other discounts.

20% Off All Dozers

JUNE RESERVATIONS ONLY

Present this coupon and get 20% off any dozer. Offer valid until June 30, 2020. Not valid with any other discounts.

15% Off All Party Supplies

JUNE RESERVATIONS ONLY

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.

JOIN. THE. ADVENTURE.

SUMMER CAMP 2020

DATES: JUNE 8 - AUGUST 14

11-WEEK SUMMER PROGRAM FOR 1ST THRU 6TH GRADERS

ENROLL TODAY

FORT MADISON FAMILY YMCA
220 26th Street • 319-372-2403 fortmadison.org

Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Member LION Publishers
www.lionpublishers.com

Copyright © 2016 by Pen City Current
All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Lee County News

LCHD to restart immunization clinics by appointment only

LEE COUNTY – Starting on June 15th the Lee County Health Department will resume their TB and Immunization clinics, among other services open to the public. However, the doors of the building will remain locked during business hours to assure the new clinic guidelines are followed to help protect staff and the public.

The TB (tuberculosis) Clinic will be available on June 15th from 3:00-4:00pm at LCHD Office (#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison) by appointment only. If a TB test is needed the client will be required to return on June 17th for the results at the same appointment time. TB Clinics will continue in June and July on Mondays from 3:00-4:00pm, with results being read on Wednesdays. All dates will be by appointment only.

The LCHD Immunization Clinics will resume on June 25th at the LCHD Offices in Fort Madison only from 1:00pm-4:30pm by appointment only. Other clinic dates are July 9th and July 23rd, again in Fort Madison. Parents of the child needing immunizations are encouraged to call by the Wednesday before the clinic to set-up a time to bring your

child in. LCHD clinic staff asks parents to only bring children who are in need of a vaccine.

All persons attending a TB or Immunization Clinic...

- are required to wear a mask. Children over the age of four will be required to wear a mask as well; will be asked screening questions when they call to make an appointment and when they arrive to their appointment;
- will have temperatures taken when they enter the building;
- need wait in the designated area marked in the LCHD lobby until a LCHD employee escorts you to the clinic area, the main lobby area will be closed off;
- please do not arrive more than five minutes early prior to your appointment time.

All of the above is subject to change as we proceed with clinics. TB and Immunization Clinic appointments can be made by calling (319)376-4767 or the main office line.

LCHD's Child Health Program offers lead testing for children ages 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, and 36 months

of age. If your child needs a lead test an appointment can be made by calling LCHD.

The LCHD Environmental Department is requesting appointments be made for Delay of Installation Permits, Septic Permits, and Demolition Permits. Those coming to the LCHD office to obtain a permit are encouraged to wear a face mask. The LCHD Inspectors may be out of the office with inspections so it is a best practice to call ahead before arriving to the office.

For all program appointments or questions please call (319)372-5225 or (800)458-6672. It is important that those making appointments are on time for entry into the building. The staff member you are meeting will be at the door for the appointment. Clinic walk-ins might be allowed depending on the appointments scheduled. Any walk-ins will need to call the office to speak to the clinic staff to get a wait time, and will need to wait outside. More information and announcements can be found at the LCHD website, www.leecountyhd.org, or on LCHD's Facebook page.

Do Your Part!

Great River Regional Waste Authority
encourages you to wear gloves when moving bins
for residential trash pick-up.

*Those workers can touch
 over 2000 bins a day
 before even touching your bin.
 Don't forget to wash your hands
 after bringing in your bin!!*



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

Keokuk Transfer Station:
 111 Carbide Lane
 Keokuk, IA
 1-319-524-6175

Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

From the Front/Opinion

Maybe we should move OT to start at 45 hours

WAGES - Continued from Page 1

mands sometimes in troubling economic times. They found a way. Economists would say that's what's supposed to happen. Economic theory would suggest that makes the market stronger.

But some businesses absolutely needed that gap income to allow them to reopen doors when there was no way to stay open. How do you parse that, while trying to be expedient with getting the emergency funding out. It got flubbed for sure, but as a whole the process helped.

Are there going to be stories of people taking advantage of the government's rush to infuse capital to keep things going? Absolutely... and those stories won't just come from the metropolitans of Iowa and the nation.

I tend to believe that \$600 was too much and as I was saying long before national media grabbed it up last week, there's going to social backlash to people having to go back to work for minimum wage, when they've been home collecting upwards of \$1,000 per week during the pandemic. That boils down to \$52K per year, even though just through July 31 for now.

One person I spoke with said \$600 wasn't too much and the government had by its own actions just told the country what a "living wage" amounted to. It's a sneaky good point, but that'll have a counter for it.

At 40 hours a week the government would have to set the minimum wage \$15 more than it is right now to make an extra \$600 per week. That would mean a national minimum wage in excess of \$22 per hour. It would be \$27 in Seattle and \$30 in New York City if all things are relative.

Get ready for the \$11 gallon of milk and \$12 deluxe cheeseburger, right?

"Why? Just cap the price of the cheeseburger."

If the pandemic has shown Americans anything it may appear that Congress truly understands a living wage now. They set it themselves. And to keep corporate America from continuing to skew the layers of the socio-economic stratification, those same elected officials that created that formula to allow us to continue living during the pandemic, are going to have to define what post-pandemic America looks like.

Didn't Congress just define the minimum level of income for a working American individual at about \$52,000? Take the unemployment plus the FPUKE. On average we're close to \$1,000 per week. That would be setting a minimum living wage at \$22/hour.

It Takes a Community

- Wash your hands frequently with soap & water - 20 seconds or more
- Cover your coughs & sneezes with your elbow or a tissue
- Keep your hands away from your face - eyes, nose, mouth are doorways for germs
- Stay home when you are ill
- Avoid gatherings of more than 10 people
- Help protect our elderly or those with health conditions

 **Fort Madison**
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
www.fmchosp.com

Let's go a step further and set overtime at 45 hours instead of 40 hours per week. Wanna get American going again, let's work an extra five hours at regular pay. That adds to the state and federal payroll taxes, adds production, adds to household incomes, and, in theory, eases the burden on Social Security as individual accounts could be better funded.

Sure, the hard worker on the line gets screwed out of \$10/hour on the first five hours of OT, but maybe that worker's wage went up a little to compensate.

The hit comes in the part-timers who staff the convenience stores and restaurants and such. But your conservatives will say those jobs are for high school kids anyway. Maybe a minimum wage for 17 and under and a mandated living wage for those 18 and older. That would really separate the workload, help fill positions, and allow those franchises and convenience stores to pay a wage congruent to the workforce.

I don't know... the picture is murky at best. We have to find a way to fund the trillions that have been given away - some much needed, and others much hoarded. But to be sure... something had to be done. And now we learn for the next pandemic.

What happens next is where things will really get interesting. But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is the editor and co-founder of the Pen City Current and can be reached at editor@pencitycurrent.com.

Advertising stalls Iowa paper

SWARM - Continued from Page 8

given equal space in each issue. Holiday or Sunday dinner guests found their names listed in the Star Clipper. In hospital reports we learned who had entered the hospital and what affliction had sent them there. Obituaries told life stories and many times details of the death itself. Last Wills and Testaments were printed word for word for all eyes to see. 'My son, John, is to

receive 50 head of angus cattle' ... Divorce news was always good reading. He said—She said.—A \$200 settlement and the case was closed."

Sadly, the Traer Star Clipper, like many small newspapers, and some large, did not survive the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. Businesses stopped advertising. But the iron winding steps are still

there, where people could walk across a catwalk and receive a hot-off-the-press newspaper, like a fresh loaf of bread, gossip and rumors better than peanut butter and jelly.

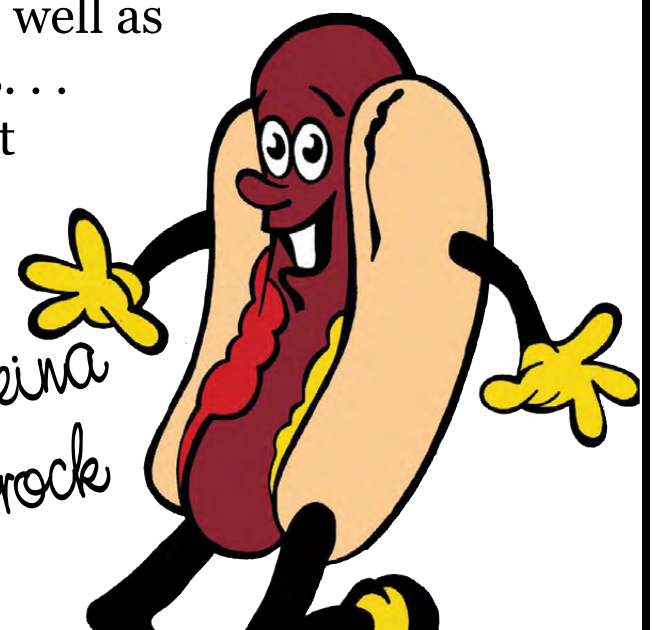
Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com

SONNY'S Super Market

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 & Deina
Merschbrock



Classifieds/Public Notices

SHOP Classifieds

PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM OR CALL (319)371.4125

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
June 15, 2020
6:00 P.M.
AGENDA
Finance: Menke/Ross**

- I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
- II. Recognition of guests
- III. Reading of Foundation documents
- IV. Monthly communications
 - A. Student Rep Report (skip)
 - B. Curriculum Corner - End of Year Data
 - C. "Did You Know?"
 - D. Superintendent Goal Report
 - E. District Presentations - Iowa Association of School Business Officials - Professional Leadership Award
- V. Approve the agenda
- VI. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes
 1. May 18, 2020 Regular Meeting
 - B. Financial reports
 1. May Balance Sheet
 2. May Revenue Summary
 3. Expenditure report
 4. Student Activity report
 - C. Accounts payable
 1. May General Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX
 2. June General Account Board Bills for Approval
 3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX
 4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval
 - D. Consider personnel resignations
 1. Chad Bowen, 7/8 soccer coach
 2. Josie Morrill, associate at Richardson
 3. Julie Bengé, teacher at the high school
 4. Kimberly Anderson, associate at Richardson
 - E. Consider employment of personnel
 1. Misty Harris, Lincoln/

- Richardson nurse
 2. Ryan Wilson, assistant baseball coach
 3. Jordyn Meierotto, assistant cross country coach
 4. Luke Rickelman, middle school football
 - F. Consider contract modifications
 - G. Consider leave of absence
 - H. Consider open enrollment requests
 - I. Other reports
 1. Activity/Athletic fundraisers and Donations Director (blank) moved and director (blank) seconded the documents submitted in the consent section of the agenda be approved and/or filed as submitted.
 - VII. Action Items
 - A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services - Kim Harmon
 1. Consider approval of 2020-21 Curriculum Materials K-5 Math OUR EL
 - B. Superintendent - Erin Slater
 1. Consider approval of salary lists
 - a. FMEA
 - b. Teamsters Unit 2 - Custodian/Maintenance/Mechanics
 - c. Administrators/Directors
 - d. Salaried Support Staff
 - e. Hourly Support Staff
 - f. Food Service Staff
 2. Consider approval of policy changes
 - 211 - Open Meetings
 - 212 - Closed Sessions
 - 213 - Public Participation In Board Meetings
 - 213.1 - Public Complaints
 - 213.1-R-1 - General Complaints By Citizens ~~delete~~
 3. Consider approval of 2020-2021 Support Staff handbook
 - C. Board Secretary/Business Manager - Sandy Elmore
 1. Consider approval of bread, chemical and dairy bids for nutrition services
 2. Consider approval of 2020-2021 proposed school meal rates
 3. Consider approval

- of IASB Safety Group Insurance Program renewal and premium payment
 4. Consider approval of Resolution to Interfund Borrow
 5. Consider approval of Class of 2020 Graduation List
 6. Consider approval of Legislative Priorities
 - VIII. Discussion Items
 - A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services - Kim Harmon
 1. Superintendent - Erin Slater
 1. Consider policy changes
 - 215 - Board of Directors Records
 - 216.1 - Association Membership
 - 216.2 - Board of Directors' Member Development and Training
 - 216.3 - Board of Directors' Member Compensation and Expenses
 2. Board Member Attendance
 - C. Board Secretary/Business Manager - Sandy Elmore
 1. IX. Comments from the audience
 - X. Legislative update
 - XI. Announcements
 - XII. Adjourn

**PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL
June 2, 2020**

The Fort Madison City Council met in an informal work session on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, at 7:55 P.M. at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Bowker, Morawitz, Rink, Andrews, Cangas, Lair and Miller present. Doug Krogmeier, City Planner, discussed vacant building issues with Council and proposed the City adopt a Vacant Building Registration ordinance. No action was taken. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld,
Mayor
ATTEST:
/s/ Melinda L. Blind,
City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met electronically due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Technical difficulties were experienced therefore the meeting began at 9:16 a.m.
Present: Ron Fedler,

Matt Pflug, Gary Folluo, Rick Larkin and Rich Harlow
All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.
The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
Moved by Harlow, seconded by Larkin, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
There was no Public Input.
Moved by Folluo, seconded by Larkin, to approve the Tuesday, June 2, 2020 Board minutes. Motion carried with Pflug abstaining.
Moved by Pflug, seconded by Larkin, to

approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.
Moved by Harlow, seconded by Pflug, to approve an agreement with The Master's Touch for mailing of tax statements. Motion carried.
Moved by Pflug, seconded by Harlow, to approve hiring a part-time clerk in the Treasurer's Office. Motion carried.
Moved by Harlow, seconded by Pflug, to approve a Fiscal Agent Agreement with Children First for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Motion carried.
Moved by Folluo, seconded by Pflug, to approve a contract with

JOIN AN INDUSTRY LEADER



Great Job Opportunities

At our Fort Madison Manufacturing Plant

Machine Packaging Operators

Qualifications:
Minimum 1 year experience as a machine/production operator in a high-speed manufacturing environment
Openings All Shifts
R3559
Starting pay: \$18.30/hour

Forklift Operators

Qualifications:
1-3 years forklift experience, in a fast-paced environment
Openings All Shifts
R3561
Starting pay: \$21.00/hour

Apply at
<https://scottsmiraclegro.com/careers/>

COME GRO WITH US!

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

Southeast Iowa Regional Planning for assistance with floodplain administration. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Larkin, to approve a contract with Hometown Plumbing and Heating for replacement of two boilers at the Courthouse in Keokuk. Motion carried.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Harlow, to

HELP WANTED

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@holyltrinity-schools.org for application information.



approve a County Privacy and Confidentiality Policy. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Larkin to approve a County Segregation of Duties Policy. Motion carried.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Harlow, to approve Cigarette Permits for Dollar General, Montrose, Garner One Stop, Montrose, Wever Junction, Wever and Jet Stop, Denmark, for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Folluo, to approve a soft opening for the County Buildings on June 15th. Motion carried. Moved by Pflug, seconded by Harlow, to approve moving forward with pursuing a County run ambulance service. Motion carried.

The Board canvassed the June 2, 2020 Primary Election. The results are as follows:

Democratic

For U.S. Senator

Michael Franken.....536
Kimberly Graham.....365
Theresa Greenfield..1439
Eddie J. Mauro373
Cal Woods54
Scattering 11

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.lee-county.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



For U.S. Representative District 2

Rita Hart2669
Scattering7

State Senator, District 42

Rich Taylor.....2723
Scattering 13

State Representative District 83

Jeff Kurtz2272
Scattering4

State Representative District 84

Jeff Fager433
Scattering2

Board of Supervisors District 1

Ron Fedler.....424
Tony Keefe..... 194
Scattering2

Board of Supervisors District 4

Gary Folluo.....508
Scattering 11

Board of Supervisors District 5

Matt Pflug589
Scattering4

County Auditor

Denise Fraise2754
Scattering9

County Sheriff

Stacy Weber2686
Scattering32

Republican

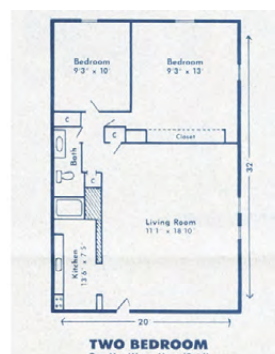
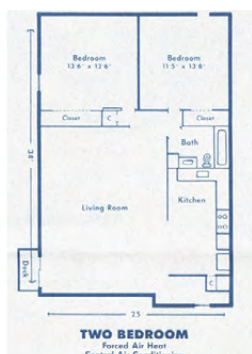
APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent



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.

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



For U.S. Senator

Joni Ernst.....1798
Scattering10

For U.S. Representative District 2

Tim Borchardt65
Steven Everly76
Mariannette Miller-Meeks754
Rick Phillips72
Bobby Schilling.....824
Scattering3

State Senator, District 42

Nancy Amos294
Jeff Reichman.....1542
Scattering2

State Representative District 83

Martin Graber1347
Scattering8

State Representative District 84

Joe Mitchell.....320
Scattering0

Board of Supervisors District 1

Ron Fedler.....20
Tony Keefe.....6
Scattering19

Board of Supervisors District 4

Garry W. Seyb Jr.281
Scattering7

Board of Supervisors District 5

Scattering21

County Auditor

Denise Fraise83
Scattering37

County Sheriff

Stacy Weber129
Scattering46

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Folluo, to accept the canvass as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Folluo, to approve a promotion for Jason Mott, from part-time Building and Grounds Maintenance Worker \$16.95/hr. to full-time Building and Grounds Maintenance Technician \$19.29/hr., effective 7-1-20. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the month of May 2020 and the Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected for the month of May 2020.

Committee Reports: Folluo reported on a Keokuk Economic Development Board meeting. Larkin reported on a Workforce Development meeting and a Restore Lee County meeting.

At 11:00 a.m. a motion was made by Folluo, seconded by Larkin, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be an electronic meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Ron Fedler, Chairman
ATTEST:
/s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County Board of Supervisors Meeting
Tue, June 16, 2020
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
(CDT)

Lee County Board of Supervisors
Tue, Jun 16, 2020 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CDT)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/436626645>

You can also dial in using your phone. (For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

United States: +1 (872) 240-3212
- One-touch:
tel:+18722403212,,436626645#
Access Code: 436-626-645

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be

ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/436626645>

If you would like to pose a question to the Board, please use the Chat feature and wait for the Chairman to address you. If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press *6, this will mute your phone.

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Public Input
Consider Approval of Tuesday, June 9, 2020 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of Cooperative Agreement with IDOT and City of Fort Madison to Construct Slip Ramp at the Intersection of 260th St & Hwy 61

Consider Approval of First Reading of Floodplain Management Ordinance

Discussion of Bid for Digital Radios

Consider Approval of Contract with Lee County EMS

Consider Approval to Reappoint George Morgan and Linda Sammeli to the Veteran Affairs Board

Consider Approval of Resolution Removing Mobile Homes from Tax System

Consider Approval of Fireworks Display Permit for Brotherton Family

Personnel Actions:
A. Transfers-Attorney's Office (2)

B. Step Increase-Health Department

C. Temporary New Hire-Conservation Reports:

A. Sheriff's Monthly Report
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator
319-372-3705

County Website:
www.leecounty.org

Classifieds

Call Lee at 319.371.4125 today to advertise!

Coverage that works when they can't

Let's face it — accidents can happen in any workplace. Farm Bureau Workers' Compensation insurance can protect you, as the owner, from the high cost of unexpected injuries to your employees. Call me to schedule a SuperCheck® to make sure your most valuable resource — your employees — are protected.



Larry Holtkamp
1301 37th St
Fort Madison
(319) 372-9145
LARRYHOLTkamp.COM



Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company* & Western Agricultural Insurance Company**West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services WC010 (7-16)

KEMPKER'S

TrueValue RENTAL

Treating our customers like family since 1970

Fort Madison • Burlington • Mount Pleasant

www.kempkerstruevalue.com

WEDDING & EVENT CENTER

Small GRAND Things
Grand Things Happen Here

Danielle Neaves & Ann Newton Neaves

319.837.8132

1903 West Point Rd | West Point, IA 52656
Facebook/Instagram/Pinterest | smallgrandthings.com

How can chiropractic therapy help you?

BENEFITS OF CHIROPRACTIC

- Improved joint mobility, function, and health
- Decreased degeneration of joints and connective tissues
- Improved circulation
- Increased energy, vitality, and improved sleep
- and many, many more

DR. ROBERT BROCKMAN
Brockman Chiropractic

2311 Avenue L, Suite 3, Fort Madison • 319-372-3800
<http://brockmanchiropracticdrbob.com/>

Extremity Adjustment Cranial Adjustment
Myofascial Relaxation Muscle Facilitation

Here to help you retire.

Thomas Klann CLU RICP FSCP LTCP LUTCF, Agent
2623 Avenue L, Fort Madison, IA 52627
Business: 319-372-5982
www.fortmadisoninsurance.com

I'm not just here for insurance. I can also help you look at your retirement goals and build a plan for tomorrow. Let's start today.

Here to help life go right.®

State Farm
Bloomington, IL
1708167.1

Dirty Dog Detailing & Boarding

Grooming by appointment
Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

Over 51 Years Combined Professional Animal Experience

319-371-9044

2090 250th St, Donnellson, IA 52625
Owners Barb Ball & Natalie Dauma
Family owned & operated

Darwin Bunger
Attorney At Law

Saunders/ Bunger
An Association of Sole Practitioners

610 Eighth St., Suite A, Fort Madison, IA 52627
Ph: 319-372-2100/ Fax: 319-372-2200

320 N. 3rd Floor 6, PO Box 223, Burlington, IA 52601
Ph: 319-671-7187
DB.Esquire@outlook.com

Visit: www.darwinbungerlaw.com for more info.

Advertise in a brand new way.

Reach thousands of potential customers each day & grow your business. Call today!

Lee (319)371.4125 • Chuck (319)371.1670

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY
Est. 1877

Logo Design
Posters Art Supplies
Printing
Office Furniture
Trifold Brochures

Photo Correction
Flyers
Office Supplies
Vinyl Banners
Ink & Toner

Business Cards
Business Forms

621 Avenue G, Fort Madison, IA
319.372.2721
doddprinting.com

ENJOY FREE DELIVERY TO FORT MADISON, KEOKUK, BURLINGTON & THE SURROUNDING AREAS!

Bridge Cafe & Supper Club

101 Olive Street
Farmington, IA 52626

Rick Saunders
Owner

(319) 878-4000

General Insects
Termites Mice
Bed Bugs

Cullen

PEST CONTROL

(319) 372-1060

Toll Free 1-888-818-7378
Email: cullenpest@hotmail.com
www.cullenpest.com

Residential Commercial "Cause who needs bugs?"

ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICE BUSINESS

Monthly
Only \$50⁰⁰
2x2 Business Card Size Ad
with Social Media

OR

150 classified line ad with your logo only \$24⁹⁹
Place your ad online 24/7 www.pencitycurrent.com
Email your ad to classifieds@pencitycurrent.com

Call Lee today
319.371.4125

Help GRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!

Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open
Monday through Friday
8am - 4pm

800-216-2370
Call for an appointment

Fl. Madison Main Office: 2092 203rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 52627 519-372-6140
Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbine Lane Keokuk, IA 52621 519-524-6175
Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

Stewart Automotive

- Transmission Repair
- Alignments
- Coolant/Transmission Flush
- Major/Minor Engine Repair
- Tune-Up

3136 Avenue M
Ft. Madison, IA
Junior Stewart, Owner
(319) 371-4509

community

HEATING & COOLING

SALES * SERVICE * INSTALLATION

ICE MACHINE LEASING

319-372-1095

Patrick Profeta
General Manager

Keokuk Auto Credit

We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments

www.keokukautocredit.com

1728 Main Keokuk, IA 52632 Office: 319-524-2334
Fax: 319-524-2373

Opinion/From the Front

Iowa newspaper folds under weight of pandemic

It's worth a road trip to see. Located in Traer, Iowa, north of Tama, the Winding Stairs is an Iowa Historic Site. Thousands of feet have worn the iron steps smooth. Not just any ordinary winding stairs, it boasts a catwalk at the summit leading to the second floor of what used to be the newspaper office for the Traer Star Clipper.

One of my readers sent me a story from the newspaper. It was written by Arlene Halupnik Fleming in May, 2017. Loving circular iron stairs and old fashioned news reporting, I couldn't resist sharing some of Arlene Fleming's journalism.

"The iron steps wind round and round up to a catwalk. Walk across this bridge-like structure and you enter the building's upper story. It was here that the local newspaper, the Traer Star Clipper, was printed for 59 years, before moving to a ground level location.

"It was printed on Thursday and delivered

into rural mailboxes on Friday. My parents usually couldn't wait until Friday for the latest issue. So we quickly finished the Thursday evening farm chores, ate supper and traveled the three miles into Traer. By the time we arrived many locals were already in place lined across the overhead catwalk and down the winding steps. And the line continued onto the sidewalk, where I took up my space along with the others who couldn't wait until Friday's mail.

"Socializing took place along the waiting line. Talking about families, crops, gardens, the price of corn and of course, the weather." (So people got their news two ways.)

"And then the line begins to move and I climb the steps. As I traveled across the catwalk I had the feeling of being suspended in air. I took a peek at the people lined and still waiting below and then I entered through the door. The large black

printing presses were chugging and clanking. I could feel the floor vibrating and smell the printer's ink.

"Long time employee, Lydia Otterman, was seated nearby at a small table. As I walked past she marked our family name off of a long list and handed me, still warm from the press, our copy of the newspaper."

What news was so important that it couldn't wait until the next day's mail?

"Wedding news shared names of everyone involved including the ladies in the kitchen. Credit was given to the person who baked and decorated the wedding cake. Also, not forgotten were the ladies who had sewn the lacy little aprons worn by the bride's friends as they served the reception guests. News of family trips to the nearby grandparents home or vacations across the state line were

See **SWARM**, page 4

Council to look at 3-year lease with RiverFest

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

waiving due process with the civil service commission.

In exchange, Niggemeyer will retire at his current standing within the department with all the benefits afforded a police officer captain in Fort Madison under city policy.

The agreement also references an investigation into a high-speed chase on Easter, where Niggemeyer pursued a man through Lee County near Montrose and attempted to stop the eluding suspect with a vehicle maneuver.

The agreement provides for a written reprimand regarding the chase, and states "Niggemeyer shall not receive any demotion, termination or loss of pay."

The deal also required Niggemeyer to submit disability paperwork to the to Municipal Fire and Police Retirement Board by May 31 for service-related disabilities.

Calls to Skewes for comment on the agreement went unreturned Friday.

In an unrelated issue, the council will also entertain a 3-year lease agreement with RiverFest founder Charles Craft.

The new lease agreement requires a \$600 annual fee for the four-day festival. Craft would also have to submit a \$500 utility deposit, and pay \$50 for each electric meter connection. Craft would also pay for additional picnic tables after the first 20 provided by the city.

The agreement also requires Craft to have sufficient toilet facilities for the number of people in attendance, and he must provide public access from the entrance at 6th Street south to the river, east to the Marina and then back west along the road next to the BSNF tracks.

The deal gives Craft exclusive use of Riverview Park during the four days of the event..

The council is also scheduled to vote on:

- seal coat and asphalt bids for the 2020 roads programs.
- a resolution to apply for an Iowa DOT State Recreational Trails program grant for constructing of the Connecting Fort Madison! Phase 4 48th Street Trail Connection.
- the mayor's signature on professional services agreements with Calhoun Burns & Associates for bridge replacements on 27th Street over Dry Creek and Avenue F over French Creek in the 1600 block.



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

— Abraham Lincoln

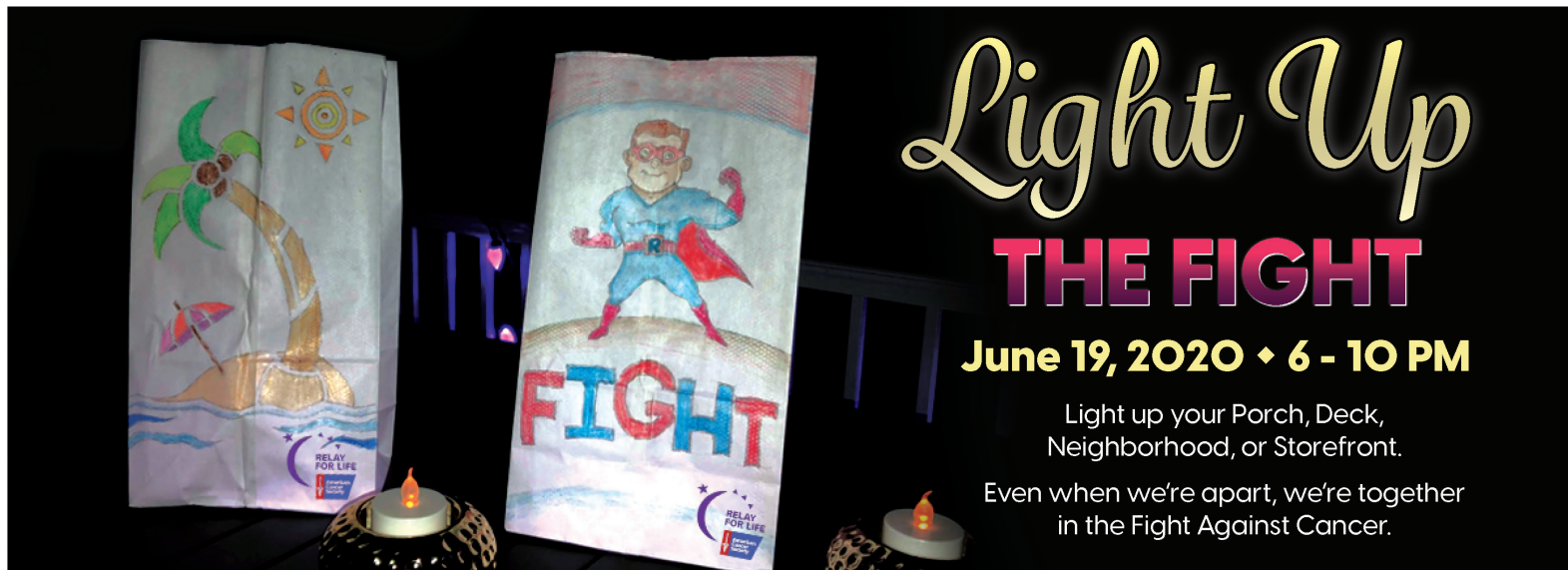
We wish you and your family good health, peace, & happiness always.

Pilot Grove
Savings Bank

319-469-3951

www.pilotgrovesavingsbank.com

Member FDIC  Equal Housing Lender



Light Up

THE FIGHT

June 19, 2020 ♦ 6 - 10 PM

Light up your Porch, Deck,
Neighborhood, or Storefront.

Even when we're apart, we're together
in the Fight Against Cancer.

Cancer didn't stop because of COVID-19 and neither have we!

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.

