



# Pen City Current

Thursday, March 2, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 62

## Park District looking for labor answers

*City may look to Mt. Pleasant facility to replace offenders*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With the recent closure of the John Bennett Unit, as part of statewide budget cuts, the city park board finds itself in a quan-

dry on how to maintain city parks without labor previously provided by offenders.

City Management Analyst John Luna told the Park, Recreation and Docks Board at their regular meeting Wednesday night the city is hard



LUNA

pressed right now to find funds for the labor to keep city parks and cemeteries maintained.

"As you've all heard by now they've closed the John Bennett Unit here in FM so we won't have offenders to help mow,"

Luna said. "I'm in the process of making contact with private mowing companies to see if they can help us out. I should have a report back for you at the next meeting. We're in the process of contacting Mount Pleasant (Correctional Facility), recycling center is using them, to see if we can use some of their offenders and they're in the process of drafting

a 28E agreement. There are a lot of unknowns yet."

Luna said the city's park department has only two full-time and a part-time employee who won't be able to keep up with the work.

"Twenty plus inmates and five supervisors were taken from our staff, so you can see we're gonna be hurting," Luna said. "Our main focus will be

the cemeteries, especially with Memorial Day fast approaching. Last year we had an inmate escape and they were on lockdown for two weeks and we got behind and thank goodness David Hoenig gave us some of his crew at no charge and helped get our cemeteries caught up."

Board member Mary

See **PARKS**, page 2



### 1 bridge done; 1 to go

Workers from Huffman's Welding & Machine repaired the long bridge (above) out at Rodeo Park several weeks ago replacing loose planks and shoring up the foundation, but City Management Analyst John Luna said workers informed him that the smaller bridge (at left) on the north side of the park is also in need of repair. Luna said those repairs are set to begin in the coming weeks.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## City Library having bookmark contest

Prizes to be awarded in four age groups starting at 5 years old

PCC Staff

FORT MADISON - Calling all artists! The Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library are having a bookmark design contest. Bookmark submissions will be accepted through April 1 at the Fort Madison Public Library. Contest forms will be distributed to schools, on the library website and Facebook page, at the Fort Madison Public Library and other places in the community.

Submitted bookmarks will be on display at the Fort Madison Public Library from April 3-12 for anonymous public judging. Prizes will be awarded to the winning bookmark in four different age categories from five years old on up. The winning bookmark in each age group will be printed and distributed at the Library Friends and Family Fun Day on April 29.

The Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is a nonprofit organization committed to providing services for and funds to the Fort Madison Public Library. They primarily raise funds through book sales, held three times per year in April, July/August, and November. The money they raise supports the Library's overall programming in a wide variety of ways, including performers and guest speakers, computers and computer software, microfilm machines, literacy stations, library materials, board games, and Legos to name a few. These important assets allow the Library to offer a vast array of resources, services, and events.

For more information on the Friends of the Library bookmark contest, visit the Fort Madison Public Library at 1920 Avenue E, Fort Madison, call (319) 372-5721 or e-mail Sarah Clendineng, [SarahClen@FortMadison.lib.ia.us](mailto:SarahClen@FortMadison.lib.ia.us).

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**From the Front/Obituaries**

# Options for park labor include community involvement

**PARKS** - Continued from Page 1

Ann Gaudette asked Luna what budget there was for that work.

“There is no budget other than what we had for the offenders and supervisors and when you’re talking .50 cents per inmate (per hour) and \$9 per supervisor, that doesn’t go too far,” Luna said.

“We’re doing the best we can to come up with ideas. Some suggestions were to throw it out to the community to see if we can get organizations to step forward, take on a particular park. If people want to mow we can

provide the equipment and then at the end of the season we can provide documentation that they can show the time donation and maybe use that on their taxes.

“Hopefully our best bet will be to get offenders from Mount Pleasant to at least handle the cemeteries. That will be our main focus.”

Councilman Brian Wright, who serves as the Fort Madison City Council liaison to the board, asked if the Lee County Jail offenders could be used for the labor, but Luna said he didn’t think

“*Hopefully, our best bet will be to get offenders from Mt. Pleasant to at least handle the cemeteries.*”

-John Luna, FM management analyst

that was an option.

“People are going to realize how much the

offenders did for this community,” Luna said.

When the unit was closed, Mayor Brad Randolph said the city typically budgets \$90,000 for guards and offenders annually in the budget, but he predicted at that time the city could be looking at as much as \$300,000 in additional wages and benefits if full time employees were to be brought on.

He said it would take up to eight full-time positions to fill the gaps left by the elimination of the offender labor from the Bennett unit.

**OBITUARIES**

## SHERI KATHLEEN TALBOTT

Sheri Kathleen Talbott, 59 years, of Fort Madison passed away Tuesday February 28, 2017 at the Great River Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. She was born November 19, 1957 in Burlington, Iowa, a daughter of Leonard James and Donna Jean (Kissinger) Talbott.

She worked for 25 years at the Burlington Medical Center/Great River Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa. She was one of Jehovah’s Witnesses and a member of the Riverbend Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses. She wanted to tell people about our God, Jehovah, and his will for the earth and mankind. She enjoyed fishing, camping, and music.

She is survived by two brothers, Jimmie Talbott and Lyle Talbott, both of Burlington, Iowa; two sisters, Suzanne Schneekloth and Sally Talbott, both of Burlington; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother Michael Talbott, three aunts, and four uncles.

Per her wishes her body has been cremated. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday, March 4, 2017 at the Riverbend Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 929 Main Street, Montrose, Iowa. Online condolences to the Talbott Family may be made at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com). Barr Memorial Chapel and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

## CLOTILDA “TILLIE” STEFFENSMEIER

Clotilda “Tillie” Steffensmeier, 89 years, of Houghton, Iowa died Wednesday, March 01, 2017 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home, West Point, Iowa.

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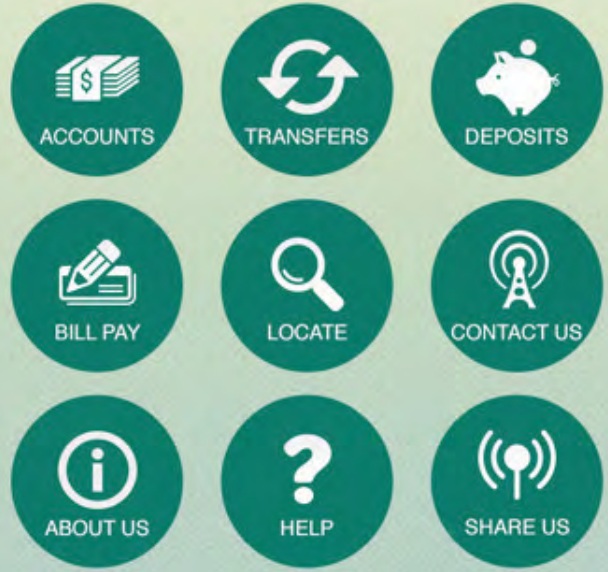


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## Local News

# County Live Healthy group wants your events

PCC Staff  
LEE COUNTY - The weather is warming up which means time to dust off the tennis shoes to hit the pavement in a local 5k fun run and walk. Live Healthy Lee County strives to promote as many of the local 5Ks as possible on their website ([www.livehealthyleecounty.org](http://www.livehealthyleecounty.org)) and on their Facebook page.

"Our partners feel that since many of these organizations use these fun runs and walks as a fundraiser we want to help get as many people there as possible," states Emily Biddenstadt, LHLC Facilitator. "It's a great



way to help out a good cause and get your exercise in." There is no cost to have race information posted with LHLC. Just email information and registration to [ebiddenstadt@leecountyhd.org](mailto:ebiddenstadt@leecountyhd.org). For more information on LHLC visit [www.livehealthyleecounty.org](http://www.livehealthyleecounty.org) or call (319)372-5225.

## City looking for lifeguards

The Fort Madison Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for Life Guards and Instructors for the 2017 Summer Pool Season.

Applications are being accepted at the Iowa Workforce Development Center, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

The Iowa Workforce Development Center will have a complete listing of the responsibilities of each particular job.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, May 5, 2017.

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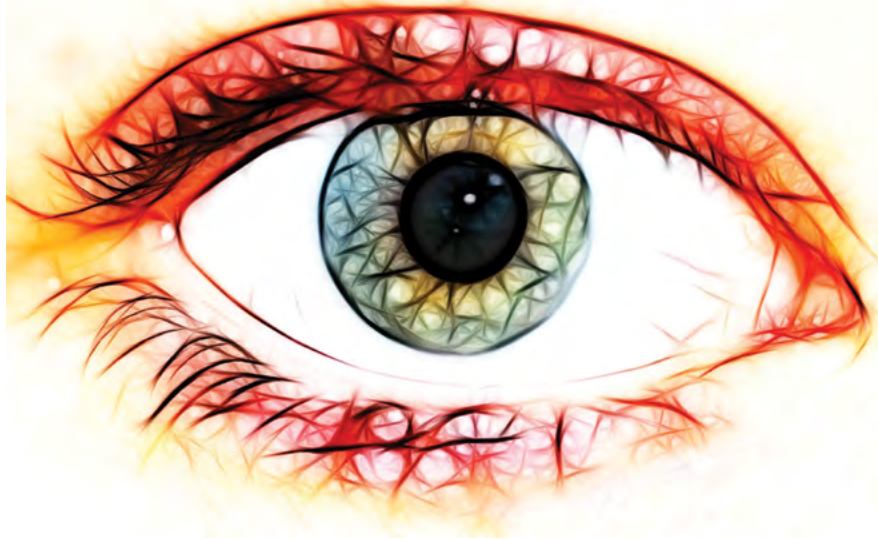
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The Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has 2 part-time positions available for our Child Care Programs. We are also seeking child care substitutes to fill in as needed. The following qualifications are required:

- Able to pass background check
- At least 16 years of age
- Excellent communication skills with children and adults
- Promote the social and emotional well being of children using patience and care
- Work collaboratively as a team with program staff
- Able to complete training as required by DHS.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at 319-372-6428 or stop by the ECC at 2213 Ave. J to complete an application



**Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has preschool/pre-kindergarten openings**

The Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has openings available for preschool/pre-kindergarten substitute teachers. The following qualifications are required:

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- Able to pass background check
- Ability to have a flexible schedule, on call
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**2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage**  
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Country living in the city! Large fenced lot with garden including blackberry bushes, grapes, rhubarb, and asparagus, along with apple and peach trees. Large shop attached to the garage and a storage shed. Sit on the front deck and enjoy the country scenery! In Farmington.  
**Listing #20163103 • \$39,999**



**3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage**  
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres  
Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.  
**Listing #20163951 • \$139,000**



**5BR • 2.50BA • 2 car garage**  
2,834 sq. ft.  
14,868 sq. ft. lot  
Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!  
**Listing #20164117 • \$127,500**



**2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage**  
1,224 sq. ft.  
7,250 sq. ft. lot  
A house with character! Wrap-around porch, original hardwood in formal dining room/living room combo, main floor laundry, nice size eat-in kitchen including appliances, dining room has original fireplace, basement and 1 car garage.  
**Listing #20162543 • \$53,000**



**5BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage**  
1,904 sq. ft. • 1,903 sq. ft. lot  
Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Ft. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.  
**Listing #20162346**  
**\$86,950**



**2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage**  
930 sq. ft. • 7,280 sq. ft. lot  
This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!  
**Listing #20164279 • \$38,500**



**3BR • 1.50BA**  
1,460 sq. ft.  
3,625 sq. ft. lot  
Reasonably priced home has had new doors installed, new bathroom fixtures, and freshly painted. With its vinyl siding and fenced rear yard, its ready for your family!!  
**Listing #20162025 • \$25,500**



**4BR • 3BA • 2 car garage**  
1,349 sq. ft.  
9,160 sq. ft. lot  
From the inviting entrance to the serene back yard, you will enjoy it ALL and everything in between!!!! This very well maintained 4 bedroom, 3 bath home has everything your family will need to call this Home. There is a beautiful screened porch and a deck off the back of the house, all overlooking a meticulously landscaped large yard. Call today on this amazing home situated on a quiet, safe cul de sac!!!  
**Listing #20163339 • \$164,900**



**2BR • 1.25BA**  
1,119 sq. ft. • 0.17 acres  
Brick rancher on Ave E close to Old Settlers Park, has full basement mostly finished, picket fence, newer windows, roof, etc.  
**Listing #20162502 • \$88,900**



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**5BR • 3BA  
3,119 sq. ft.  
14,500 sq. ft. lot**

From the period wrought iron fencing to the amazing stained oak staircase...from the impressive arches to the large wrap porch, this beautiful turn of the century (20th) home offers all the beauty and elegance of that era. This is a beautifully appointed home with all the modern conveniences. There is an extra large lot for your family to enjoy!!

**Listing #20162159 • \$164,000**



**PENDING**

**2BR • 1.50BA • 2 car garage  
1,366 sq. ft. • 3,300 sq. ft. lot**  
Immaculate, well-kept ranch has family room with fireplace on the main floor, finished Rec Room, 2nd laundry room, 1/2 bath, and storage room with shelving all in the basement. All windows are vinyl replacement.

**Listing #20162507 • \$109,900**



**2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage  
868 sq. ft. • 7,000 sq. ft. lot**  
PRICE REDUCED! Rare opportunity to own a renovated home at a great price!! Large, shaded yard and a 2 car garage. Located in a nice neighborhood on a corner lot. Seller is motivated and offering a 1 year AHS Home Warranty!

**Listing #20163035 • \$52,000**



**3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage  
928 sq. ft. • 1,087 sq. ft. lot**  
Very nice maintenancefree home by Lincoln School with a 75 X 145 fenced yard, nice patio, fire pit and child's play set! Some very nice built-ins, some original hardwood flooring, full basement including laundry area. Also find extra parking, garage and carport area on the paved alley.

**Listing #20164148 • \$72,500**



**SOLD**

**2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage  
1,330 sq. ft.  
7,250 sq. ft. lot**

REDUCED BY \$13,100! Affordable with lots of potential!!! Nice size kitchen with breakfast bar plus dining area, spacious living room w/fireplace. Sits on a corner lot.

**Listing #20160368 • \$59,900**



**REDUCED**

**2BR • 1BA  
1,144 sq. ft.  
3,625 sq. ft. lot**

Move-in ready with many updates including kitchen WITH appliances, fresh paint, newer electrical (100 AMP breaker), new water lines at street and more! The home is clean as a whistle and ready to move in!

**Listing #20161431 • \$42,500**



**REDUCED**

**3BR • 3BA  
2,754 sq. ft.  
3,550 sq. ft. lot**

Gorgeous, turn-key home with large patio minimum maintenance. UPDATES GALORE!!! Practically perfect in every way, this 1841 home includes the latest improvements while keeping its Victorian charm.

**Listing #23006122 • \$99,999**



**3BR • 3.50BA • 3 car garage  
3,723 sq. ft.**

Splendor in the woods...with privacy...AND a view...AND an AMAZING home. Call today on this brick beauty perched atop a hill overlooking Ft. Madison with a view of the Mississippi River and almost 6 acres of ground. Offered are 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, a formal living & dining room, a large great room/kitchen/breakfast room combo and a study/den with beautiful cherry cabinetry & bookshelves lining the walls. All of this with STUNNING hardwood floors. This beautiful home offering top-of-the-line features throughout.

**Listing #20160805 • \$460,000**



**2BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage  
679 sq. ft. • 6,500 sq. ft. lot**  
Nice, small home. Seller has purchased and remodeled. Excellent condition.

**Listing #20164161 • \$62,500**



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**3BR • 3BA • 3 car garage  
1,635 sq. ft. • 4.3 acres**

Amazing cedar log sided home in a quiet and private setting, a well-appointed guest house, and 26x32 metal building. The main home offers beautiful hardwood flooring with a awesome open floor plan. Enjoy summer evenings on the nice walk-out patio area. This is a dream home!!!

**Listing #20161863 • \$299,000**



**3BR • 2.50 BA  
2 car garage • 2,400 sq. ft.  
10,150 sq. ft. lot**

Lovely tri-level home on a quiet cul de sac offering numerous upgrades. There are 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths, a large living room, dining room and open kitchen with newer stainless steel appliances and a breakfast bar. Newer windows, HVAC, new floor coverings on main and lower level and freshly painted throughout. The large backyard is completely fenced and has a 24 x 16 patterned concrete patio. Don't miss out on this wonderful family home.

**Listing #20163404 • \$167,500**



**3BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage  
888 sq. ft. • 9,450 sq. ft. lot**  
RARE RANCH with large fenced back yard and attached garage! Updated windows and kitchen, newer HVAC and water heater. Family Room in the basement. Just waiting for your own personal touch!

**Listing #20163423 • \$74,900**



**4 BR • 1.75 BA  
3 car garage • 2,052 sq. ft.  
8,700 sq. ft. lot**

Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24' X 36' insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.

**Listing #20163776 • \$129,500**



**Multi-family Duplex  
2,672 sq. ft.  
7,250 sq. ft. lot**

Income property. Potential for \$875/month income or more. Side-by-side duplex with 2 - 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. West side has a long term renter and east side is vacant.

**Listing #20162154 • \$49,500**



**3 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage  
1,248 sq. ft. • 0.37 acres**

Well-kept ranch on a beautiful, large corner lot in West Point, IA. New wooden privacy fence surrounding the entire back yard. There is also an attached garage and storage shed. A large wooden deck leads to the front door where you can sit and enjoy those beautiful Iowa summer sunsets! PLUS a covered deck in the back for those rainy days. This house is a rare find.

**Listing #20164234 • \$119,900**



**2 car garage • 2,527 sq. ft.**  
UNIQUELY beautiful 9.38 river bluff acreage. This home boasts many updates including complete master suite, heat and A/C, Septic system, deck, roof & gutters, flooring, and the list goes on. This private property includes fenced in barn area for animal lovers, mature fruit trees plus trees have been dropped for a beautiful panoramic river view that will last for years! Owner also plans to leave a John Deere mower and new snow blower!!

**Listing #20162733 • \$269,000**



**4BR • 2.50BA • 1 car garage  
2,056 sq. ft.  
39,640 sq. ft. lot**

Beautiful 2 story home located just off Highway 61 north of Fort Madison. Formal living and dining room, nice kitchen with breakfast room all open to a main floor family room, relaxing, private screened porch that opens onto the large deck that spans the back of the home. Basement boasts recently finished family room and tons of storage.

**Listing #20164530 • \$175,000**



**Land  
50.82 acres  
2,213,719 sq. ft.**

Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.

**Listing #20162779 • \$559,020**



**Land  
14.65 acres • 638,514 sq. ft.**  
Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30' X 60' building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.

**Listing #20162574 • \$249,000**



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