



# Pen City Current

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018 | 7 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 217

## Scotts staff cleans up community garden

*About 50 show up for a day of pulling weeds and resetting garden for the spring*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It may not have been the “Miracle” the company’s brand had in mind, but the transformation Monday of the Fort Madison Community Garden in just three hours was pretty miraculous.

Just over 50 full-time staffers from the Scott’s Miracle Gro facility in Fort Madison descended on the 200’x75’ plot behind the Hy-Vee, property that’s been designated as the Fort Madison Food Pantry Garden for the past five years.

Scotts Miracle-Gro has been the primary sponsor of the garden plot since its inception. Dale Heidbreder, the technical manager for the Fort Madison Scotts facility, organized the fall clean up of the garden after all the produce had been removed.

The company originally provided most of the materials and tools needed to build and sustain the garden, and then fenced it in with a heavy, black chain link fence. They also paid to have two hydrants put in the property and ran irrigation hoses throughout the planting beds. The produce from the garden is tended to and harvested by volunteers with the United Way RSVP program and donated to the local food pantry.

“What I liked about it, and when Scotts decided to get involved, aside from providing for the food pantry, is we used it to teach kids about gardening,” Heidbreder said.

“We used to get a lot of kids in there and we’d let them plant the seeds and different things and it really worked out well for the little ones.”

Heidbreder said he’d like to see more of that kind of



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Employees from Scotts Miracle-Gro get to work cleaning up the Fort Madison Food Pantry’s Community Garden Monday morning behind Hy-Vee in the 2600 block of Avenue L. Employees get to take advantage of a Scotts program that allows employees 16 hours of paid time a year to give back to their communities.

education going on with the students in the area.

“We’re always looking for future growers, of course, being Scotts,” he said.

The Fort Madison High School built the storage shed on site and the United Way of the Great River Region’s RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) received a grant to put in the cement pad the building sits on.

Heidbreder said the staff was able to come out and work as part of Scotts Give Back to Grow program, where all full-time employees can work up to 16 hours

paid, in service to the communities they live in.

“We pay people 16 hours for the chance to go out and give back to the community and do this kind of work,” he said. “All of our full-time associates can do that. It has to be a non-profit and if it’s around the food pantry, or educating on gardening, as we obviously support that.”

“We get our regular pay while we’re out here volunteering,” said Karen McGraw of Argyle, a 21-year employee.

See **SCOTTS**, page 5

## Knight holds RSVP health food class

FORT MADISON - The RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) of the United Way of the Great River Region, offers healthy fruits and vegetables nutrition classes that are free of charge at the Resource Center in Fort Madison, Iowa.

The classes are coordinated by the RSVP Program Director and the food is made by volunteers. This month, the RSVP Volunteer, Patty Knight, made a recipe of “Baked Squash”, which was very tasty and food pantry clients liked the dish. Free classes are offered about four times per year at the Resource Center and all of the community is welcome to attend.

The next class will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. The community is encouraged to sign up through the food pantry located next door to the Resource Center.



Patty Knight of the United Way of the Great River Valley’s RSVP program shows her preparations for the Baked Squash class she put on for the RSVP members.

### Advertiser Index

Classifieds .....Ps.6-7	Professional Services..... P.7
Fort Madison Neighborhood Watch Groups ..... P.5	Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness ..... P.3
Great River Regional Waste Authority ..... P.4	RSVP of Lee County ..... P.5
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center ..... P.2	The Kensington ..... P.5
Hope Associates Real Estate ..... P.7	Tony Fullenkamp Edward Jones..... P.5
Lee County Health Department..... P.7	<a href="http://UnitedWay.org">UnitedWay.org</a> ..... P.7

### News Index

Area News ..... P.5
Current-Lee ..... P.7
For the Record..... P.3
From the front..... P.5
Local News ..... P.7
Lottery Numbers ..... P.3
Obituaries ..... P.4
—Stella T. Abolt
—James “Jim” Mercer
Weather ..... P.5

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## For the Record/Lottery Numbers

### For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
 09/21/18 - 8:24 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of Avenue F.  
 09/21/18 - 11:19 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1000 block of Avenue A.  
 09/21/18 - 12:39 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of Avenue H.  
 09/21/18 - 1:06 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of Avenue F.  
 09/21/18 - 2:33 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the Fort Madison area.  
 09/21/18 - 3:44 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in 2300 block of Avenue I.  
 09/21/18 - 4:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3900 block of Bluff Road.  
 09/22/18 - 2:33 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the

1100 block of Avenue I.  
 09/22/18 - 3:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Molly Rose Haynes, 26, of Burlington in the 800 block of Avenue G, on three warrants and two counts of felony forgery. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 09/22/18 - 3:39 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of stolen bicycle in the 1900 block of Avenue O.  
 09/22/18 - 4:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue J.  
 09/22/18 - 11:27 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Brett Allen Michael Montgomery, 25, of Fort Madison in the 700 block of 15th Street on a warrant for failure to appear and driving under suspension.  
 09/23/18 - 1:32 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Samantha Suzanne Parish, 29, of Burlington, in the 5100 of Avenue O, on a charge of driving while barred. She was released on a promise to appear.  
 09/23/18 - 2:04 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue I.  
 09/23/18 - 2:55 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Autumn Mae Shacklett, 37, of Danville, in the 1400 block of Avenue I, on a charge of OWI 1st-offense, no insurance, and failure to maintain control.  
 09/23/18 - 10:27 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of Avenue E.  
 09/23/18 - 10:43 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 800 of the 30th Street.  
 09/23/18 - 11:38 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 6100 block of Reve Court.  
 09/23/18 - 2:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 5000 block of Avenue O.  
 09/23/18 - 4:10 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Randy Jo Morgan, 39, of Fort Madison at the intersection of 27th Street and Avenue I, on a charge of

driving while barred. He was released with a court date.  
 09/23/18 - 3:23 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of burglary in the 500 block of Avenue H.  
 09/21/18 - 4:42 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 2900 block of Avenue H.

**Lee County Sheriff's Report**  
 09/21/18 - no time listed - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rion William Donlan, 36, of Burlington, was arrested at the Des

Moines County Line on a warrant for violation of probation.. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 09/21/18 - 3:34 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Maxwell John Charles Savage, 27 of Keokuk in the 100 block of Buchanan Street in Carthage, Ill., on two warrants of violation of probation and a warrant for contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 09/22/18 - no time listed - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dale A. Knajdek, 42, of Galesburg,

Ill., no location listed, on warrants for 3rd degree burglary, theft in the 2nd and 4th degree and burglary in the 3rd degree.  
 09/23/18 - 6:45 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Lacey Dawn Mayes, 22, of Ottumwa, at mile marker 12 on Hwy. 218 in Montrose, on charges of possession of controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, providing false ID of law, and theft in the 5th degree.  
*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



### IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

#### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



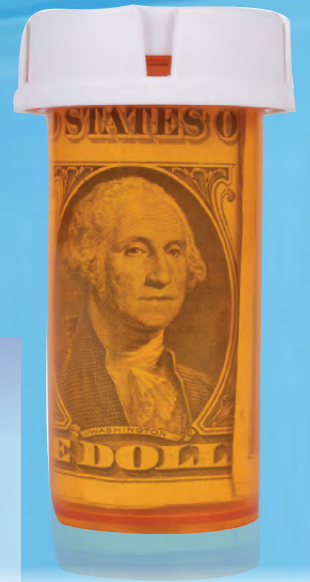
**9/23 MID-DAY**  
7 0 7  
**9/23 EVENING**  
2 4 6



**9/23 MID-DAY**  
1 5 7 0  
**9/23 EVENING**  
4 4 0 9

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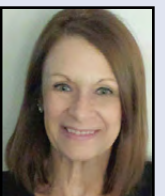
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Founded in 2016



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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### JAMES EDWARD JIM MERCER

James Edward "Jim" Mercer, 78 of Montrose, IA passed away Saturday, September 22, 2018 in West Burlington, IA.

He was born July 22, 1939 in Sheffield, IL the son of James Richard and Ethel Lucille Martin Mercer. After his parents' divorce, his mother married Frank L. "Dutch" Copple and he raised Jim like his own. On June 1, 1968, Jim was united in marriage to Janice Hampton in Macomb, IL. She survives.



Other survivors include one son, William "Billy" Mercer of Montrose, IA, two daughters, Tammie Mercer-Cruz of Montrose, IA and Veronica Mason (Chris) of Keokuk, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

MERCER

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jim was a veteran of the United States Air Force and proudly served his country. Jim had been employed as a truck driver for forty-five years. He also had been a correctional officer at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Ft. Madison, IA, worked at Ortho in Ft. Madison, had been an EMT for Lee County Ambulance and served as a volunteer fireman at the Montrose Fire Department.

Graveside services with military rites will be held 2 p.m., Friday at the Keokuk National Cemetery.

The Vigen Memorial Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

### FMMS band hosting can drive Saturday

The Ft. Madison Middle School Bands will host their annual Pop Can Drive on Saturday, September 29th from 9:00am - 2:00pm on the North side of Ft. Madison Middle School. All redeemable cans (beer and soda) and all size of plastic will be collected. Please, no glass. Proceeds from the Pop Can Drive will be used to purchase new music, repair school-owned instruments and to purchase new instruments. Questions can be directed to FMMS Band Director, Lisa Knipe at 319-372-9317

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## OBITUARIES

### STELLA T. ABOLT

Stella T. Abolt, 77, of Ft. Madison passed away on Sunday, September 23, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics.

She was born on October 16, 1940 in Quincy, IL to Emmett and Edna Logdston Ellison. On October 21, 1977 she married John Abolt in Kahoka, MO and he passed away in 2000. Stella worked production at Sheffer Pen Co. and retired after thirty plus years of service. Stella was a member of Sacred Heart Church. She enjoyed her flower garden and was an Iowa Hawkeye and St. Louis Cardinal fan. Most of all she enjoyed her family, especially her grandchildren.



ABOLT

Survivors include three sons, Tony (Traci) Beger of Grand Junction, IA, John Beger of Burlington, Donnie Beger of San Francisco, CA; one daughter, Debbie Gnann of Ft. Madison; three grandchildren, Tom, Tory and Tyler; three sisters, Marguerite Ventura of Kansas City, KS, Martha Couch of Brookfield, MO and Jeannie Westerman of St. Louis, MO; several nieces, nephews, step children and step grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a son Tom, her husband, John; five brothers and one sister.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4:30-6:30 PM. A rosary will be recited at 4 PM at the funeral home. The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 AM on Friday, September 28, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will take place at a later date in Soldier's Circle, Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for the Ronald McDonald House and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries 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.

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# From the Front/Area News

## Fairfield has marketing grants for programs in Jefferson County

FAIRFIELD – The Fairfield Convention & Visitors Bureau recently awarded marketing and event grants to organizations and events that improve the quality of life for Fairfield and Jefferson County residents and have the potential to attract visitors or enhance a visitor's experience through cultural, educational, recreational or artistic opportunities.

Due to event cancellations, the Bureau is opening up nearly \$4000 for additional marketing and event grants for events, projects and initiatives occurring through June 30, 2019.

Organizations receiving marketing and event grant dollars are: Fairfield 1st Fridays, Southeast Iowa Blues Society, August 4, Fairfield Cultural Alliance International Day of Peace, September 21 – 22 and Fairfield Arts & Convention Center's Southeast Iowa Farm Show, March 3, named in honor of Kenny Norton.

The Bureau is looking for organizations that embody the Bureau's efforts of telling the Fairfield story and building the local economy and the positive image through tourism development, events and destination marketing. Eligible projects include event support and marketing, marketing

and promotional materials and activities not associated with an event, and projects that enhance the tourism experience in Fairfield.

The grant program is designed to encourage wide participation and innovative proposals and applications are accepted from public and private organizations who demonstrate the ability to complete the proposed event or activity.

"The Bureau is pleased to support a new event, International Day of Peach as well as continued support for the Fairfield 1st Fridays, Blues & BBQ and Farm Show as they serve Fairfield and the Jefferson County area residents, organizations and visitors by bringing memorable events to Fairfield's tourism landscape," said Rustin Lippincott, Director of the Fairfield Convention & Visitors Bureau. "Historically there has been years with more events and activity then we are experiencing now so we are hoping to leverage these resources to inspire additional events or even resurrect previous events. The funding is real money that goes directly to the event and the Bureau will provide technical experience so now is the time to create something in Fairfield."

The Marketing & Grant application is now available at [www.TravelFairfield.com](http://www.TravelFairfield.com) and applicants have the option to submit their application by mail or online. Applications will be accepted through October 15 for events occurring through June 30, 2019.

"The Bureau's grant program assists Fairfield and Jefferson County organizations in providing excellent cultural, civic and educational programs which attract visitors, increase the quality of life for our residents and provide exposure for Fairfield as a destination," said Lippincott.

The Bureau's grant program distributes financial assistance and technical assistance to organizations and individuals committed to initiatives that advance Fairfield's tourism project. The Bureau grant program is supported by Fairfield's lodging tax, created in 2001 by popular ballot.

For more information on the Fairfield Convention & Visitors Bureau grant program, visit [www.TravelFairfield.com](http://www.TravelFairfield.com) or call 641-472-2828.

## Scotts wants young gardeners

SCOTTS - Continued from Page 1

"On a nice day like today, I'd much rather be outside. We don't have a lot of windows in the factory, so it's nice to be outside."

McGraw said she was unaware that the company was involved in the program, and that the food went to local needy families.

Heidbreder said the garden, as it is, is growing enough produce to keep the food pantry stocked with vegetables. But he said there is room on the west end of the garden to expand.

"Right now it's probably producing enough for what they need, but we have more space to the west by the sign if we need it," he said.

The crews started pulling weeds and pulling vining plants off the the black, heavy chain link fencing. Heidbreder divided the crews into 10 teams. By 11:30 all the weeds had been pulled and raked and all the garden beds had been cleaned and raked. The only remnant of the garden were the leafy stems of asparagus on the west side. He said those would be left until frost, and then they would be cut

down to the stalks.

"This isn't easy work. It's messy work and stinky work, but it's good they can get out of the factory for a while."

Tammy Hudson, the director of the Great River Region United Way's RSVP program, said volunteers and Scotts staffing helped fill the pantry with produce this year.

"I feel that without the volunteers who came every week to pick produce, weed eat, etc. the garden wouldn't have done as well as it did. I feel that the garden produced quite a bit of produce such as; green peppers, tomatoes, and cucumbers. I also liked the willingness of volunteers to undertake this garden project and do whatever needed to be done on a weekly basis to keep it going," she said.

Jenna Lozano, who just started full-time and didn't know the garden was used to provide healthy food choices to families in need, said she enjoyed being out

and helping with a good cause.

Michelle White, an 18-year employee at the facility on the city's west side, said it was a learning experience for her.

"It was very educating. You'd never done it before and knowing what they do - what Scotts does over here and for the community was interesting, because I had no clue," she said.

"You're contributing and you're helping out with the community. It's different coming out and seeing everything because I'd never done it before. We got together as a team and everybody just went and did it."

Heidbreder said it was the most productive crew he's had on the site.

"I have had a lot of work crews down here, but it's been mostly management. But this is the best crew I've ever had down here," Heidbreder told the group to applause.

Then they ate pizza... provided by Scotts.

### 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 25 Sep



Moderate Rain  
High – 79.4° F | Low – 53.5° F

WED 26 Sep



Clear Skies  
High– 62.3° F | Low – 44.6° F

THU 27 Sep



Light Rain  
High– 59.6° F | Low – 46.5° F

FRI 28 Sep



Light Rain  
High– 60.0° F | Low – 38.8° F

SAT 29 Sep



Clear Skies  
High– 62.1° F | Low – 56.6° F

[OpenWeatherMap](http://OpenWeatherMap)



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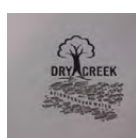
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If interested in volunteering, please contact:  
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Tammy at 319-372-8043 Sue at 319-524-4504  
rsvp@unitedwaygrr.org vc@unitedwaygrr.org



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# Classifieds/Local News



The finished product is a clean-landscaped garden that is now ready for the spring planting. Scotts employees came out to the Community Gardern and helped refresh the garden before winter comes.

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the classifieds

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**CURRENT-LEE**

## Immunization Clinic

LCHD will be holding a child's immunization clinic Thursday, Sept. 27 at the LCHD 3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison from noon to 5:30 p.m. Free lead testing will be available. Additionally, seasonal flu vaccines will be available with Medicare or Blue Cross insurance cards, or a \$25 payment.

## Fort Madison Depot Farmer's Market

Every Monday local vendors have farmer's market options available at the Old Santa Fe Depot on the Riverfront in Fort Madison. The farmer's market runs every Monday until Oct. 8 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the parking lot west of the depot.

## Pop Can Drive

The Ft. Madison Middle School Bands will host their annual Pop Can Drive on Saturday, September 29th from 9:00am - 2:00pm on the North side of Ft. Madison Middle School. All redeemable cans (beer and soda) and all size of plastic will be collected. Please, no glass. Proceeds from the Pop Can Drive will be used to purchase new music, repair school-owned instruments and to purchase new instruments. Questions can be directed to FMMS Band Director, Lisa Knipe at 319-372-9317.

## Veteran's Breakfast at Sunnybrook

Each month on the third Tuesday of the month, Sunnybrook Assisted Living hosts a Veteran's Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at 5025 River Valley Road in Fort Madison.

## Corporate Games

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Corporate Games will be held Oct. 5. This fun and competitive afternoon pits local manufacturing and industry teams against each other in a battle of wits and skills at the Baxter Sports Complex.

## Business After Hours

Holtkamp's Floors, Decor and Furniture will be hosting a Business After Hours Thursday, Oct. 4 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at 2331 Avenue L to celebrate their 30th Anniversary.

## Pack in Pink

The October 12th home Bloodhound football game will be a Pack In Pink night. T-shirts can be ordered as part of the FMHS National Honor Society through Tracy Madsen at FMHS.

## Ghost Hunt

The Fort Madison Partners are sponsoring a Ghost Hunt on Oct. 26-27 with Iowa Paranormal conducting investigations at some of the most haunted homes west of the Mississippi. For more information or tickets contact the Partners office at 319-372-5471.

**Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, [click here](#) or call Lee at (319)371.4125.**

Please Join Lee County Health Department as we celebrate the retirement of

**JULIE SCHILLING**

and her 34 years of dedication to public health on

**Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 2:00pm-4:30pm**  
at the Lee County Health Department  
#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison

**LEE CHD**