



# Pen City Current

Friday, March 29, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 80

## Thursday fire sends one to hospital

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A fire that broke out in a Fort Madison home early Thursday evening has sent one man to the hospital with life threatening injuries.

Fort Madison firefighters were called to the scene of 1121 Avenue E at 6:28 p.m., according to Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig.

Firefighters pulled a man from the smoke-filled home and he was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital escorted by city police. Sittig said the man's condition was unknown.

A witness at the scene said medical crews were performing CPR on the man as he was transported to the ambulance.

The cause of the fire is unknown and LeeComm paged an "all call" with the home being in close proximity to another home. No damage was reported to the other structure and flames were only seen coming from the corner of the roof of the structure's porch.

All three FMFD vehicles were on the scene as were Fort Madison Police, Lee County EMS, and Lee County Sheriff's Department.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison firefighters crawl on the roof of 1121 Avenue E in Fort Madison Thursday evening as a fire broke out at the residence sending one man to the hospital with life threatening injuries

## Satellite voting on new school continues today

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Voting continues Friday on a proposed \$30 million PreK-3rd grade elementary school for the Fort Madison Community School District.

The new building is proposed to be constructed on the campus just south of Bluff Road near the Fort Madison Middle School.

Construction of the building is estimated at \$24.8 million with traffic safety upgrades and furnishings making up the additional \$5.2 million.

The school district hired Carl A. Nelson Company out of Burlington to oversee the construction of the facility, which caused a backlash in the community because Fort Madison's Baxter Construction was not awarded the work on a 4-3 vote by the board.

Board members Dianne Hope, Brian Steffensmeier, and Jared Hotop voted for Baxter Construction, while board president Dr. Tim Wondra and board members Lois DiPrima, Carol Ross, and Gayla Young voted for Carl A. Nelson.

Absentee balloting has been going on for weeks and two satellite locations were set up, the first was at Fort

Madison High School last Friday and will be held again this Friday at the Fort Madison Community Hospital's Foggy Conference Room on the administration side of the facility.

Lee County Election Administrator Nikki Sugars said more than 900 absentee ballots have been turned in as of Thursday morning.



BAXTER

"It's been pretty steady. And Friday we had 150 voters in six hours over at the high school," she said.

Voters have until April 1 to get absentee ballots mailed to the county auditor. Ballots can be hand delivered to the county through polling on April 2.

Voters have turned down proposed referendums on three previous attempts with the last attempt in the fall, coming in at 59.2%, just short of the state-mandated 60%-plus 1 supermajority.

Controversy sprung up over the referendum when Tony Baxter, president of Baxter Construction, released a statement through Baxter Foundation that he was pulling the foundation's support of district youth activities for 2019 to take a stand against how the

See **VOTING**, page 8

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



## Church has lasting impact on author

I arrived in Mt. Pleasant on a Sunday morning after driving all night. My 12-step sponsor in Colorado had told me, "The first thing you do when you get to Mt. Pleasant is go to a twelve-step meeting and find a sponsor." I took him seriously. Looking in the phone book, I called the number and found out the time and place of the meeting—8:00 that night at the First Presbyterian Church. There I met some amazing people who are still with me today. Come alive in 1995!

That was three pastors ago—all of them wonderful people. Slowly, through my association with the 12-step group, I began to get to know some of the Presbyterian people, and liked them. They were down to

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### RICHARD BANGERT

Richard Bangert, 80, of Burlington, IA died Sunday, March 24, 2019 at the OakView Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Burlington, IA.

He was born August 18, 1938 in Ft. Madison, IA the son of Harold Louis and Alta Harman Bangert.



BANGERT

On September 18, 1960 he was united in marriage to Karen Reeder in Keokuk, IA and they celebrated fifty-eight years of life together. She survives.

Other survivors include three children, Kurt (Theresa) Bangert of Kansas City, MO, Kathleen (Brett) Hodson of St. Louis, MO and Kevin Bangert of Burlington, IA, five grandchildren, Justine, Reid, and Virginia Bangert and Izabel and Hugh Hodson, two sisters, Deanna (Larry) McLearn of Montrose, IA and Barbara Bloom of Fairfield, IA, one brother, David Bangert (Esther Tweedy) of Donnellson, IA and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Richard graduated from Montrose High School with the Class of 1956. He furthered his education by attending the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA, where he received his Electrical Engineering Degree in 1961.

Richard was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Burlington and was instrumental in the rebuilding of the church after a major fire.

Richard had a very successful engineering career, including many patents and early robotic innovations. In 1983, Richard opened the Bangert Computer Systems in Burlington where he remained the owner and operator for many years.

Richard liked to collect everything from clocks to tractors, arrowheads and sleds. He was a master gardener with a green thumb and enjoyed giving tours of their ten acre garden. He had several large "pick-your-own" strawberry patches in Burlington and the surrounding area for fifteen years. He loved to travel to the Oregon coast and enjoyed taking spring breaks with his family. He was a supporter and volunteer at the Capital Theatre in Burlington and helped design and build the theater's art deco lighting system.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday at the First United Methodist Church in Burlington with Reverend Melisa Bracht-Wagner officiating. Burial will be in the Aspen Grove Cemetery in Burlington.

Visitation for family and friends will be held prior to the service from 10-11 a.m.,

Thursday at the church.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church Fourth Floor Loft.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorial-home.com](http://www.vigenmemorial-home.com).

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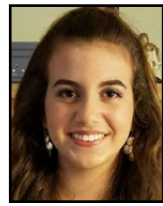
2210 Avenue H • Fort Madison • 319.372.2243

## OBITUARIES

### HALEY ELIZABETH MCMANUS

Haley Elizabeth McManus, 15, of Ft. Madison passed away on Sunday, March 24, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospitals.

She was born on June 11, 2003 in Ft. Madison to Sean and Aubrey Hellenthal



MCMANUS

McManus. Haley was currently a sophomore at FMHS where she was involved in cheerleading, show choir, tennis, the Art Club, and Key Club. Haley had just received her life guard certificate. She was an amazing artist and enjoyed babysitting. She loved spending time with her family, friends and her pets. With hope of helping others, Haley was an organ donor.

Survivors include her Dad, Sean McManus of Ft. Madison; her Mom, Aubrey McManus of Ft. Madison; her brother, Ethan McManus of Ft. Madison; maternal grandparents, Monte and Alice Hellenthal of Ft. Madison; paternal grandparents, Dennis & Rita McManus of Crestwood, IL; Aunt, Angela (Nate) Keppner; uncles, Grant (Mya) Hellenthal, Carl (Kristy) McManus, Todd McManus and Ryan McManus; cousins, Alaina, Henry, Katy, Kyla, Kaycee, Cole, Aaron, Aiden and her beloved cats, Domino and Casey.

Friends may call after 1 PM on Friday, March 29, 2019 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 3:30-6:30 PM. The funeral mass will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 10 AM at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to the Haley McManus memorial fund. Online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### SUSAN J. FRANCIS

Susan J. Francis, 66 of Keokuk, IA, entered into heaven surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

She was born April 24, 1952 in Luray, MO the daughter of Lynn and Pauline Seyb.



FRANCIS

Susan graduated from Clark County R1 High School in Kahoka, MO with the Class of 1970. She later attended Southeastern Community College in Keokuk and received her LPN degree.

Susan was a member and senior officer at the Keokuk Salvation Army for many years.

Her philanthropy through the church touched many lives.

She loved to crochet, play bingo, go camping and sing karaoke.

Susan had a way of approaching strangers and making them feel comfortable. There wasn't a person on this earth that she didn't make friends with. She loved caring for people and was known by many as Mama Sue. Her pride and joy and faithful companion, was her min-pin, Harley.

She is survived by three sons, Kenny (Brier) Alvis of Keokuk, Carl (Karinsa) Washburn of Hamilton, IL and Chris Washburn of Keokuk and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one son, Johnny Alvis, her parents and her mother-in-law, Kay Washburn, whom Susan looked up to and loved dearly.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday at The Crossing, 610 Timea St. in Keokuk with Pastor AJ Fuhrman officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to her son, Carl Washburn to help the family with additional expenses they incurred during her illness.

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

## Do you have time - to help stop crime?

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

Join us today to help keep our communities safer!



CAUTION

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

## Lee County Health Department Hospice Volunteer Training

April 2 - April 23, 2019  
4 Tuesday Evenings  
6:00pm-9:00pm  
at LCHD office

No fee, Open to the public  
To register call (319)372-5225 or visit [www.leecountyhd.org](http://www.leecountyhd.org)

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# Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

## OBITUARIES

### SISTER MARILYN KRAUS, CHM

Sister Marilyn Kraus, CHM, 91, died at 10:36 a.m. Sunday, March 24, 2019, at LaHarpe Davier Health Care Center in LaHarpe, Illinois.

Born July 26, 1927, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of John and Minnie (Bruegger) Kraus.



KRAUS

She graduated from Sts. Peter and Paul High School in Nauvoo in 1945 and Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa in 1949. She became a member of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in September, 1948, making perpetual vows in July, 1954. She taught for twenty years in high schools in Ottumwa and Marshalltown, Iowa, and at Ottumwa Heights College in Ottumwa. She was granted a MS degree in biology from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a MA degree-emphasis on medical librarianship from the University of Missouri, Columbia. She received several National Science Foundation grants for summer study at various universities throughout the country. In September 1973 she was appointed Chief, Medical Library Services at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Iowa City, Iowa. In August, 1995 she returned to Nauvoo and helped in the family businesses.

Surviving are two nephews: Daniel L. Kraus of Nauvoo, Illinois and Jonathan Kraus of Sunrise, Florida; five nieces: Cathy Crynes of Lakewood, Colorado, Deborah Allen of Nauvoo, Illinois, Diane Hauf of Annapolis, Maryland, Rosemary Flanagan of Canton, Georgia, Elaine Morthorst of Walkersville, Maryland and several grand-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one sister: Dorothy Morthorst; one brother: Elmer J. Kraus and two nephews: David and James Kraus.

Sister Marilyn was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. She was a member of the Nauvoo Historical Society and served two years on the Board of

Directors. She enjoyed plants and could be found giving water and TLC to those in boxes in front of the company businesses.

Friends may call from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at Schmitz – Banks and Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo, Illinois, where with family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. that evening.

The family will receive friends from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 28, 2019, at Schmitz – Banks and Beals Funeral home in Nauvoo. A Parish Rosary will be recited at 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, March 28, 2019, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo with Father Tony Trosley as Celebrant.

Burial will be at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery, Nauvoo.

Memorials may be made in her memory to: Sisters of Humility, 820 W. Central Park Avenue, Davenport, IA 52804, Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church or School, P.O. Box 147, Nauvoo, IL 62354, or the Nauvoo Historical Society, 1380 Mulholland Street, Nauvoo, IL 62354.

Schmitz – Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at [www.sbbfuneral-home.com](http://www.sbbfuneral-home.com).

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Dr. Rachel Knudson



Dr. W. Riggs Bagan



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#### 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



3/27

16 20 37 44 62  
Powerball: 12  
Power Play: 3



3/27

5 20 28 36 48  
Star Ball: 5  
All Star Bonus: 5



3/27 MID-DAY  
3 5 6  
3/27 EVENING  
8 4 3



3/27 MID-DAY  
7 3 4 4  
3/27 EVENING  
8 1 7 4

**Pen City Current**  
encourages you to play responsibly.

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Founded in 2016



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# Obituaries/Weather

## OBITUARIES

### DR. MELANIE JOAN SCHULTE

Dr. Melanie Joan Schulte, of Frisco, Texas passed away at the age of 72 on March 5, 2019 with her husband and daughter by her side.

Melanie was born on February 14, 1947 to the late Luan C. Jewell and spent much of her early life in southeastern Iowa and western Illinois. She was married to William (Bill) Aloys Schulte, Jr. in 1980 and they lived in Fort Madison, Iowa and then in the San Antonio and Canyon Lake areas of Texas for almost 30 years before relocating to Frisco.

She received all three of her degrees from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio while raising her daughter and working full-time as an executive at multiple Fortune 500 companies.

Melanie is survived by her husband Bill; daughter Sommer Lee (James) Coutu, of Austin, Texas; grandchildren Amelie and Sam; sister Robin Stanaway of Newport News, Virginia; and cousins Darla Newberry and Sharon Sutton of Dallas City, Illinois.

She was preceded in death by her sister Jeanne Dammling in 2006.

Melanie had a lifelong passion for teaching and started one of the first Montessori schools in her region of Iowa. She went on to teach countless collegiate and graduate classes. She was a beloved mother, wife, grandmother, sister, educator and friend.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 PM on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk.

Memorial services will be held at 10 AM Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at Vigen Memorial Home. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers that donations be made to the Dr. Melanie Schulte Scholarship Fund. Donate by visiting <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/SCHULTE> or by texting SCHULTE to 71777.



SCHULTE

## OBITUARIES

### WILLIAM TED KATSUMES

William Ted Katsumes, 70 of Keokuk, IA died Monday, March 25, 2019 at his home.

He was born December 4, 1948 in Keokuk, IA the son of William Ted, Sr. and Joan Ritchey Katsumes. Ted was united in marriage to Pamela Montgomery in 1976. She survives.



KATSUMES

Other survivors include one daughter, Leecie (DJ) Jones of Keokuk, one son, Jake Katsumes of Keokuk, four grandchildren, Natalie Jones, Dylon Hoewing, Jacob Jones and Halle Hoewing, one brother, David (Tammy) Katsumes of Elgin, IA, one sister, Karen (David) Johnson of Lake Ozark, MO and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Ted graduated from Cardinal Stritch High School with the Class of 1967.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy and proudly served his country during the Vietnam War from 1968-1971.

He was a member of All Saints Catholic Church and also of the VFW Post 3508, both in Keokuk.

Ted had been the owner and operator of the Tee Pee Lounge in Keokuk since 1977.

Ted enjoyed playing cards, fishing and cruising around town.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Father Robert Lathrop officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Friday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends from 6-8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the American Legion Post #41.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

**ACT PREP**  
Next Exam  
Saturday, April 13, 2019  
Classes begin March 3  
Classes meet every Sunday  
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### MELVIN DUNCAN, JR.

Melvin Duncan Jr., 60, of Marshalltown and formerly LaHarpe, IL passed away on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 8:41 PM at the VA Hospital in Des Moines.

He was born on November 23, 1958 in LaHarpe, IL to Melvin and Barbara Land Duncan Sr. Melvin helped his Dad farm in his early years and he served his country in the US Army. He enjoyed model cars when he was young and recently enjoyed recreational crafts and making knots.

Survivors include his Dad, Melvin Duncan, Sr. of Stronghurst, IL; three sisters, Brenda Parker of Ft. Madison, Tina (Kevin) Buck of Danville and Deborah Kemp; a brother, Jeff Duncan of Troy, MI; his grandmother, Ruth Duncan of Stronghurst, IL; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his Mom and nephew, Joshua Pender.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and a graveside service with military rites will take place at Stronghurst Cemetery at a later date. Online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

DUNCAN

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Burlington Dental Associates 319-753-2515  
Mediapolis Dental Care 319-394-3255  
New London Dental Care 319-367-2311

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

**FRI 29 Mar**  
Heavy Intensity Rain  
High- 47.8° F | Low - 43.0° F

**SAT 30 Mar**  
Scattered Clouds  
High- 42.4° F | Low - 31.1° F

**SUN 31 Mar**  
Clear  
High- 38.4° F | Low - 26.0° F

**MON 01 Apr**  
Partially Cloudy  
High- 50.0° F | Low - 34.6° F

**TUE 02 Apr**  
Scattered Clouds  
High- 55.0° F | Low - 48.9° F

[OpenWeatherMap](http://OpenWeatherMap)

## Local News/Opinion

# Biggest benefit came from theology

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

earth, friendly, and obviously very intelligent.

With heavy heart our 12-step group had to leave the Presbyterian Church. You see, the Presby Church was too alive and vibrant, with activities almost every night. People in addiction recovery guard their anonymity religiously, and there was just too much traffic in and out of the church. We found another place where there wasn't as much going on. The Presby Church was sad to see us leave, but understood.

Years later there was an art contest at the church. I was just starting photography and thought I would enter. I'll be darned if one of my photos didn't win—"Sheep in Winter"—a pastoral scene. The award even had a little cash with it. Groovy. That first award at the Presbyterian Church launched my career as an artist.

Whenever I donated blood, it was always at the Presby Church. My blood sacrifice?

When Ginnie and I got married, we started going to the Presbyterian Church. Ginnie had been a Presbyterian in her former life, so it was a natural progression. I knew the people and a lot about the church, so if it would make my wife happy, we'd try it. Ginnie

soon became a member of the Bell Choir and I'm now a deacon. Boy, do I have them fooled!

Being a writer, I've always wanted to teach Creative Writing, like I was taught in college. I approached the pastor, and then the church Elders, with the idea that I teach a creative writing class. They approved my request, and provided the space and time. That was the first creative writing class to be taught by me. It went extremely well. I have since moved the class to our home, and have just completed the third year (there will be a fourth) of teaching creative writing, with outstanding results. And it started at the Presbyterian Church.

There was a benefit auction at the church. I donated one of my photographs and one of my metal sculptures. On the night of the auction, I was petrified that no one would like my art, and it would go for a minimal bid, if bid on at all. Much to my surprise and sweaty palms, a little bidding war ensued over both pieces. That meant so much to me. The church liked my art.

So, my first 12-step meeting in Mt. Pleasant was at the Presbyterian Church, my first art award, my first creative writing class, they



purchased my art at auction, and it's where I donated blood. Talk about a multipurpose church!

However, the biggest benefit from the church came, not from what it could do for me, but its theology. During their service, there is a period of silent confession, followed by a song or scripture of forgiveness. After going through this Sunday after Sunday, I finally realized, I am forgiven, and sent as a servant! What a revelation! I no longer have to carry around this burden of guilt and shame. I am forgiven, now there is work to be done. What a church!

Note: This is just my experience with the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant. For each person, it is an individual journey and, hopefully, as rewarding, if not more so.

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

# FMHS SGA sponsors May Color Run

Submitted release

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison High School Student Government is coordinating a Color Fun Run for the community. Proceeds will benefit the University of Iowa Children's Hospital and the FMHS student government.

A color run is a run/walk event where participants are covered in a colored powder along the route. All color being used is Earth friendly and biodegradable.

The 2019 Color Fun Run will be held Saturday, May 18 with registration forms available at FMHS, Anytime Fitness, Rev Fitness, Ft. Madison YMCA, and The Fort Madison Partners office.

The form can also be found at <http://www.fortmadison.com/event/fmhs-color-run/>. The pre-registration fee is \$25.00. All registration forms must be turned in by April 26 to receive a t-shirt. Anyone who returns the form after said date will be responsible for providing their own white t-shirt.

On the day of the event, registration will be available. Participants that plan to register on the day of, should bring their own white shirt. Day-of registration fee is \$30.00. Check-in and day-of registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. The run will begin at 9 a.m.

The race will begin and end at FMMS. Light refreshments will be served at the finish line. Cars may be parked at the Fort Madison Middle School parking lot.

Pre-registration forms for the event may be returned to Fort Madison High School, The Fort Madison Partners, Rev Fitness, Fort Madison YMCA, and Anytime Fitness.

If you or your business is interested in sponsoring this event and has not been contacted, please contact Gracie Gobble at [gr\\_gobble688@students.fmcsd.org](mailto:gr_gobble688@students.fmcsd.org). There is a \$100.00 and \$250.00 option for sponsorships. Please email the contact above to see which each option includes.



# Clean Home. Clean Planet.

*Do your part during this year's Spring Cleaning activities by making sure you're choosing products safe for our planet.*

## Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more

**This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too!**



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

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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**GRRWA**  
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IT MAY BE COLD OUTSIDE.....but it's nice and warm with this GEOTHERMAL FURNACE 3 bedroom home with garage and out building near the west edge of Ft Madison. Approximately 1,275 square feet upstairs and 1,140 square feet down stairs. This home has a large living area downstairs that sports a second kitchen. Also a second bathroom and a ground floor laundry. This home is newly remodeled with NEW Frig, New Stove, and New microwave, New Dishwasher New counter top and New light fixtures and ceiling fans thru out . Also has new carpet and new paint thru-out, Brand new roof and new garage door opener. With its GEOTHERMAL heating and air conditioning it will have a very conservative utility bill. Also has city water along with a sand point well and a septic leech field that was recently inspected. The address is 2311 263 ave Ft Madison. Priced at \$143,000 For a private showing call Todd at 319-470-8711.

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 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.



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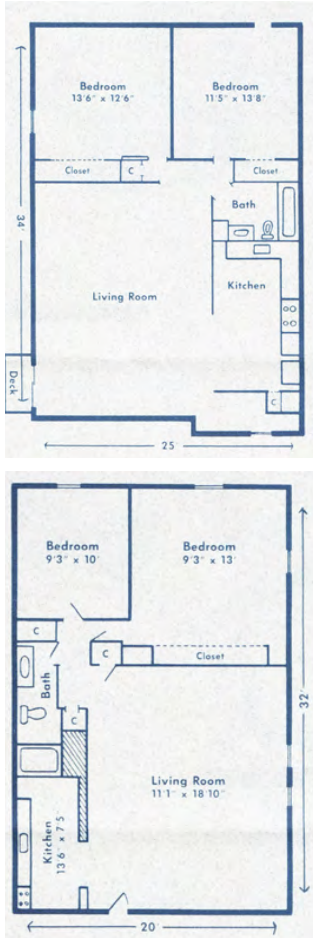
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**HELP WANTED**

**COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED**

RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator

Do you like to garden and work outdoors? Do you like to plan, plant and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual this Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2606 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less...Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call – Tammy at 319-372-8043.

United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs addressing needs in health, education and financial stability to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.



**Lee County Conservation Part-Time Beach Concessionaire (Temporary)**

Pollmiller Park Beach, West Point

Hourly Starting Pay: \$10.00

Visit [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org) for a job description and qualifications.

All applications should be directed to Lee County Conservation, 2652 HWY 61 Montrose, IA 52639. Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 29, 2019. Applications are available online at [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org).

Lee County is an equal opportunity employer.



**Lee County Conservation Part-Time Conservation Aide (Temporary)**

Lee County Conservation Center, Montrose, IA

Hourly Starting Pay: \$10.00

Visit [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org) for a job description and qualifications.

Applications: All applications should be directed to Lee County Conservation, 2652 HWY 61, Montrose, IA 52639. Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 29, 2019. Applications are available online at [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org).

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**Location: Bagcraft Packaging 2068 303rd Avenue Ft. Madison, IA 52627**



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## New school now in voters' hands

**VOTING** - Continued from Page 1

district handled awarding the construction manager contract.

"Since the School District has opted to disregard the plans presented by Baxter Construction, unnecessarily spend additional taxpayer money, and implement a program that does not benefit young athletes in the fashion proposed by Baxter Construction, the Foundation cannot continue to supplement the School District's efforts to grow its youth sports programs; especially, when the District itself chose to ignore the presented plans and waste available financial resources," Baxter said in a previous story.

During the proposals to the board, Baxter also offered to work out a lump sum contract, which he said was never given consideration. In a previous article in the Pen City Current, Baxter said the decision was "a let down and wasteful spending".

He said he believes the community needs a new elementary school, but said there are more cost effective ways to get it done.

The district, in a release issued Wednesday, indicated they went with a company with more experience in school construction.

"The district has also engaged a construction manager with over 15 employees that have deep ties to the district, and extensive experience with educational facilities to help manage costs and construction."

The district held a meeting Feb. 4 with about 100 community residents and at that meeting indicated they wanted new ball fields left out of the proposal, but would spend extra to increase traffic efficiencies and safety at the campus on 48th and Bluff Road.

According to the release, that session set the focus for the new bond.

"The session's primary focus was on costs and finding a plan that the community would support. The

overall consensus of the group was that the project needed to focus only on the absolute needs of the district which was a new elementary, and additional resources for traffic and site safety."

The release also indicated the district wanted to build on current successes but aging facilities was a drag on that momentum.

"The biggest challenge our district faces is that of our aging facilities. Our two oldest schools Richardson Elementary (100 years old) and Lincoln Elementary (84 years old) houses over 33% of our students. They were built when technology, safety, and modern 21st century education were not a concern. Updating and maintaining these two facilities far exceed costs of other options."

The district will carry \$30 million debt service on the building if approved, which, according to its proposed property tax levy for 2019-2020, would carry a \$2.70/\$1,000 assessed valuation on tax statements.

The current total property tax rate proposed by the district for the next fiscal year is \$14.60/\$1,000, an increase of .16 over the current year's \$14.44 rate.

The district, in its release, spelled out the benefits of the new building:

- All 600 of our youngest students would be provided a modern educational facility
- Pre-kindergarten program would be added to district curriculum
- Facility would be open Fall 2021
- The district's intent would be to sell existing schools to interested parties for repurposing
- District-wide busing and transportation would be provided to all PK-8 grade students
- Overall budget not to exceed \$30 million
- Cost per acre on average will be \$0.18 cents a year

## FMCH plans Women's Health Conf. on May 4

*Dr. Celina Peerman to talk about distractions and goals*

Submitted article

FORT MADISON Fort Madison Community Hospital will be hosting their annual Women's Health Conference on Saturday, May 4, 2019 starting at 9 a.m. This year's conference is titled "Appreciating the Beauty Around Us" taking time to appreciate the beauty that surrounds us every day. The conference will take place in the conference rooms of the Business Center, lower level east addition at Fort Madison Community Hospital.



PEERMAN

This year's conference will present area women an opportunity to practice prevention with health screenings that include blood pressure checks, body mass index and blood sugar. Screenings will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The screenings will take place in the Outpatient Rehabilitation Services Center. These free screenings will be followed by a light breakfast and a dynamic dose of live entertainment presented by Dr. Celina Peerman. Dr. Peerman's presentation, "SQUIRREL!" will take a humorous look at distractions in life and the role of focus on achieving our goals.

There will be door prizes and free childcare for children aged six months to ten years. Women of all ages are encouraged to attend this free event. For more information, call 319-376-2244 or visit the FMCH website [www.fmchosp.com](http://www.fmchosp.com).

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