

Don't forget Social Media! Check us out on the following sites @pencitycurrent:

INSIDE:

Starr's Cave Nature Center site of one of DNRs REAP assemblies.

See page 2

Ender State State

City going after nuisance vehicles

Police dept. could start tagging vehicles in two weeks

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison city officials have an early Christmas present for some property owners. It's a big orange sticker for your abandoned vehicle.

And if you can't move the vehicle, the city's gon-

na help by coming over and towing it.

City Manager David Varley said it's the first time in a while that the city has actually towed cars that are in violation.



"It's a fairly substantial amount of VARLEY vehicles and we're gonna start putting placards on vehicles in the next two weeks," Varley said.

"Maybe reading this will give them some extra time to get them moved, but if they can't, we'll come tow it and then they can come reclaim it or we'll take it to the salvage yard."

The move is intended to get vehicles the city deems abandoned off the streets and even private property if they aren't stickered and functional, as part of ramped beautification efforts.

City Building Director Doug Krogmeier wrote in an email the city is currently processing nuisance notices, including notices for abandoned vehicles on private property.

See TOWING, page 4



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison firefighters hit the back side of a home in the 1500 block of Avenue E with foam and water, while other firefighters get ready to cut into the roof. A space heater is being blamed for causing the blaze.

Space heater to blame in Thursday fire

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

County records listed on Beacon

30 minutes before the fire broke

to go to work on the roof, where

firefighters cut into the top of the

roof to get at the fire and ventilate

the blaze, while firefighters on the

Damage estimates weren't avail-

fighters were on the scene for more

ground blasted the back of the

able Thursday evening, but fire-

home with foam and water.

than five hours.

Herren called in the ladder truck

through.

Park Board may look at fundraising, using volunteers

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Parks board may launch a program aimed at recruiting volunteers, specifically high school students, to help with city projects.

At Wednesday's regular meeting of the city's Parks, Recreation, and Docks board, board members said high school students at both Fort Madison public and Holy Trinity Catholic could play a bigger role in helping with park maintenance.

City Public Works Director Larry Driscoll, sitting in on his final meeting with the board, said the board should move to a focus of fundraising and volunteer development.

Driscoll said city staff came up with the idea of creating a network of volunteers instead.

"Instead of us paying out of the budget, which isn't a lot, for labor to rehab a bathroom or other issues... you're gonna have to come up with a plan for what

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A space heater on the first floor of a home in the 1500 block of Avenue E is being blamed for a fire that heavily damaged the home Thursday afternoon.

Fort Madison firefighters were called to the scene at about 1:40 p.m. to 1528 Avenue E. The owners of the home, according to Lee Schneider, are Chuck and Dawn Kempker.

Fire Chief Joey Herren arrived on the scene first and had to kick in the front and back doors to check to see if anyone was in the home, but he said that no one was inside. Flames weren't visible from the exterior of the home until fire broke out on the back side, but heavy smoke poured from

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the eaves and windows for about

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Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Family DentistryP.2	Pilot Grove Savings BankP.4
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projects you wanna do."

Sue Pieper said she thought it was a great idea to get the schools involved.

Board Chairman Jim Decker said the building trades program at the high school built the bus stop in Old Settlers Park.

"People will help, but you have to ask them," Decker said.

Driscoll said the city gets prison labor only on Wednesday afternoons, but he said it's not a given

See PARKS, page 4

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Obituaries/Education News



Courtesy Photo

Holy Trinity Catholic inducts 16 into National Honor Society

FORT MADISON - Holy Trinity Catholic High School is proud to announce the newest inductees to join its chapter of the National Honor Society. The induction ceremony was held on Wednesday, November 6th at McAleer Hall in Ft. Madison. These outstanding students were selected for their commitment to the four pillars of the National Honor Society: scholarship, leadership, character, and service. The Holy Trinity Chapter of NHS takes on many service projects during the year that benefits a variety of programs; The North Lee County Food Bank, the local Head Start Program, Kids Against Hunger and more.

With the addition of these new members, the Holy Trinity Chapter of NHS has a total of 29 students.

First row (left to right): Ambrosia Dustin, Jayde Watznauer, Taylor Crabtree, Emma Torgler, Maria Rauenbuehler, Alison Robu, Annabelle Scheetz

Second row (left to right): Bailey Hellweg, Ava Peitz, Katherine Denning, Claire Pothitakis, John Stinson, Danny Caruso, Chandler Rung, Jason Thurman, Vasin Thurman.



We are honored to be chosen to care for the oral health of your entire family.

OBITUARIES

EILEEN M. PEITZ

Eileen M. Peitz, 93, of Houghton, Iowa, passed away Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at Pacific Springs Village in Omaha, Nebraska. She was born December 3, 1925, the daughter of Henry and Eleanor (Holtkamp) Groene, in West Point, Iowa. On September 18, 1948, she married Victor W. Peitz. He preceded her in death on October



Eileen is survived by her son, Greg (Shar) Peitz of Martinsville, Virginia, and three daughters: Donna Peitz of Iowa City, Iowa, Julianne (David) Svingen of Omaha, Nebraska, and Michelle (John) Jordan of Clear Lake, Iowa. Also surviving is one sister: Betty (Duane) Denning of Fort Madison, Iowa, nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren in addition to many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Victor, and siblings Jim Groene, Julia Peterschmidt, Mary Holtkamp, Rita Harmeyer,

and Rose Marie Groene, in infancy.

4, 2014.

Eileen was a graduate of Saint Mary's High School, West Point, Iowa. After marrying Victor and moving to Houghton, she attended St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton, Iowa. Eileen was a homemaker, devoted to her family and farm.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Sunday, November 10, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, Iowa, where the family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. that afternoon. A Christian wake service will be held at 4:00 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, November 11, 2019, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton with Father Bruce DeRammelaere as celebrant. Burial will be held at St. John's Cemetery in Houghton.

A memorial has been established in her memory. The Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Starr's Cave site of REAP assembly

BURLINGTON - Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) assemblies will begin in two weeks, giving all Iowans an opportunity to share and discuss their visions for Iowa's outdoor recreation, soil and water enhancement, historical resources and land management and more.

Starr's Cave Nature Center in Burlington will be the site of one of the assemblies on Nov. 20.

REAP assemblies are locally led meetings where issues can be brought forth and voted upon. Iowans can discuss the program, recommend changes and discuss impacts in their area. Delegates may also be selected from the local meeting to attend the REAP congress in January at the State Capitol in Des Moines.

Each assembly represents a region of counties and participants are required to attend the region for the county in which they reside. Meetings are held in the evening and last approximately 90 minutes. A list of REAP assembly locations is available online at http://www.iowadnr.gov/ Conservation/REAP/REAP-Public-Participation/REAP-Regional-Assemblies.

"REAP assemblies provide Iowans a perfect opportunity to share their views and learn others' views about about parks, trails, museums and other amenities," said Kayla Lyon, director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).



Fort Madison Family Dentistry West 319-372-4882

Fort Madison Family Dentistry East 319-372-3614



1222 33rd St., Fort Madis on. IA 52627

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Founded in 2016



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For the Record/Lottery Numbers

For the Record

Fort Madison **Police Report**

11/06/19 - 11:21 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue J. 11/06/19 - 12:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block Avenue B. 11/06/19 - 2:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2800 block of Avenue K. 11/06/19 - 2:36 p.m. -Fort Madison Police arrested Charles Robert Eli Boyle, 26, of Fort Madison in the 800 block of Avenue E, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail. 11/06/19 - 5:36 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage

accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L. 11/06/19 - 5:52 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4400 block of Avenue O 11/06/19 – 9:37 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2800 block of Avenue K. 11/07/19 – 5:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jerry Gasper Drago, 65, listed at homeless, in the 6100 block of Reve Court on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report 11/06/19 – 7:17 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshua Adam Burson, 25, of Austin, Texas, at the sheriff's

office, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was released. 11/06/19 – 9:18 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2700 block of Hwy. 61. According to the report, the driver, Colin Lance Daw, 58, of Canton, Mo., fell asleep at the wheel and exited the roadway striking a guard rail causing disabling damage. Daw was cited for no proof of insurance and no driver's license. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report 11/06/19 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical, one false alarm and one burn complaint.

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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 Pick 3 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday Pick 4 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm
POWE 11/6 15 28 46 62 Powerball: Power Play	2 64 17	11/6 2 12 15 2 Star Bal All Star Bor	1:6
11/6 MID-E 5 1 8 11/6 EVEN		11/6 MID - 9 9 1 5 11/6 EVEN	DAY 5
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Pen City Current			
	Pen City	ouncil	

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Facebook.com/GRRWA

From the Front

Owners can reclaim property, or let city salvage

TOWING - Continued from Page 1

"These can range from wrecked vehicles to vehicles that were simply parked many years ago but are no longer getting registered with the IDOT that the owner parked in their yard but has not chosen to dispose of," he wrote Thursday.

"City staff processes vehicle nuisances and gives 30 days for the owner to abate the nuisance by removing the vehicle; making the vehicle operable, and properly registered, and titled, or store the vehicle within an enclosed building."

He wrote if the owner has not abated the nuisance, the city can issue a municipal infraction, which is a simple misdemeanor, and abate the nuisance.

"After several years of not dealing with most of these vehicles, the numbers have grown, thus, the nuisance department, with the help of the Police Department, is going to proceed with abatement of these vehicles."

"Within the next few weeks, the Police Department will be placing large orange tags on these vehicles and if the vehicles are not removed, or proven to the department to be operational with proper tags, the Police Department will then have the vehicles towed," Krogmeier said.

"Owners will have the opportunity to collect

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the vehicle, provided fees are paid, if they have a location to store the vehicle other than in a yard perpetuating a continuation of a nuisance." City Code section 6-4-1 deals with

nuisance abatements within the city. Varley said it's the first effort in

KROGMEIER

years in which the city will actually be towing the vehicles. He said those could number in the hundreds.

"It will be the first time in a long time where we actually towed cars that are in violation," Varley said. "We'll put big orange stickers to let people know and give them plenty of notice and once that's up we're comin' to get 'em."

City board looks for funding, volunteer ideas as Driscoll leaves post

PARKS - Continued from Page 1

that the city will get them.

He said the P.O.R.T. Trail committee does a lot of fundraising.

"It's not run through the city," Driscoll said. "No. 1 we couldn't do it, and No. 2 when it's not part of the city and it's a group of people, people donate more money to that. They don't like to donate straight to the city."

He said when people donate money for a structure or statue, it's hard for the city to fund the maintenance.

"Aren't you accepting that commitment when you accept that money?" said board member Paul Wilkerson.

"Yeah, and we do the best we can. It's something to think about. Right now things run well, we're keeping up, and people are volunteering, but the next generations aren't helping out."

Decker said it is getting harder and harder to get young people involved in stuff.

Wilkerson said if you get the schools involved the kids will start to take ownership of it, and the board should consider having a booth at high school registrations.

"When those kids and parents are together, we could recruit at that time. I wouldn't mind helping do that and recruiting for projects, if we know what the projects are," Wilkerson said.

Driscoll said he communicates with the schools regarding the 20 hours of community service requirement and he said last year he got one person.

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He said that's what the department will be looking to the board for direction on.

"We just can't do it all," he said.

In other action, the board voted to recommend:

• an increase in enclosed shelter house lease fees and deposits from the current rate of \$25 per day to \$50 per day.

• adding a \$30 bounce house fee in city parks as well as requiring additional insurance for the bounce houses in city parks.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

the classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON **CITY COUNCIL** 11/04/2019

The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, November 4, 2019, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Pro Tem Greenwald presided with Council Members Morawitz, Rink, Andrews, Mohrfeld and Lair present. Mayor Randolph and Council Member Cangas were absent.

On motion, Council approved the agenda. On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 10/15/2019; Payment of Claims, Liquor License Renewals: Garner Foods, 2236 Avenue L, effective 11/1/2019, and Kinnick South, 1310 – 14th Street, effective 11/1/2019; Resolution No. 2019-69, approving the Fiscal Year ending 2019 Annual Urban Renewal Area Report; and 2019 Financial Report for Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2019.

On motion, Council approved Ordinance D-56, the third reading of an ordinance amending Title 10, Zoning, Chapter 12, B-1 Business District, Section 3, Permitted Uses, to add "Schools" as a Permitted Use.

On motion, Council approved the Mayor's reappointment of Tim Wondra to the Board of Adjustment and Appeals, term ending 9/30/2024. On motion, Council received and filed the City's audit for Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2019. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on a Professional Services Agreement with HR Green for a cost of \$29,500 for the 10th Street Pump Station Screen Improvements. On motion, Council approved the purchase of a demonstration model or new dump truck for the Street Department from the National Joint Power Alliance in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

At 6:08 P.M. on motion, Council adjourned until November 19, 2019, at 5:30 P.M.

/s/ Chris Greenwald, Mayor Pro Tem

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

SWERING SERVICE

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REVENUES	10/31/2019	EXPENDITURES	
General	\$ 44,194.23	General	\$87,385.55
Special Revenue	236,889.41	Special Revenue	152,997.16
Road Use	137,398.22	Road Use	60,014.62
Debt	1,325.25	Capital	87,358.41
Capital	17,963.54	Water	84,940.32
Water	318,949.54	Sewer	113,958.05
Sewer	263,176.71	Solid Waste/ IWC	6,628.26
Solid Waste/IWC	68,543.06	SW Utility	2,249.14
SW Utility	18,136.09	_	\$595,531.51
_	\$1,106,576.05		

PAYROLL 10/11/2019 PAYROLL 10/25/2019 \$181.657.50 \$176,409.81 Genera Genera













Conoral	,	Contortal	,
Special Revenue	4,952.72	Special Revenue	11,391.91
Road Use	25,797.82	Road Use	28,205.12
Water	28,786.18	Water	28,890.83

CLAIMS 11/4/2019 ACCESS SYSTEMS LEAS-ING, LEASE AGREE-ALBERT CRESSWELL, DOAD/GIDEWALV DE-00.00

ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC 22,355.73 ALTORFER INC., UNI-VERSAL JOINT 115.77 AMSOIL, INC, DOUBLE PAYMENT 405.98 ANSWER PLUS, AN-



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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call to serve in our special Veterans Day edition on Monday, November 11th.

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Korean Wai

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MANUALS - OCT 2019 ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC 67,143.47 AUTOZONE. PARTS CHAD HANNUM, CAR-**RYING CASE - REIMB** EASYPERMIT POST-AGE. POSTAGE: WATER BILLS; PASTDUES GEM ELECTRONICS, MONTHLY SERVICE CONTRACT 1,249.55 **GREGORY MANUFAC-**TURING, 3RD QTR 2019 - TARG JOBS PROGR HALL TOWING, BARGE FOR AMERICAN CRUISE LINE...... 19,626.53 IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES, 2019 BUDGET WORKSHOP.....100 IaCMA, DUES 250 LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT, POOL INSPEC-LIBERTY UTILITIES, MERSCHMAN, TOM/ AMY. SEWER EASE-

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Please include photo (color or black & white), veteran's name, branch of service, tour(s) of duty, your name and contact information in case of questions. A brief personal message is also welcome.

Submissions are due by the end of the day Friday, November 8th.





PO Box 366 Fort Madison, IA 52627 News (319)371.1670

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SSGT Ezekiel "Zeke" James Ross lowa National Guard Charlie Company 224th Engineer Battalion, Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004-2005





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,	TOTAL
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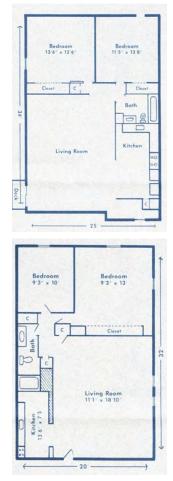
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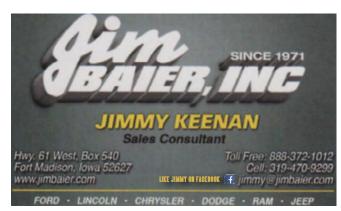
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Scene Around Town/Weather





Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison firefighters try to get access to the flames that are inside this home at 1528 Avenue E. This firefighter is seconds away from firing up a chainsaw to gain access to the roof and attic area. At left, a firefighter climbs up to see if he can get any information through the window as other firefighters were heading onto the roof.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST





TUE 12 Nov



Moderate Clouds High- 22.5° F | Low - 21.1° F

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