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SPORTS: West Burlington drops HTC boys and girls on Tuesday night.

See page 4-5



Fort Madison City Tourism Director Jean Peiton hands out certificates of appreciation to the volunteers that helped with the DeadZone Haunted Old Fort over Halloween. Mayor Brad Randolph recognized the group for their citizenship in volunteering and thanked them for helping raise money for the Old Fort.

Supervisors approve third request for courthouse funding

Costs have shot passed estimates by 36% on south building

> **BY CHUCK VANDENBERG** PCC FDITOR

MONTROSE - A request for additional funding has been approved for continuing work on the South

On two separate occasions in October, the board approved a total of approximately \$110,000 in additional funds for the tuckpointing work. The tuckpointing work is now at just under \$426,000, a 36.7% increase over the original contract.

Work to replace the roofing on the courthouse began in September with original contracts from two companies, Meyers & James Roofing of Keokuk and Hopkins Roofing of Pella, totaling \$258,000.

tenance department before we even started these projects."

Supervisor Matt Pflug agreed with Folluo and took it a step farther and said this is what the taxpayers said they wanted.

"I think what they're saying is that they're willing to spend a million or whatever, but they weren't willing to spend 8, 10,12 million whatever on a new building. That's the message they sent...that we'll spend the money, but we need to get these buildings up to snuff." Supervisor Ron Fedler said he remembers Hanson and Ed Soenke of Design Partnership saying the cost of the project will continue to climb.

Pen City Current launches year two with scholarship drive

BY PCC STAFF

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 281

FORT MADISON -Tuesday marks the oneyear anniversary for the Pen City Current's presence in Fort Madison.

Chuck and Lee K. Vandenberg started the news gathering company's website on Dec. 5, 2016 and



Lee K. Vandenberg,

co-owner and President of

Market Street Publishing,

the parent company of the

Current, said the first year

has been a learning expe-

rience and an opportunity

to provide a still-emerging

service to the readers and

"Year one was a whirl-

wind and I don't see year

down much," Vandenberg

said. "It's been wonder-

businesses trying to help

exposure for their busi-

people get as much digital

ful working with area

businesses in the area.

number two slowing

launched an e-Edition on Dec. 12 and are excited about the possibil-C. VANDENBERG ities in the second year of operation.

be able to read the news for free. While donation subscriptions and advertising have helped support the costs of the business, year two will offer a special feature.

Pen City Current is asking for a one-year subscription at a cost of \$50 to help jump start year two. As an incentive for the donation, 15% of all one-year subscriptions will be used to create a scholarship program for local graduating seniors who have an interest in media communications studies.

"Since day one, we wanted to play a larger role in education and incorporating students into our news gathering efforts," she said. "We've recently brought on board Ava Peitz, a student at Holy Trinity, to intern with us, and now we're looking at creating a scholarship program as well."

The donation subscription drive will run through Friday and Vandenberg said the goal is to sign on 200 annual subscriptions in four days. Editor and co-owner Chuck Vandenberg said trying to expand coverage deeper into Lee County is something he wants to accomplish in year two and the subscription drive will help kick start that effort. "We had many people ask us to extend coverage

Lee County Courthouse, but in an amount smaller than was discussed last week.

John Hansen of Midwest Construction Consultants, requested up to an additional \$4,000 for tuck-pointing, draining, and electrical work on the courthouse. E & H Restoration out of Davenport was awarded the tuckpointing contract originally for \$311,425.

Supervisor Gary Folluo said the costs, even though higher than original estimates, and bids are within the five-year plan approved for the buildings.

"But in the five-year plan, we knew it was going to be \$1.5 to \$2 million to address the things in that five-year plan. We knew that," he said. "A lot of the issues that we had have been addressed by the main-

"Well I want to respond to Gary's comment that it was going to cost between \$1.5 and \$2 million and

See COURTHOUSE, page 8

ness as possible, while we continue to grow ours. It really has been a challenge that we've welcomed."

The all-digital news outlet has offered free subscriptions and donations subscriptions for the first year because Vandenberg wanted everyone to

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Jenkins

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Obituaries/Current–Lee



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OBITUARIES

JEAN WICKHAM

Jean Wickham, 64 years, of Montrose, Iowa died at 10:30 pm Monday, December 4, 2017 at her home. She was born January 7, 1953 in Charleston, West Virginia,



a daughter of Charles P Jr and Romaine (Henderson) Samples. On November 22, 1981, she married Tom Wickham. They were married 36 years.

Jean earned an Associates Degree from Southeastern Community College. She worked many places during her life. Locally she enjoyed her time as a receptionist and assistant to Dr. DeGala in Keokuk. She loved Montrose and was active with the Montrose Watermelon

WICKHAM

Festival. She enjoyed photography, crafts, and keeping in touch with

family and friends through Facebook. She loved her boys (dogs), Bama and Stewie. She is survived by her husband, Tom Wickham of Montrose; one son, Ron Allen of Wever, Iowa; two daughters, Rona (Kevin) Borrego of Sylacauga, Alabama and Trish (Stacey) Welch of Warsaw, Illinois; one brother, Charles P (Patti)Samples III of Jackson Hole, Wyoming; five grandchildren: Trisha, Will, Logan, Riley, and Colby; five great grandchildren; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Roger and John Samples.

Her family will greet friends at visitation from 9:30 - 11:00 am Saturday, December 9, 2017 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison, Iowa. Funeral services will follow and begin at 11:00 am Saturday, December 9, 2017 at the funeral home, with Pastor Dean Graber officiating. Burial will be at Montrose Cemetery, Montrose. A memorial has been established to assist the family, contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Wickham Family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

CURRENT-LEE

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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



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Business News/Record

4-day subscription drive to help build scholarship fund

PCC - Continued from Page 1

into southern and western Lee County. As much as we've tried to get to as many events in the county and cover as much schools, governments, and business in the area as we can, it's a big area to cover. This year we'd like to add another reporter on a part-time or possibly full-time basis to bring some of these newsworthy events into our readership."

He said the four-day fundraiser will be indicative of the value area readers place in the product and help determine plans going forward.

'We're excited about our growth possibilities in year two and we think the news value, coupled with our different approach to advertising and marketing for our customers make us uniquely positioned for 2018."

Vandenberg said some fun and valuable new products are planned for the new year, but wouldn't elaborate.

"You'll just have to come along for the ride. So...stay tuned," he said.

To subscribe, simply click <u>here</u> and select the \$50 annual option. There are several payment options to choose from, and \$7.50 will be moved into a scholarship account.

Soroptimists to meet Thursday

By PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Soroptimist International of Fort Madison will be having their regular meeting at noon at Atlas Steak & Smokehouse.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

12/04/17 - 10:44 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny theft in the 300 block of 7th Street. 12/04/17 - 11:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny theft in the 700 block of 18th Street. 12/04/17 - 12:06 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny theft in the 1300 block of Avenue G. 12/04/17 - 12:-08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny theft in the 1300 block of Avenue G. 12/04/17 - 1:38 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny theft in the 300 block of Seventh Street.

12/04/17 - 4:14 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1900 block of Avenue H. 12/04/17 - 8:52 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Brandon Eric Bowman, 20 of Fort Madison, in the 4000 block of Avenue L on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/04/17 - 10:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jeffrey Lee Rains, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Hwy 2, on a warrant for failure to appear, eluding, interference with official acts, pssession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Lee County Sheriff's report

12/04/17 - 10:06 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Travis Lee Blint, 33, of Fort Madison on a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/04/17 - 2:39 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy 218 northbound. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Althea Johnson, 51, of Chicago slid across the median and across the southbound lanes and came to rest in field. Minor injuries were reported to one passenger. Johnson was cited for failure to maintain control and failure to use a booster or child safety seat.

<text>





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Sports

HTC girls falter in 4th quarter

Crusaders commit 36 turnovers in loss to West Burlington

> BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON - West Burlington Head Coach John Vandenberg's girls basketball teams have a pesky habit of coming back to beat Holy Trinity in the fourth quarter.

Vandenberg, in his first year at West Burlington, lead the Lady Falcons back from a three-point deficit in the final period Tuesday night to down the Crusaders 60-52.

At Wapello last year, Vandenberg came back from a 20-point fourth quarter deficit at the Southeast Iowa Superconference Shootout to beat the Crusaders.

Holy Trinity lead by as much as five points in the third period when Emily Box hit a bucket inside and was fouled. She missed the free throw on the end. The Falcons, who took 46 free throw attempts in the game, missed four in a row including a lane violation after Box scored, but the Lady Falcons' Jerri Price converted a bucket to make it 40-43 going into the last period.

West Burlington then went on an 11-1 run pressing the Crusaders and forcing turnovers. HTC only converted two buck-

"



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, HTC's Ashlynn Haas brings the ball up the court for the Crusaders in Tuesday's 52-60 loss to West Burlington. Below, Eryn Anderson looks to score inside while the Falcons Iliyah Moore trails the play.

ets in the final quarter, but those were back-to-back three pointers by Sam Hoenig and Ashlynn Haas to Holy Trinity back within one point at 50-51.

The Falcons, who would only convert one bucket as well in the last 4 minutes, would go to the free-throw line 11 times over the span converting seven. With the West Burlington pressure forcing HTC into turnovers and keeping them out of their half-court offense, the Lady Falcons were able to hold on for the win.

Box led HTC with 14 points followed by Brett Schneider's 12. Avery Hopper, Ashlynn Haas and Eryn Anderson all had six points, while Hoenig and Taylor Boeding each scored three and Madison Mohrfeld added two points.

Freshman Sydney Marlow led all scorers with 19 points for West Burlington. Holy Trinity Head





Coach Tony Johnson pointed to miscues and forcing the tempo of the game as the main reasons for the loss.

"We turned it over 36 times, they shot 46 free throws, we shot 11. There's your game," Johnson said.

Many of the Crusaders turnovers were on their own end of the court in transition.

"I like to control the

time."

Johnson said a scheduling hiccup resulted in WACO being played on the road instead of at home earlier this year, so the 2-3 Crusaders have spent the last five games on the road, but play Friday night at home against Cardinal of Eldon.

It's been good for us," he said. "One of the good things is we know we've got 10 or 11 at home now. Another good thing is that the conference is pretty evenly balanced and anyone can beat anyone else on any given night. We're only five games in so I'm not panicking yet."

Crusaders squander 4-point fourth quarter lead in loss

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON - Holy Trinity used speed and a bit "craftiness" to hang around with West Burlington on Tuesday night at the Falcon's gym.

However, the Crusaders got caught up in an 11-5 fourth quarter run by the Falcons and couldn't get back in the game falling 51-57 in Southeast Iowa Superconference boys' basketball action to move to 1-3 on the year.

With a 42-38 lead going into the final period, the Falcons scored six unanswered to start the period before HTC sophomore Reed Fehseke converted a 3-pointer from the right wing to put the Crusaders back on top by one 45-44. But West Burlington's junior Jonah Marlow answered with a bucket that would give



HELLIGE

the Falcons an advantage they wouldn't relinquish as the Crusaders would only manage four free-throws the rest of the way failing to convert on any shots from the field.

The Crusaders also lost senior Collin Thornton in the fourth quarter when Thornton drove from the left side and was called for a charge. Thornton fell to the ground with several other bodies on the play and hurt his wrist and wouldn't return.

"Yeah, he hurt is wrist on that play. We hope to have him back on Friday," said Head Coach John Hellige. "Obviously losing your sole senior really hurts in that stretch, but I was proud of our underclassman. I thought they stepped up and played hard."

The Falcons rushed out to a 5-0 start in the first quarter and looked to be outmanning the Crusaders, but speed and some clutch outside shooting, coupled with sophomore Matt Hellige's play inside the lane against some much taller opponents, kept HTC in the game.

Fehseke nailed a 3-pointer with just over four minutes to play in the opening period to knot the game at 10, but the Falcons' Tanner Snodgrass answered with a three of his own and Colten Hohenthaner converted a bucket before Thornton answered with another 3-pointer to make it 16-13 Falcons.

West Burlington would push the lead to 21-13 but then Fehseke connected on back-to-back three pointers from the left side of the offense and Quentin Schneider converted inside to tie the game again at 21. Marlow, who would lead all scorers with 21 points, hit again from long range and then Thornton banked in a 3 and the Crusaders were within one 24-25 at the end of the first half. HTC went on an 10-5 run to start the third quarter highlighted by Hellige's eight points and an Adam Rauenbuehler bucket. But West Burlington went on

shot 46 free throws, we shot 11. There's your ball game."

> -Tony Johnson, HTC head coach

tempo, but we were out of control tonight," he said. "The biggest thing was 46 free throws. we just committed too many fouls. Hopefully, we'll play a little better Friday and get home for once, it's been a long

See **CRUSADERS**, page 5

Bloodhounds can't find way to win across the river

Cresswell leads FM with 14 in loss

BY PCC STAFF

WARSAW - The Fort Madison Bloodhound basketball jinx when playing across the river in Illinois is still intact.

The Bloodhounds mounted a second-half comeback but came up short in a 45-51 loss to West Hancock Tuesday night at West Hancock High School in Warsaw.

Senior Kaleb Cresswell put up eight fourth quarter points including a 3-pointer as the Hounds battled back from a 27-15 first half deficit. Senior Treavor James-Kokjohn added a three pointer and junior Logan Rashid chipped in with three 4th quarter points before FMHS ran out of clock. Cresswell led the Hounds with 14 points followed by James-Kokjohn's 13. Rashid finished the game with 7 points and Lorenzo Riles, who was playing in his first game since joining the squad two weeks ago, went 4 of 4 from the free throw line for four points on the night. Sheymouhr Redd-Donald added three points and Brandon Keester and Jayden Fedler each added a bucket for the Hounds.

Logan Dorethy led all scorers with 20 points, followed by Drake Hammel's 12.

Coming into the game, James-Kokjohn was second in the conference in scoring at 20.5 points per game. Cresswell was fourth at 12.5 a game. Keester and Rashid were 6th and 7th at 10 and 9 points per game respectively. James Kokjohn leads the conference in rebounds at 14.5 per outing for the 2-1 Hounds.

The Hounds travel to Centerville in a junior varsity/varsity double header on Saturday beginning at 1 p.m.

Sports/For the Record

Hounds sweep threeteam meet at Hound Dome

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Bloodhound wrestlers swept a three-way meet with Mediapolis and Iowa City Liberty on Tuesday night.

The Hounds got a pin from Harlan Steffensmeier at 152 over Caden Benz (0:49) and a 15-11 decision by Nathan Steffensmeier over Daryun Kreft (15-11) and took advantage of eight forfeits en route to a 57-18 win over the Bulldogs.

In the tussle with Iowa City Liberty, Aaron Steffensmeier pinned Klein Thoensen at 2:23 and Harlan Steffensmeier got a pin over Ashton Barker in 54 seconds to highlight the wins for the Hounds. At 170 pounds Chance Hocker pinned Liberty's Jacob Ganoe in just 15 seconds and then Sam Hayes, at 220 lbs., pinned Andres Estrada in just 16 seconds.

The Hounds also got pins from Elton Kruse at 106 lbs., Mason Schau at 113 lbs., and Dayne Cordray at 120 lbs.

Complete results from the meet are below. Fort Madison (FOMA) 57.00 Mediapolis (MEDI) 18.00

145: Aaron Steffensmeier (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 152: Harlan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Caden Benz (MEDI) (Fall 0:49) 160: Keaton Poe (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 170: Brennan Swafford (MEDI) over Chance Hocker (FOMA) (Fall 0:47) 182: Lennon Barker (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 195: Sam Hayes (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 220: Danen Settles (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 285: Brennan Breuer (MEDI) over Gunther Johnson (FOMA) (Fall 3:00) 106: Elton Kruse (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 113: Jorden Riherd (MEDI) over Mason Schau (FOMA) (Dec 2-0) 120: Dayne Cordray (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 126: Ryan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 132: Reese Thornburg (MEDI) over Will Larson (FOMA) (Dec 7-1) 138: Nathan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Daryun Kreft (MEDI) (Dec 15-11) Fort Madison (FOMA) 60.00 Iowa City Liberty

(ICL) 16.00

132: Jared Alger (ICL) over Will Larson (FOMA) (MD 11-3) 138: Kaleb Williams (ICL) over Nathan Steffensmeier (FOMA) (Dec 9-3) 145: Aaron Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Klein Thoensen (ICL) (Fall 2:23) 152: Harlan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Ashton Barker (ICL) (Fall 0:54) 160: Jacob Morgan (ICL) over Keaton Poe (FOMA) (Dec 6-2) 170: Chance Hocker (FOMA) over Jacob Ganoe (ICL) (Fall 0:15) 182: Gavin Luze (ICL) over Lennon Barker (FOMA) (Fall 2:59) 195: Alex Lauber (FOMA) over (ICL) (For.) 220: Sam Hayes (FOMA) over Andres Estrada (ICL) (Fall 0:16) 285: Danen Settles (FOMA) over (ICL) (For.) 106: Elton Kruse (FOMA) over Nick Miller (ICL) (Fall 1:13) 113: Mason Schau (FOMA) over Brody Fishman (ICL) (Fall 0:49) 120: Dayne Cordray (FOMA) over Mike Luyeye (ICL) (Fall 1:04) 126: Ryan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over (ICL) (For.)

Crusaders learning lessons on the road

CRUSADERS - Continued from Page 4

their own 8-5 run with Marlow accounting for six points to make it 30-38 HTC at the end of the third. Hellige said West Burlington made adjustments throughout the game to stop HTC's momentum at different points, specifically switching up defenses to slow Hellige in the paint and Fehseke on the perimeter.

"I think they started keying just a little bit. Matt's a little crafty for his size under there and sometimes teams underestimate that," Hellige said. "I think they made an adjustment and covered him up there. He's a good coach and good coaches adjust - and good teams adjust."

"I was proud of our effort," Hellige said. "We keep taking steps in the right direction and grow a little each day. I feel like they're learning our system. Were taking little steps forward every time. Our plays were way out of whack the first two games and we're still not there, but we're getting closer."

Holy Trinity ended a four-game road stretch with the loss, but gets it's first home test on Friday night as Cardinal of Eldon rolls into town.





Above, HTC senior Collin Thornton goes up for a shot in the first half against West Burlington. At left, sophomore Matt Hellige looks for a passing lane or room to drive against several Falcon defenders. The Crusaders lost 51-57 to fall to 1-3 on the year.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC









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Celebrations/Local News

want to be. Let's remem-

ber what they voted on.

They didn't want an \$8.5

million building, they wanted us to fix these."

County Budget Di-

rector Cindy Renstrom

budget amendment hear-

ing to move a \$475,000

appropriation into the

funds to cover the costs

of the repairs. The board

local option sales tax

voted 5-0, to set the

at 9 a.m.

board:

public hearing on the

amendment for Dec. 19

In other action, the

approved, 5-0 to

Association of Counties,

which will allow county

employees to utilize the

services of the national

group as well as provid-

card for residents of Lee

County. The cost to enroll

picked up by the regional

a full-time replacement

maintenance foreman for

the Secondary Roads de-

partment for an employee

approved 5-0 to

appoint Larry Kruse and

Kathy Gabel to the coun-

approved, 5-0 an

ty compensation board.

amended sheriff's fee

resolution that correct-

ed a fee for acquiring a

to \$40 for five years.

firearm from \$15 per year

approved, 5-0 to hire

ing a health discount

was \$500 but that was

county association.

that was retiring.

enroll in the National

asked the board for a

Board starting to divide on costs

COURTHOUSE - Continued from Page 1

that was by the architect, but last week I heard you and Ed admit that it was going to be higher than that," Fedler said. "The estimate for tuckpointing was 90K and we're five times that much. If tuckpointing estimates were that far off, how far off is the \$1.5 million total. It's common sense. Its going to be far more than the

Hanson said he was not part of the study at that point.

Supervisor Don Hunold said he was voting for the extra \$4,000 but cautioned everyone that the costs are already out of line.

"I'm just saying these bids original and estimates are so far off it's not even funny," Hunold

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST



<u>OpenWeatherMap</u>



to the folks and said we're looking at building a new courthouse what do you think, these were the numbers we used instead of these super-realistic numbers. All of a sudden we're damn close to a million dollars - we're not there yet - but we're gonna get there and that's just one building."

"Why are we second guessing the tax payers here. They spoke," Pflug said.

At that point, Board Chair Rick Larkin cut him off and then asked for a vote and the motion then passed 4-1 with Ron Fedler voting against the extra spending.

After the meeting, Pflug said he represented the whole county and was moving the direction taxpayers had indicated.

"We represent the tax payers is all I"m saying. They spelled out what they wanted here and this shouldn't get back into whether I want one building or buildings in both cities," Pflug said.

"We have to do what tax payers have asked us to do. It's not like we're spend an ungodly amount of money here. We knew this going into it that it would take x amount of money to get these buildings fixed. I do represent the whole county and that's where I'm coming from and I think we'll get where we

> We're not just building a school, we're building futures!



Celebrations

LYDIA BELL IRENE JENKINS

FORT MADISON - Pen City Current congratulates Caleb and Amber Jenkins on the birth of their daughter Lydia Bell Irene Jenkins.

Lydia was born on Oct. 27, 2017 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. She is welcomed home by brother Isaiah and Greyson Jenkins.

Grandparents are Trish and Steve Umthun of Fort Madison, Gene and Dan Hartman of Dewitt, Iowa, Cliff Stewart III (deceased) and Jeff Jenkins (deceased). Great-grandparents are Aida McCoy of Fort Madison Iowa and Donia and Adrian Buechel (deceased) of Fort Madison, Iowa.

City looking to fill board seats

BY PCC STAFF FORT MADISON - The City of Fort Madison is accepting applications for vacancies on all appointed boards, commissions and committees. Applications can be found at www. fortmadison-ia.com or through the City Clerk's office at 811 Avenue E. This application process is an effort to ensure diversity and representation of the community. Submit completed applications at the office of the City Clerk during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All applicants must

be at least 18 years of age. These are uncompensated positions. All applications are subject to the open records laws of the State of Iowa.

Members are needed for the following boards and commissions: Airport, Planning & Zoning, Civil Service, Old Fort, Historic Preservation, Tourism, Parks

Interested persons may contact the City Clerk at (319) 372-7700, ext. 206 or mblind@fortmadison-ia.com for more information or an application.



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