



Pen City Current

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! Friday, March 17, 2017 | 12 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 75

Flexibility key to DuPont's 80 years

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Being able to adjust to changing markets and the constant acquisition environment in a global world has kept Fort Madison's DuPont facility viable for the past 80 years.

DuPont is celebrating its 80th birthday this year and you can probably decorate that cake with candles representing different products, divisions, lines and other changes in their product sales line, including a new

one this fall when DuPont joins with Dow Chemicals. The two companies have announced a merger that Plant Manager John Hellige said will likely impact the local facility in the third or fourth quarter this year.

"That's all public now," he said Thursday afternoon. "I'm not sure it will have that big of an impact on our staffing out of the gate, but it's very exciting news."

An article in Reuters in late January said the merger would take place later in the year, but a recent article found in the



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

In the lab

DuPont's Jesse Puga keeps a close eye on the monitor Thursday in the lab at the facility. DuPont is celebrating 80 years this year and the company is in the process of closing in on a merger that would partner with Dow Chemicals. At left, Joe Clark mans the tanks on the production floor at DuPont.

Houston Business Journal indicated the close of the deal could happen as early as the second quarter. Hellige said the last he heard would be the third or fourth quarter.

The facility started as a tire manufacturer called Perfection, which history indicates made tires for larger automotive manufacturers like Ford, and possibly made tires for the military in World War II.

"On the water tower, which is the high rise part, there's concrete wheels on all four sides

"I'm not sure it will have that big of an impact on our staffing out of the gate, but it's very exciting news"

-John Hellige,
DuPont Plant
Manager

and what that represents is Perfection which built the facility pre 1917s," Hellige said. "We're not even sure that they did make tires, but that's the history, there have been photos of workers moving tires around here, but nothing is certain."

At the time there was a large blackpowder plant in Keokuk, the largest blackpowder plant in the world. I think what happened is that the Fort Madison Chamber

See **DUPONT**, page 12

Small group looks at community assessment

There's a saying that goes something like... never underestimate the ability of a small group of people to change the world, because that's how it usually happens.

On Thursday morning, nine people met at the Fort Madison United Methodist Church for some potato pancakes,

eggs, fruit and pastries and a roundtable discussion on what "isn't" going on in Fort Madison that should be.

The question brought a healthy discussion from representatives of the health industries, local churches, local police, Chamber of Commerce and media.

The meeting was moderated and arranged by Lanette Van of the Fort Madison United Methodist Church and after about 10 minutes of talking amongst the tables, a conversation began that raised eyebrows as to what we really are missing in our community.

The conversation quickly turned to the health care field, both physical and mental health issues. Do we have the infrastructure to deal with supplying transportation and access to residents struggling with getting to

See **NEEDS**, page 12



Lee County Emergency preparedness week at hand

PCC STAFF
March 27-31, 2017, is Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa. Lee County Emergency Management Agency, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency

Management, and the National Weather Service have joined together to promote severe weather awareness and preparedness during this week.

Changing seasons bring unsettled weather. Steve

Cirinna, Lee County Emergency Management Coordinator, encourages everyone to be prepared and know how to stay safe during and after the storm. You never know when a storm may hit,

creating potential electrical hazards, damage to your home or property, or injuries. The best solution is to plan ahead and be prepared.

For each day during Severe Weather Aware-

ness Week it is suggested that you review a different subject that will help you get prepared for the anticipated storms that will strike our area.

Monday - Severe Thun-
See **STORMS**, page 10

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For the Record

For the Record

Lee County Sheriff's Department Report

03/14/17 - no time given - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested a juvenile at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a charge of 5th degree criminal mischief. The juvenile was assigned to juvenile court.

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03/14/17 - 8:08 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Carl Francis Scharpmaan, 75, of West Point in the 2300 block of 110th Street in West Point on a charge of criminal trespass. He was cited and released.

03/14/17 - 10:46 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Codey Lane Page, 40, of Montrose, in the 3200 block of 220th Avenue in Montrose on a charge of interference with official acts. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

03/15/17 - 7:52 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident near milemarker 22 on Hwy 218. A vehicle driven by Sara Isabel Greenhalgh, 23, of Minneapolis, Minn., was traveling south on Hwy 218 went off on the right

shoulder. According to reports, Greehalgh over corrected and lost control spinning into the west ditch and rolling over at least one time, striking a power line pole and coming to rest on it's wheels. Both Greenhalgh and a passenger, Ethan Vaughn Rasmussen, 24, of Brooklane Park, Minn. were transported to FMCH. No citations were issued at the scene.

03/15/17 - 8:53 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Andrew Hayes, 48, of Fort Madison was arrested at the Lee County Jail on two counts of serious injury by vehicle, one count of OWI-first offense and one count of driving on the wrong side of the highway. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.

03/15/17 - 2:09 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Johnathan Gage Anderson, 20, of Keokuk in the 3500 block of Lake Road and charged with one count of possession of a controlled substance. He was cited and released on a promise to appear.

03/15/17 - 2:45 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Keith Edward Beaty, 46, of Keokuk in the 1100 block of Cramer Lane in Keokuk, on one count of failure to appear-criminal contempt, one count of criminal mischief - 5th degree, one

count of simple assault and one count of obstructing an emergency call. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law



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FMHS Basketball Awards



Boys Varsity Letter winners

From left to right, Landon Bentley, Kaleb Cresswell, Brandon Keester, Treavor James-Kokjohn, Landon Bentley, CJ Richardson, Alonzo Riles, Austin Rose. The Bloodhounds were coached by Head Coach Ryan Wilson, Jeremy Beelman and Jayson Wulf. At right, Kaleb Cresswell holds his 1st Team Southeast Conference All-Conference selection certificate.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Varsity girls Letter winners

Front row from left to right, Taylor Shannon, Braxton McGhghy, Anna Kester, Kamryn Bailey. Back row left to right, Mariah Trimble, Mercedes Trimble, Brittiney Harris, Amber Dilsaver, Emily Mitchell and Katie Larson with Coach Knipe. Missing are Jassmine Bass and Sara Bernhardt.



All-Academic girls

These junior and seniors maintained a 3.25 gpa while participating on the basketball team. From left, Taylor Shannon, Brittiney Harris, Amber Dilsaver, Emily Mitchell, Katie Larson and Kamryn Bailey.



2nd Team All-Conference

Treavor James-Kokjohn, left, and CJ Richardson were named to the Southeast Conference 2nd-Team All Conference squad for their performances in the 2016-2017 season.



2nd Team All-Conference

Mercedes Trimble, left, and Amber Dilsaver were named to the Southeast Conference 2nd-Team All Conference squad for their performances in the 2016-2017 season.

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FMHS Basketball Awards



Honorable Mention

Brittiney Harris, left, and Mariah Trimble were named to the Southeast Conference Honorable Mention All Conference squad for their performances in the 2016-2017 season.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



All-Academic Boys

Treavor James-Kokjohn and Austin Rose maintained a 3.25 gpa while participating for the Bloodhound basketball team.



Honorable Mention

Logan Rashid, left, Landon Bentley, center and CJ Richardson were named to the Southeast Conference Honorable Mention All Conference squad for their performances in the 2016-2017 season.

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Jayvee Squad

Front row from left; Braxtyn McGhghy, Laine Kuntz, Maddie McVey. Back Row - Coach Carrie Burken, Dalyn Wondra, Rachel Joachim, Coach Kent Bailey, Anna Kester, Katie Larson, Girls missing are Jassmine Bass, Jada Lamm, Eleesha Estrada, Sarah Bernhardt and Jackie Hayes.

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HELP WANTED

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products, is seeking a **Maintenance Electrician** for the Fort Madison, Iowa location.

The Maintenance Electrician will perform detailed mechanical, instrumentation, and electrical troubleshooting, repair, and preventative maintenance on plant process, utility, and packaging equipment. This position will perform multi-discipline maintenance and electrical work and maintain appropriate documentation.

This position requires a High School Diploma/GED, PLC Technician and Electrical Educational Courses. Candidates should be able to demonstrate the technical skills required to install/service a variety of systems in addition to program, repair, and maintain programmable logic controller systems (PLC) used in a high speed industrial packaging facility. Individual must be committed to maintaining a safe and clean work environment and complying with regulations and policies. This position must be available to work any shift and overtime as needed.

Minimum five years' experience in an electrical maintenance field in a manufacturing environment. For expanded job details and to apply visit <http://www.scottsmiraclegro.com/careers> and search for Req 2221.

Scotts is an Equal Opportunity Employer

HELP WANTED

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products, is seeking an **Inventory Coordinator** for the Fort Madison, Iowa location.

The Inventory Coordinator (Warehouse Stager) is responsible for the inventory management of multiple production components. This includes physical counts and inventory reconciliation before, after and during production campaigns.

This position requires a High School Diploma/GED, strong math skills, and the ability to follow directions provided in verbal or non-verbal format. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a willingness to learn multiple job assignments, able to utilize Microsoft Office and Google Chrome, safely operate a fork truck in a manufacturing environment, excellent prioritization skills and the ability to perform multiple simultaneous tasks, with interruptions. This position must be available to work any shift and overtime as needed.

Minimum one year experience in a manufacturing or warehouse environment and past SAP experience. For expanded job details and to apply visit <http://www.scottsmiraclegro.com/careers> and search for Req 2124.

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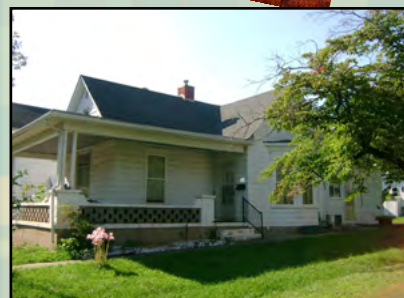
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Country living in the city! Large fenced lot with garden including blackberry bushes, grapes, rhubarb, and asparagus, along with apple and peach trees. Large shop attached to the garage and a storage shed. Sit on the front deck and enjoy the country scenery! In Farmington.
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**3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres**
Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.
Listing #20163951 • \$129,000



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



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



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



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



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



**3 BR • 2 BA • 1 car garage
2,260 sq. ft.
6,784 sq. ft. lot**
Lots of new! Semi open floor plan, new flooring, great open basement family space, and many updates including heat/air units, kitchen back splash, counters and more! Fenced in back yard with stamped concrete patio and awning. Call today to see this great home in a quiet neighborhood.
Listing #20164544 • \$139,900



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



**3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres**
Quality and beauty! Many updates and upgrades including a new concrete patio/carport with surround sound and mood lighting, new kitchen, bath and lighting throughout. This is an AMAZING house that you MUST see to appreciate!!!
Listing #20164622 • \$92,500



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

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

Listing #20162159 • \$164,000



SOLD

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

Listing #20162507 • \$109,900



PENDING

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

Listing #20163035 • \$52,000



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

Listing #20164148 • \$72,500



SOLD

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

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

Listing #20160368 • \$59,900



REDUCED

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

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

Listing #20161431 • \$42,500



REDUCED

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

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

Listing #23006122 • \$99,999



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

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

Listing #20160805 • \$460,000



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

Listing #20164161 • \$62,500



NEW

**3 BR • 2.50 BA
2 car garage • 1,194 sq. ft. 10,400 sq. ft. lot**
Great family home is move-in ready. Nice-sized kitchen with all appliances, dining area, and nice living room all on the upper level. Completely re-modeled family room with a wood burning fireplace on lower level. Many updates include newer flooring, roof and HVAC system.

Listing #20164531 \$114,900



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**2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
733 sq. ft. • 9,116 sq. ft. lot**
Country living in the city! Large fenced lot with garden including blackberry bushes, grapes, rhubarb, and asparagus, along with apple and peach trees. Large shop attached to the garage and a storage shed. Sit on the front deck and enjoy the country scenery! In Farmington.
Listing #20163103 • \$39,999



**3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres**
Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.
Listing #20163951 • \$129,000



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



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



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



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



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



**3 BR • 2 BA • 1 car garage
2,260 sq. ft.
6,784 sq. ft. lot**
Lots of new! Semi open floor plan, new flooring, great open basement family space, and many updates including heat/air units, kitchen back splash, counters and more! Fenced in back yard with stamped concrete patio and awning. Call today to see this great home in a quiet neighborhood.
Listing #20164544 • \$139,900



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



**3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres**
Quality and beauty! Many updates and upgrades including a new concrete patio/carport with surround sound and mood lighting, new kitchen, bath and lighting throughout. This is an AMAZING house that you MUST see to appreciate!!!
Listing #20164622 • \$92,500

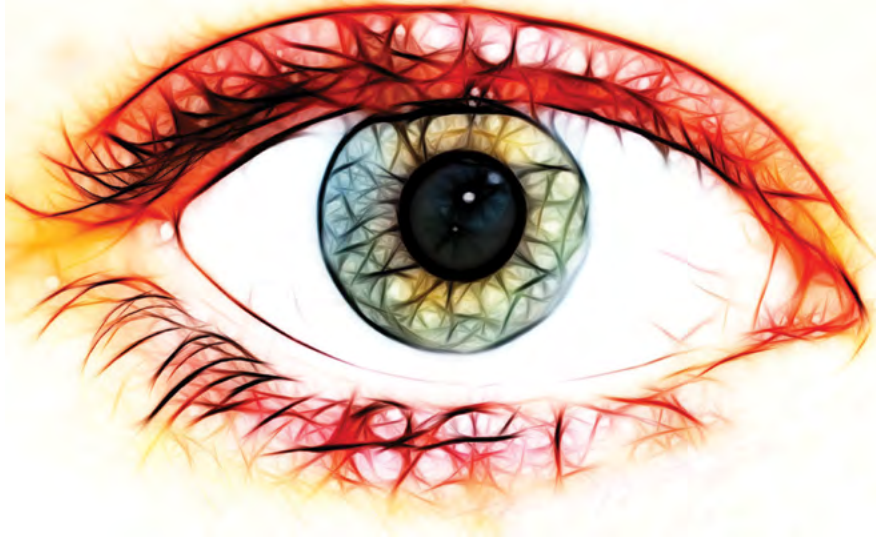


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Get checklist ready for storm season

STORMS - Continued from Page 1

derstorms

Tuesday - Receiving
Warning Information

Wednesday - Torna-
does

Thursday - Family Pre-
paredness

Friday - Flooding

The highlight of Severe Weather Awareness Week is the annual tornado drill scheduled for Wednesday, March 29. A test watch will be issued, by the National Weather Service, at 10:00 am, followed by a test warning at 10:15 am and a Severe Weather Statement to terminate the test warning at 10:30 am. Schools, businesses, state and local governments and individuals are strongly encouraged to participate in the drill.

The weather service will activate the all-hazards weather radio system and Emergency Alert System (EAS). The Cities of Keokuk and Fort Madison are planning on activating their outdoor warning sirens. The sirens will be turned on and confirmed

that they are working and then be turned off.

In the event of severe weather in Iowa on Wednesday, March 29th, the drill will be postponed until Thursday, the 30th of March according to Cirinna. "The drill can be postponed by the National Weather Service if severe weather is threatening other parts of the state since this is a state-wide drill. We do not want to confuse anyone with a test if there is a true threat to life or property and we want citizens to take immediate action to protect themselves."

All residents, no matter where you live, are urged to purchase an all hazards weather radio from a local retailer if they have not done so already. As the siren system is an outdoor warning system and may not necessarily be heard by those who are indoors or are not nearby a siren, the weather radio is designed to work indoors. Plus there are many areas in the county such as the

rural areas and housing developments outside the city limits who cannot hear the outdoor warning sirens. If individuals need assistance programming their radio they can contact Lee County Emergency Management, 319-372-4124, for assistance.

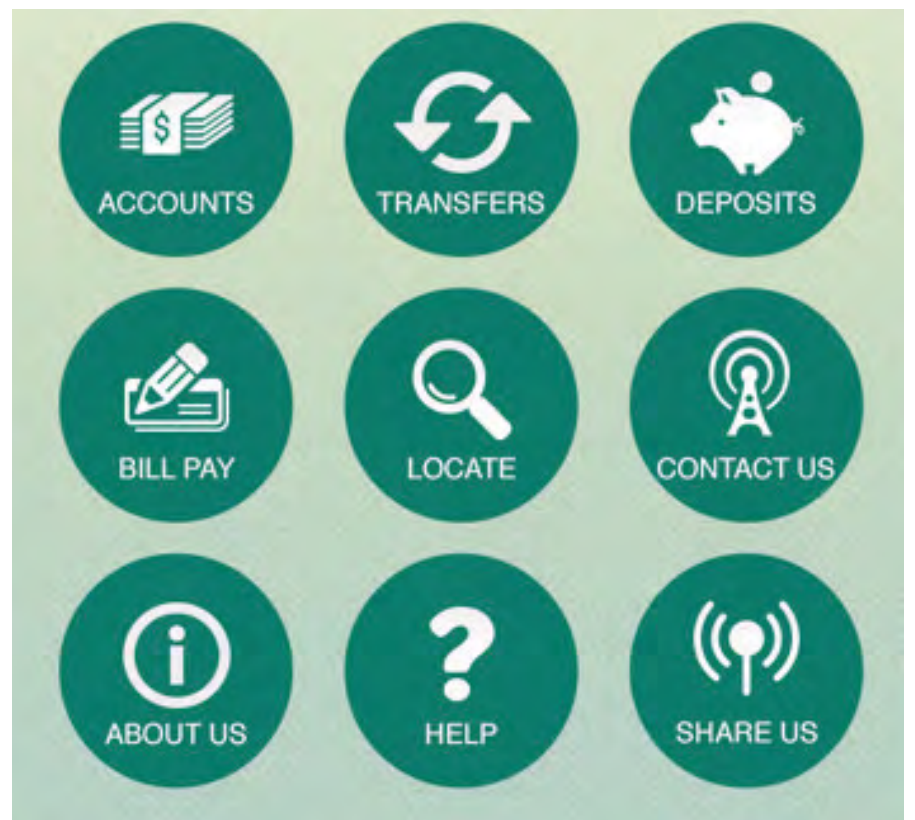
Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management will post information on individual and family preparedness at www.beready.iowa.gov. The National Weather Service the National Weather Service (NWS) will promote severe weather safety on their websites and by issuing informative public information statements.

Additional information about severe weather, emergency preparedness and family safety can be found at www.ready.gov or www.beready.iowa.gov. You can also follow Lee County Iowa Emergency Management on Facebook and Twitter for helpful tips and other information.

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From the Front

DuPont employees are generational

DUPONT - Continued from Page 1

worked with DuPont and the company purchased the facility from the city and began retrofitting the sight. In 1937 they began producing thinners.

Hellige said the DuPont story is one of evolutions.

"Throughout the years we've taken plans through infancy and maturity and decline. We continue to retrofit the site and utilize our assets, our equipment and our knowledge through our employees to keep staying viable," he said.

Since that time in 1937, Hellige said the company has gone through product lines such as paint thinners, automotive resins, automotive paint, and then into residential house paint, and the early 1990s is when we started to get into ink.

The evolution continues today as the facility is involved in solar energy by creating tevlar polyvinyl film for the solar panel backsheets. The facility also creates inks for the artistry and textile industries and then some specialty dispersions called Nomex that is used in fabrics for firefighters and police uniforms.

The main process in the facility is known as dispersion.

Hellige said that's a process of taking raw material and a liquid and grinding it and making it into a homogenous liq-

uid," Hellige said. "Ninety percent of our business is digital printer ink. We take a pigment and liquid and grind it. We add water and get the product to the right specification.

The really growing part of our business is textile and artistry ink. Fabrics such as t-shirts, that's a big end user of that, and then draperies and upholstery.

Hellige started as a non-exempt employee at Pinnacle and then moved into supervisory roles before moving into management and then being hired by DuPont.

He said even his family has roots in DuPont including his father-in-law, who also worked at DuPont.

"That's one of the main things here is it's so generational," Hellige said. "Being a proud member of the Fort Madison community. In the past 80 years, we've become deep-rooted in the community. Most people in this area either know someone who worked here or have family that worked here. It's really one of the greatest things about working here."

At times, before heavy automation, the plant had an employee base of anywhere from 200 to 300 employees. Hellige said currently the facility runs with about 72 employees and said they are pretty steady with that number.

"These employees aren't your typical factory workers," Hellige said. "They function more like chemists than your typical factory labor force. It's pretty specialized."

Hellige said the company also prides itself on a safe working environment indicating it's been 1,300 days since the last injury.

"We're working on 3.5 years without an accident. "Really that's the number one thing we do above everything else, making sure we take care of our employees. That's absolutely number 1."

Community involvement has also been a part of the company's 80 years in Fort Madison.

"We support the community in different ways. We've donated the walking trail and that's been good. We have our native prairie lands and we've been acknowledged by several groups for sustaining that. We also have numerous species of Iowa hardwood trees leading up the road to the plant. That area used to just be hayed. We have more than 100 acres of land on the site and we always look to see how we can be beneficial to the environment with that space," he said.

After Axalta spun off in Feb. 2013, Hellige said people kind of forgot that DuPont was out here.

"We're alive and well in the community," he said.

Needs list includes councils, interaction, and volunteers

NEEDS - Continued from Page 1

proper health care.

After the ice was broken, a full-on list of areas the community is falling or, has fallen, behind on came forth.

What to do to get children out of social media trances and focus them on social activities. An issue that has been ever-present with this generation.

More faith-based organizations engaged with the community. Several discussions were spurred by this as church leaders and law enforcement harkened back to a day when church councils were powerful and influential groups that propped up a majority of the other efforts in a community. Van asked for church leaders at the meeting to stick around after for another discussion on related topics.

Volunteerism and what hurdles are in the way. The group talked about a different dynamic in place today where both parents are typically working and volunteerism has taken a back seat to fatigued parents and single-parent households.

Information sharing is at a poor level. Newer residents and younger families aren't finding information on what pro-



grams are available in the community as far as social and faith-based programming.

Centrally located and organized emergency support for indigent people or people with addictions who have turned to crime or dependency over production. This would include homes or shelters for those in need of a place for a night or two away from disruptive relationships or the elements.

Social interaction is at an all-time low. We don't speak to our neighbors as much as we used to. Why is that? Has society scared us away from our neighbors when we move into a neighborhood. That used to be the support system outside of family and now we stay inside and look out our windows.

We're missing to a degree that sense of community that was prevalent in the past generation. People will talk a lot about what needs to be done but very few step up and do it. We're fortunate to have the groups of people in

this town that are willing to step up, but one panelist said it was more common now to give a donation because people don't have the time or energy to want to actually put some hours in on a project. So the same people keep doing it and then, maybe rightly so, try to back off so others can take a lead. But it's a rare occasion when someone else steps in to lead.

It was a very eye-opening conversation with a small group of people and what comes of it who knows. The plan is to now start working the neighborhoods and ask people how they feel along the same lines.

Hopefully, the conversation leads to a bigger conversation and then to some changes. Again, just a small group of people trying to pull back the curtains and take a fresh look at our community. To help foster and continue the dialogue is a win in itself.

But that's Beside the Point.



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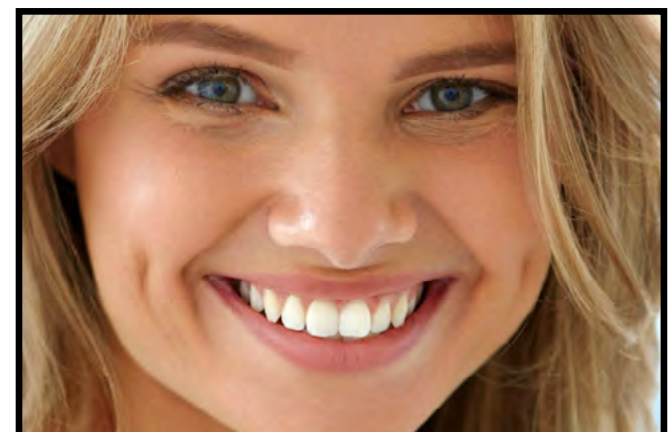


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