



Pen City Current

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 | 6 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 82

City moves on with new garbage plans

Current solid waste fee would be scrapped in favor of monthly garbage cart fee

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - City officials approved a proposal to buy 4,300 trash cans that will be required at each city address in the coming months.

At Tuesday's regular city council meeting, councilmen, city officials, and residents talked for more than an hour about the new program that would mandate city residents to either purchase a 65-gallon or 95-gallon roll-away garbage cart at a cost not to exceed \$267,000. The measure was approved 5-1 with Councilman Kevin Rink voting against the purchase.

Laura Liegois, a consultant with Municipal Connections, the company the city has contracted to help inform the public about the new program, said it will help keep the

community cleaner.

Currently, city residents pay a \$15 solid waste fee as part of their water/sewer bill. That bill includes picking up a maximum of two 40lb cans. That fee and program would be eliminated in lieu of the purchase of at least one of the two new carts. The 65-gallon cart would still be at the \$15/month cost, while the 95-gallon can would be \$17.50 per month. The smaller one is projected to hold six to eight 13-gallon trash bags, and the larger can is projected to hold 10-12 13-gallon bags.

Residents will not have the option of declining the program and the city will own the carts.

Public Works Director Larry Driscoll said the program will go a long way in helping reduce the occurrences of trash just being thrown behind properties. Building Director Doug Krogmeier showed



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison City Councilman Rusty Andrews, right, looks at the new garbage carts the city agreed to purchase on Tuesday. The carts will be mandated for all city addresses.

the group about 12 slides where trash was piled up behind homes and hidden in overreaching weeds and tall grass.

"If we're going with these containers and they have it in a certain location, we put it back at the location," Driscoll said. "We just won't leave it in the alley. If it's next to the garage it will be returned to the garage."

Varley said he's been part of complete transitions to automated collection in other cities and said the

elderly were surprised how easy it was to move the carts. But he said if there are special occasions, the city will try to make things as customer friendly as possible.

City Councilman Robert Morawitz said he was concerned about terraced homes in his district and residents who would have to roll the carts all the way down to the street. Varley said the issue would really be similar to what they are doing now, but the city

could look at neighborhood protocols that may allow the carts to be left on the curblin of the street. Morawitz also said he was concerned with purchasing the carts before the logistics had been worked out.

"The biggest issue I have with this is that we haven't taken care of the logistical issues before we do the purchase. I think we're doing it backwards. We should figure out how to take care of these issues

See TRASH, page 6

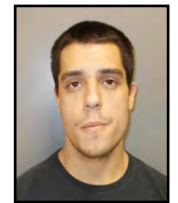
FM man nabbed after car chase

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - An early morning high speed chase through Fort Madison and north Lee County led to an arrest of a 29-year-old Fort Madison man.

Fort Madison police tried to execute a stop on a broken headlight at about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday morning on a vehicle allegedly driven by Adam James Huss, Huss fled in the vehicle through Fort Madison's east end hitting speeds exceeding 75 mph down Avenue E toward Highway 61.

The chase turned north with two Fort Madison Police vehicles



HUSS

and a Lee County Sheriff's deputy in pursuit. Law enforcement pursued Huss north on Hwy 61 hitting speeds of more than 90 mph. Huss turned onto the Hwy 61 bypass north of Fort Madison and led law enforcement north to Wever.

Several attempts were made to slow the vehicle on 61 including Lee County Sheriff's deputies pulling in front of Huss

See CHASE, page 3



Four LCHD staffers were recently honored with a National Family Support Professional certification.

LCHD staff gets certifications

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - On February 23, 2018, four Lee County Health Department's HOPES/Healthy Families America program staff received a National Family Support Professional Certification award from the Institute for Advancement of Family Support Professionals. This award certifies these staff members have satisfactorily proven mastery of the National Core Competencies for Family Support Professionals. Three

of LCHD's Family Support Workers and the HOPES/HFA Program Manager had to take a competency skills test based on their role and pass the certification test by a score of 80 or higher.

Staff who were awarded the certification and pictured at left include Amy Cook, Family Support Worker with LCHD since 2012, Laura DeFord, Family Support Worker with LCHD since 2013, Laurie Mullins, Family Support Worker

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JASON WAYNE POHREN

Jason Wayne Pohren, 39, of Hamilton, IL, went to be with the Lord on March 19, 2018.



POHREN

He was born on September 28, 1978 in Burlington, IA, the son of Gary Wayne and Norma Jean Church Pohren. Jason graduated from Keokuk Senior High with the Class of 1997.

After his high school graduation he was selected to enter the pipefitter apprenticeship program.

He successfully completed the four-year program and attained journeyman status as a pipefitter and welder. Jason then entered Western Illinois University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration.

He later attended Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale, IL where he graduated with highest honors,

Magna Cum Laude. He was awarded the academic excellence award and the Illinois Legislative Scholarship by the late Representative Richard P. Myers. During his law school career, he served as a judicial intern of Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier. Jason also served as a law clerk for the SIU Ombudsman's Office where he authored criminal appeals for college students.

After graduation from WIU he accepted employment with the Hamilton, IL Police Department and was named "Top Cop" by the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists in 2002, 2003 and 2004. He was also awarded the Life Saving Medal and the Investigation Commendation Medal.

After graduation from law school, he began employment with the Milwaukee, WI based personal injury law firm of Hausmann-McNally, S.C. He was employed with the firm for six years and prac-

ticed law in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Federal District Court of the Northern District of Illinois. As an attorney with Hausmann-McNally, he successfully tried over one hundred cases before jury trial, arbitration and mediation. Jason managed the firm's Rockford, IL office and was responsible for representing the firm in Freedom of Information Act litigation in the State of Illinois. In addition, he served as an Arbitrator and Arbitration Chairperson for the 17th Judicial District. He also attended Northwestern University where he received training in Divorce and Civil Mediation. While employed with Hausmann-McNally, Jason maintained his law enforcement certifications and served as a patrolman and field training officer on a part-time basis for the Hamilton and Nauvoo Police Departments.

Jason was elected to be the Hancock County State's Attorney in 2014

and was currently serving in that office. He had recently been nominated to the office of President of the Hancock County Bar Association for 2018. Most recently he started Midwest Family Mediation which provided professional family mediation services for the 9th Judicial Circuit of Illinois and the 8th Judicial Circuit of Iowa.

He was a member of the Golden Point Christian Church in Hamilton, IL, the Hancock County Republican Central Committee, the Hancock County Teen Court Board, the Illinois Bar Association and the Hancock County Bar Association.

Jason was a gifted woodworker and one of his special projects was crafting a quilt cabinet for his mother. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting and being involved in community activities. Jason especially enjoyed spending time with his son, Juris and helping

him with his athletic and academic endeavors. They enjoyed playing video games together and watching baseball games. Jason and Juris made a special trip to the East coast for a major league baseball game tour.

His is survived by his son, Juris Pohren, his fiancé, Phoebe Wilson of Carthage, IL, one sister, Kimberly Taylor (Brett) of Cedar Rapids, IA, one brother, Michael Wayne Pohren of Burlington, IA, one uncle & aunt, Steve & Paula Pohren of Farmington, IA, four nephews, Colton Pohren of Burlington, IA, Clayton Pohren of Middletown, IA, Jadon Taylor and Wesley Taylor both of Cedar Rapids, IA, one great-nephew, Jensen Adams of Lewistown, MO, cousins, Chris and Terra Pohren of Farmington, IA, great-aunt and uncle, Jo & Terry Havel of Lone Tree, IA, several great aunts, his future mother-in-law, Lois Wilson of Carthage IL, future sister-in-law Debbie

Boyles and husband Tony and their children, Holly, Johnathan and Cole, his best friends, Jason Zenk and Nick Jamerson, and many other friends and co-workers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother in infancy, Gary Pohren, Jr., his maternal and paternal grandparents, one aunt, Deborah Chevonic and one cousin, Laura Pohren

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday at the First Christian Church, 3476 Main Street in Keokuk with Pastor Larry Menschel officiating. Burial will be in the Harmony Cemetery in rural Carthage, IL.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Friday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 5 - 8 p.m. A memorial of the family's choosing will be established.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.com.

Spring Cleaning

Keep it green!

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too! Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
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Opinion/From the Front

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Let's Do The Right Thing

Dear Editor;
I know when people go to read this letter the comment may be that this is just a retired former teacher and former school board member wanting a new school. I am not going to give you the educational information on why we need a new school since you have heard it many times in the past two years. That information has not changed, so I will not restate it again. I am retired and living on a fixed income as many of you are. But, I know that if we are going to have new schools, roads, and many things completed in our community, it must be done with taxes. No one wants to pay more taxes, but if we want to continue to grow and prosper we need to step forward and get things done.

I read about the many questions that people pose about the new school and why it is needed. Before you vote and make a decision, I ask you to go and get answers to your questions. Ask the people of the FMCSD! Ask the school administration, teachers, principals, parents, students about your concerns with a new school. Take the time to set up a tour of Richardson and Lincoln. Check out the classroom sizes, the wiring, pipes running through the buildings, tour the boiler room, check out the warning signs, and see what is taking place through out the buildings. You may be surprised! If you want to find out about all the myths about the new Middle School, do the same and go check the school out and ask questions. Again, you may be surprised. The school district has done a fantastic job keeping the new elementaries running and safe for our students and teachers this past 100 years. You will also see many smiling and happy faces on our students and teachers working and doing a fantastic job. While you are at it, check out the student achievement scores and activities in our district and the state report cards on our district. You might be surprised on how well the district is doing with what they have to work with. What could be accomplished with new modern facilities!!!

When I talk with other groups it seems to be the consensus that new schools bring businesses and industry, and people to our community. For Fort Madison and surrounding communities to grow and prosper, this might be the kick start to get that going. It is time to think about the future of our communities and what we can do to make them better and grow. This can and will be the first step in that direction.

I ask you to think about the future and vote YES on April 3.

Timm Lamb

Retired Teacher and Former School Board Member

No injuries in high-speed chase

CHASE - Continued from Page 1

who, according to dash cam videos, was swerving to keep law enforcement behind him. One deputy was able to get around Huss and tried to slow him down from the front, but Huss, who had a female passenger in the vehicle, turned into a field trying to elude officers.

A deputy collided with Huss' vehicle disabling the vehicle and officers were able to subdue Huss and take him into custody. No injuries were reported from the collision and minor damage was done to the sheriff's vehicle.

Huss was charged with eluding, driving while suspended, reckless driving, no insurance, felon in possession of offensive weapons and/or ammunition, failure to have required number of headlamps, illegal window tint, and speeding.

He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

CURRENT-LEE

HTC Bunny Hop Event – March 31

WEST POINT - HTC Bunny Hop 5K Run/Walk or 10K Run event. Saturday, March 31st beginning at the West Point Library. Registration begins at 8:00a.m. The race begins at 9 a.m. Pre-registration before March 23rd is \$20 & includes t-shirt. Registration on or after March 23rd is \$25. Drinks and light snacks will be provided for participants. Medals will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place finishers in each age group. Registration forms can be found here or www.holytrinityschools.org. [Click here](#) to download & print your registration form.

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Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
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Classifieds/Public Notices

the classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Great River Regional Waste Authority is accepting bids for the mowing of its properties located at 2092 303rd ave in Fort Madison and 111 Carbide lane in Keokuk.

Bids must be received by April 2nd by 4:00 p.m.

It is recommended that all bidders look at the properties before submitting their bids.

Bids shall be for mowing services, weed eating every week (Unless not recommended by GRRWA) and also spraying weeds if needed.

Bids need to be sent to: Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2092 303rd Ave. Fort Madison Iowa 52627 and to the Attention of: Wade Hamm.

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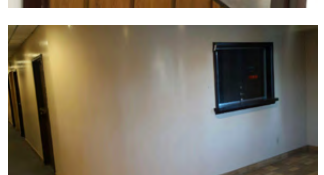
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From the Front/Weather

City staff to hold meetings on new program

TRASH - Continued from Page 1

about elderly people, and people on terraced areas with no alleys and how we're going to pick it up. We're buying this stuff and how are we going to use it now," Morawitz said.

Varley said the city could try to address those issues in neighborhoods and then would have a good idea of how to head off some issues prior to rolling out the carts.

Councilman Mark Lair asked at what point would the city charge extra if people came by and put their trash in someone else's cart.

"We can 'if' this thing to death," Varley said. "But if something like what you said happens we'll put it on the lift and if it goes in we're gonna take it."

Councilman Travis Sie-del said you can't wax your

car til you buy it.

"These are just things that are going to have to be tweaked. As usual, we can't please everyone, but we're just going to have iron out the wrinkles as we go," he said.

Liegeois said part of her contract is to be in Fort Madison through the delivery of the carts and to make sure communication services are being handled during the roll-out. She said three public meetings will be held prior to rolling out the program, plus a post card campaign outlining the program will also be conducted. The post card program will come out at least three weeks prior to delivery. Residents will be able to go online and pick which cart they would prefer, with the 65-gallon cart being

the default if none were chosen.

Beau Sullivan of Rehrig Pacific Co., who will be supplying the trash carts, said the carts have a 10-year lid-to-wheel warranty and the city would be responsible for picking up the cart for repair and replacing.

Liegeois said there will be a social media campaign to keep residents informed. She said there will also be an information piece included with delivery that will talk about the city's recycling program.

"I think it will be an easy painless process," Driscoll said. "It's a good investment for the city and it will help keep the community cleaner."

Councilman Rusty Andrews said the debate was good and he was happy to



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The new roll-away garbage carts the city has purchased are shown here with the 95-gallon can on the far right. The 65-gallon can is to its left compared to other current containers being used in the city.

see all the public comments and the discussion, but he said the city has issues now that have to be managed and this program can be managed as well.

In other action, the council

• voted 5-1 to approve a resolution ratifying a settlement agreement with the Teamsters Local 238, Water Dept. Morawitz voted against the resolution saying he didn't like that there were permissibles

left out of the contract. • voted 6-0 to adopt a resolution authorizing a loan agreement for \$1.7 million on water revenue capital loan notes for the city water tower rehabilitation.



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HOPES staff certified

STAFF - Continued from Page 1

with LCHD since 1998, and Missy Park, Program Manager who has been with LCHD since 2001. Lee County Health Department has been providing HOPES/Healthy Families America home visiting services to families with children ages 0-5 in Lee County since 1996 using the Healthy Families America evidenced-based model. LCHD's HOPES/HFA program is a HFA Nationally Accredited program funded by grants received from the Iowa Department of Public Health, Early Childhood Iowa Children First, and with local county support.

For more information about LCHD's home visiting program services please contact Missy Park, Program Manager at 319-372-5225.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 21 Mar	☀️	Clear Skies High – 38.1° F Low – 24.8° F
THU 22 Mar	☁️	Moderate Rain High– 40.9° F Low – 39.2° F
FRI 23 Mar	❄️	Snow High– 36.7° F Low – 33.4° F
SAT 24 Mar	❄️	Light Snow High – 39.6° F Low – 31.1° F
SUN 25 Mar	☁️	Moderate Rain High– 39.1° F Low – 34.2° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

RESURRECTION DAY SPECIALS



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