



Pen City Current

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 232

District moves ahead with facilities assessment

Hotop, Menke question whether move violates policy

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison School Board was updated Monday night on the progress of a facilities' assessment that is scheduled to take place in the coming months.

At Monday's board workshop, things got a bit tense when board members Jared Hotop and Brad Menke questioned why the recommendation from the district's facilities committee wasn't brought in front of the board.



HOTOP

Board member Brian Steffensmeier read a prepared statement to the board that indicated FMCSO Director of Operations Nic Chiri is moving forward with the facilities study with Estes Construction, a construction firm with offices in West Des Moines and Davenport, that specializes in K-12 educational planning.

The Iowa Association of School Boards has worked with Estes to create the Iowa Construction Advocate Team. The program offers what it calls an Integrated Project Delivery model which has been used by many Iowa school districts, including recently Burlington and Central Lee.

According to the statement, "Any future solution,

whether it's new construction, renovations, or additions, will require the district to pursue financing options for funding improvements."

Those possible funding sources could include a Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) which board member Carol Ross said would require a 50% +1 approval from district voters; general obligation bonds; and/ or local options sales tax, now called SAVE, funds, which would require another approved Revenue Purpose Statement. That statement would also require a 50% +1 approval.

The district last approved an RPS in September 2009 with a 54.3% approval. In August of 1999, district voters approved using local option sales tax money for

See **BOARD**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Pictured above from left to right: Arianna Brantner, Lauren Bailey, Ms. Crandall, Daisy Meierotto, and Kali Maestro with the trophy for best Iron Chef team at the Southeast Iowa Fall Iron Chef Competition.

FMHS Iron Chefs bring home the hardware

BY PCC STAFF

OTTUMWA – The Fort Madison High School Career Education Training programs have put another feather in their cap.

On Nov. 1st, the FMHS Iron Chef team competed in the 2019 Southeast Iowa Fall Iron Chef Competition at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa and brought home the title.

Seven teams traveled to Ottumwa for the challenge; Fort Madison, Burlington, Mt. Pleasant, Central Lee, Ottumwa, Pekin, and Eddyville-Blakesburg.

Ms. Crandall states, "Everyone did an amazing job, and I am extremely proud of their hard work!"

Voters to pick school, city officials today

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Voters in Lee County will go to the polls Tuesday in a heavy field of candidates for area city and township elections, along with school board seats.

For the first time in more than two decades the Fort Madison mayoral election doesn't feature an incumbent. Current Mayor Brad Randolph indicated this summer that he would not be seeking re-election to the post.

Randolph has served as mayor since the death of Steve Ireland in 2012. Fort Madison businessman, current 3rd Ward councilman, and former Lee County supervisor Matt Mohrfeld has to be considered the front-runner for the seat.

Newcomer Joe Helmick is running in a grass-roots campaign as the non-establishment candidate. Helmick's a meat cutter at Fareway Grocery and campaigns as the average Joe and fresh face of city leadership. Rodney Hoskins II is also on the ballot. Hoskins has previously run for city council.

1st Ward councilman Chris Greenwald also announced this summer that he wouldn't be returning to the council this term. Iowa State Penitentiary executive officer Rebecca Bowker, and Over the Road operator/owner Chris Sorrentino are in a ramped up battle for that seat. It's Bowker's first foray into public office. Sorrentino challenged Randolph for the mayor's seat two years ago.

The At-large seat up this election is a hotly contested seat between four-term councilman Kevin Rink and

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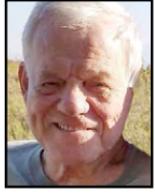
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Obituaries

STEPHEN RAY FOLKER

Stephen Ray Folker, 68, of Keosauqua, Iowa, formerly of Farmington, passed away at 6:20 p.m. Sunday, November 3, 2019, at the Keosauqua Health Care Center in Keosauqua. He was born on January 26, 1951, in Burlington, Iowa, the son of Cyrus Harold and Aletha Elizabeth (Boyd) Folker.



FOLKER

Stephen is survived by three daughters: Shelly (Ethan) Marbery of Bonaparte, Iowa, Jennifer (Todd) Hoskin of Farmington, Iowa and Cassandra (Darin) Breitenstein of Farmington, Iowa; five grandchildren: Aletha Lunsford (Ryan Groene), Alexis Overstreet, Augustus Overstreet, Adrian Breitenstein and Sara Breitenstein; three sisters: Verna (Clair) Lubke of Warsaw, Missouri, Sharon Folker of Burlington, Iowa and Delores Moser of New Boston, Illinois; two brothers: James (Roxie) Folker of Revere, Missouri and Ronald (Ellen) Folker of Statesboro, Georgia. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one infant son: Cyrus Steven Folker; four sisters: Edith Folker, Verlene Butts, Joyce Rutledge and Virginia Carnes; six brothers: Cyrus Folker, Marvin Folker, Paul Folker, Dale Folker, Norman Folker and Robert Folker.

Stephen enjoyed listening to all types of music, telling stories and most of all spending time with his grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Friday, November 8, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, November 8, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington with Pastor Chad Welch officiating. Burial will be held at Christy Cemetery, rural Mt. Sterling, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory for Farmington EMT's. The Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

#HyperLocalSuperFresh

SHARON KAY DIAL

On Thursday, October 31, 2019, Sharon Kay Dial, of Marion, IA formerly of Ottumwa and Keokuk, IA, loving daughter, mother and grandmother passed away at the age of 71, at the Dennis & Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy in Hiawatha, IA.

Sharon was born November 29, 1947 in Ottumwa, IA to Marvin and Phyllis (Heady) Scurlock. Sharon graduated from Ottumwa High School in 1966. After high school, she received a degree from Iowa Tech.



DIAL

Sharon married Ralph Dial on December 23, 1967 in Ottumwa, IA.

They started their family and later moved to Keokuk, IA, where Sharon lived until after she retired from the Keokuk Water Works in 2011.

While in Keokuk, Sharon raised four children and was a member of New Testament Christian Church.

Sharon loved traveling. She was always up for an adventure with her children and grandchildren. Later in life, as things slowed down for Sharon, she enjoyed watching HGTV and the Mollie B Polka Show.

She was grateful for the care and companionship she received from her mother in the later stage of her life.

CAROLYN KAY BOHNENKAMP

Carolyn Kay Bohnenkamp, 76, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:10 a.m. on Monday, November 4, 2019 at her home. She was born on November 18, 1942 in Fort Madison, IA to Waldo & Eloyce Carrell Washburn. She married James D. Bohnenkamp on May 24, 1959 in Fort Madison, IA. She was a waitress at the Palm's & the



BOHNENKAMP

Iowan restaurants for several years. She was a good cook and enjoyed gardening, canning, crossword puzzles, dominoes, cards & Nascar racing.

Kay is survived by: her husband: James Bohnenkamp of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sons: Jeff (Crystal) Bohnenkamp of Wever, IA & Joe Bohnenkamp of Montrose, IA; 5-grandchildren: Jason, Jake, Cory, Kayla & Zach; 4-great grandchildren: Kiley, Kasey, Braxton & Jace; 1-sister: Christi (Bill) Yaley of Fort Madison, IA; 1-sister in law: Danita Washburn of Montrose, IA & several nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by: her parents, 1-daughter in law: Lisa Bohnenkamp & 1-brother: David Washburn.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A graveside service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at Oakland Cemetery with Jan Garza officiating. A memorial has been established for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Online condolences to Kay's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.



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Keokuk, IA
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For the Record/Lottery Numbers

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

11/01/19 - 11:25 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3600 block of Avenue L.
 11/01/19 - 11:33 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of 38th Street.
 11/01/19 - 10:09 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Matthew Morris Traman, 43, of Fort Madison in the 1400 block of Avenue I, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/02/19 - 10:02 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 900 block of Avenue C.
 11/02/19 - 12:47 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 5000 block of Avenue O.
 11/03/19 - 2:29 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Avenue D.
 11/03/19 - 4:49 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue G.
 11/04/19 - 7:33 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 100 block of 2nd Street.
 11/04/19 - 7:46 a.m. - Fort Madison Police respond-

ed to a report of property damage accident in the 1800 block of Avenue E.
 11/02/19 - 12:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Esteban Costulo Gonzalez, 47, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue L, on charges of OWI 3rd offense and driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/03/19 - 5:54 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Tyler Joseph Allen Thompson, 25, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of 10th Street on a charge of criminal trespass. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/01/19 - no time listed - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Molly Rose Haynes, 27, no address listed, at the Hancock County Jail, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was held in custody.
 11/01/19 - 3 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Daphne Kay Akers, 40, of Fort Madison at the Hancock County Jail on a warrant for failure to appear and a charge of violation of probation. She was released on bond.
 11/01/19 - 7:07 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61. Accord-

ing to the report a vehicle driven by Sandra Kay Anders, 53, of Kahoka, struck a deer causing air bag deployment. Anders and a passenger were transported to Great River Medical Center for treatment.
 11/02/19 - 12:21 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Wendy Mershon Fenton, 41, of Burlington, at the 2600 block of Hwy 2, on a charge of public intoxication. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.
 11/02/19 - 12:21 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Troy William James, 49, of Farmington in the 2600 block of Hwy 2, on charges of possession of a controlled substance, public intoxication, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.
 11/03/19 - 4:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 27. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Kyle Harold Swindler, 35, of Kahoka, left to roadway due to a white Chevy Impala not yielding the lane during a pass on the left. No injuries or citations were issued. No information was available on the Impala.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

10/29/19 - Clark E Pfeiferling, age 54, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear I Failure to Pay on original charges of Battery. Pfeiferling was released once charges were satisfied.
 10/29/19 - Michael D Thurman, age 40, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Driving While License Revoked. Thurman was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 10/31/19 - Joey R Bolander, age 37, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Bolander was also arrested on Hancock County Warrants charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Suspended, Oper-

ating an Uninsured Vehicle, Unlawful Possession of Stolen Property. Bolander remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 10/31/19 - Daphne K Akers, age 40, of Plymouth, IL was arrested on a Lee County, IA Warrant charging her with Violation of Probation on original charges of Controlled Substance Violation. Akers was released to Lee County Iowa Authorities.
 10/31/19 - Blake A Rea, age 36, of Dallas City, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Attempt Aggravated Assault. Rea was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 10/31/19 - Joshua D Smith, age 40, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with

Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Smith was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/01/19 - Nathan J Kull, age 40, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Lee County Iowa Warrant charging him with Violation of Probation on original charges of Eluding and a second warrant for Theft 4th Degree. Kull remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting extradition to Iowa.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

11/02/19 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.
 11/03/19 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.



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 | Daily | Noon | 12:20 pm |
| Pick 3 - Evening | Daily | 9:40 pm | 10:00 pm |
| Pick 4 - Midday | Daily | Noon | 12:20 pm |
| Pick 4 - Evening | Daily | 9:40 pm | 10:00 pm |



11/3 MID-DAY
8 9 0
11/3 EVENING
2 5 8



11/3 MID-DAY
8 1 1 4
11/3 EVENING
2 6 0 7

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

COLUMBUS CLUB
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Wednesday "All You Can Eat" CHICKEN DINNERS

Served Every Wednesday 5:00-8:00pm

- Adults includes 2 sides & a roll \$8.00
 - Kids (ages 5-12) includes 2 sides & a roll \$5.00
 - Kids under 5 eat..... FREE
 - Carryout 4 pcs. chicken 2 sides & a roll \$8.50
 - Kids (ages 5-12) 2 pcs. chicken, 1 side & a roll..... \$5.50
 - Chicken also available by the piece [carryout only]
-

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Served Every Friday Night 5:00-8:00pm
 Dinner includes 2 sides and a roll

- 9 oz. Boneless Catfish Fillet
 - 8 oz. Steak
 - Pork Chop
 - Marinated Chicken Breast
 - Chicken Strips
 - Jumbo Shrimp
 - Tenderloins
 - Burgers
- APPETIZERS**
- Columbus Club Combo [Cauliflower, Mushrooms & Onion Rings]
 - Brew House Combo [Cream Cheese Jalapeno Poppers, Chicken Strips, Mushrooms, Shrimp, Mozzarella Sticks & Onion Rings]
 - Reuben Bites
 - Macaroni & Cheese Bites

Open to the Public for Wednesday & Friday Dinners

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Current-Lee

CURRENT-LEE

The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

YMCA Daddy Daughter Dance

The annual dance will be held Nov. 8th at the Fort Madison Elks Lodge from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$20 per couple for YMCA members, \$30 per couple for non-members. \$5 for additional children. Registration deadline is Nov. 1.

Weekly Book Sale

Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday's at the Public Library.

Flashlight Maze Nights

Each Saturday, weather permitting, the Harvestville Farm Corn Maze will be open from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. with last entry at 9:30 p.m. Bring your own flashlight. For more information call 319-470-1558.

Lighted Parade Float Work Nights

Float work nights for the annual holiday lighted parade are held every Monday starting Sept. 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 1200 Avenue I. Entrance is through the back. Call the Chamber at 319-372-5471 for more information.

Health Care Career Expo

Southeast Community College will hold a Health care career exposition on Nov. 7 for high school juniors and seniors sponsored by SCC and The Link.

Food Drive

The Keokuk Salvation Army is looking for donations to stock the Food and Soap

Pantry from Nov. 1 -18th. Drop off locations locally include American Eyecare

SCC Vendor Blender

A vendor blender will be held on Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with proceeds benefiting SCC student club activities. \$3 admission and lunch will be available in the SCC cafeteria from 11:30 to 1 p.m.

Kensington events

The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat.

Lee County Health Department clinics

LCHD will hold a Flu shot Clinic at Montrose Public Library from 9 to 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 4 and at Twin Oaks Apts in Denmark from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5. A flu shot clinic will also be held at Newberry Center in Fort Madison from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Nov. 7.

Family Connections

Lee County Health Department's Family Connections will also be held at Madison Baptist Church in Fort Madison from 5 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 4.

Fall Clean ups

The Green Team is inviting the community to a fall clean up at Fort Madison Middle School on Nov. 17 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Join their efforts to keep Fort Madison beautiful. For more information, email chamber@fortmadison.com.

LCHD 30 years of Hospice

The Lee County Health Department will be holding an open house Nov. 14 at #3 John Bennett Drive from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. to celebrate the LCHD's 30 years in Hospice service. A special presentation will be held at 4:30 p.m.

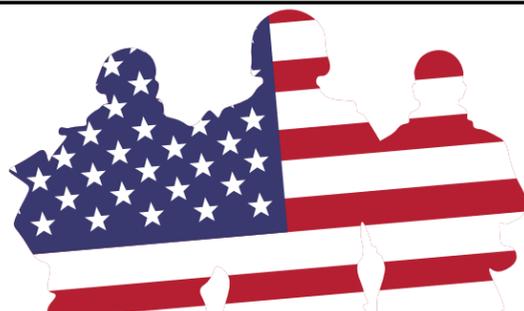
Christmas Lighted Parade

The annual lighted parade will be held on Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. Call the Chamber at 319-372-5471 for more information.

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| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  <p>BOGO 1/2 OFF Buy 1 Adult Buffet Get a 2nd for 50% OFF 319-752-5767 <small>Cannot be combined with any other coupons or offers. Must present coupon to redeem. See store for details. Limited time offer.</small></p> |  <p>FAMILY CHICKEN MEAL only \$22.99 Get an 8-Pc. Meal w/2 Sides, & 4 Rolls 319-752-5767 <small>Cannot be combined with any other coupons or offers. Must present coupon to redeem. See store for details. Limited time offer.</small></p> |  <p>always fresh, always friendly Ron Davoo fried chicken & pizza pies</p> <p>Voted #1 Chicken & Buffet in southeast Iowa</p> <p>Monday-Saturday 11am-8pm Sunday 11am-2pm</p> |
|--|---|---|

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★ VETERAN'S DAY ★

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Honor your family members that answered the call to serve in our special Veterans Day edition on Monday, November 11th.

It is our honor to publish this information. There is no charge for this service.

Submit your photos and information using the form on our website or email it to sales@pencitycurrent.com or mail it to Pen City Current, PO Box 366, Fort Madison, IA 52627.

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.

SAMPLE LISTINGS
(NOT SHOWN ACTUAL SIZE)

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Leonard Anderson US Army Korean War</p> |
|  | <p>SSGT Ezekiel "Zeke" James Ross Iowa National Guard Charlie Company 224th Engineer Battalion, Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004-2005 <small>A Brother in Arms</small></p> |

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LEE
CHD

Lee County
Health Department

Join us as we Celebrate 30 Years of Hospice

Lee County Health Department Hospice was established in 1989, and was the **First Medicare Certified Hospice in Southeast Iowa**. We pride ourselves on providing quality and comforting care to residents in Lee, Des Moines, Henry, and Van Buren Counties in Iowa, and Hancock and Henderson Counties in Illinois.

30 Years of Hospice Open House

Thursday, November 14, 2019
3:00pm-6:00pm

Special Presentation at 4:30
Lee County Health Department
#3 John Bennett Drive
Fort Madison, Iowa

Staff, past and present, will be on hand to share on how hospice got started, and the services we provide.

Touching the Community with Care



Letters to the Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A fresh start for a bright future

Letter to the Editor

I have been reading the letters to the editor that have been sent by my opponent and I have read the letters to the editor that have been submitted by his friends. I would like to take the opportunity to respond to those letters.

I read that the current city has done a great job and that we should allow them to continue doing this great job. However, if you look at what the current city council has done in the last few years is ran away several Chiefs of Police, They have meddled in the police department and city hall for their own gain. It is no secret what has been going on in city hall. The employees for the city of Fort Madison work hard day in and day out and they should not be used as a private organization that serves a privileged few.

I heard from Councilman Morhfeld during the mayoral debate that the budget crisis is not that bad all the while the city manager has been sounding alarm bells for years that have gone ignored. At the same time the council is bleeding money they continue to funnel money into pet projects. Not all of these councilmen are for all of this but they are just outvoted by the ones that are.

The city of Fort Madison have raised taxes to the maximum amount the state will allow. And now that the council has squandered away all the money, my opponent proposes the fix for that problem would be to find more ways to tax people. You have all heard it called the franchise tax. Like I have said, It is morally corrupt to tax your citizens at the rate that we are and then have a deficit.

I watched as Councilmen Morowitz, Cangas and Lair stood up for what was right and fought for what was very clear in the golf cart vote. That the people did not want it. It was clear to the people of Fort Madison on that vote who really cares what the people do and do not want.

I look forward to bringing the council back inline with what the citizens of Fort Madison want. I believe the council needs a new direction as it is clear as day that what we are doing now is not working. Our city is in trouble financially and it is time to start using city resources to help ALL people of Fort Madison. I pray that the people will get to the polls the same way they went out in the rain to sign the golf cart petition and show the current council that what they want does matter.

Jerry Hamelton
Candidate-Councilman at large

Conservative endorses Democrats for city offices

Dear Editor:

If I was a smart businessperson I would stay out of local politics, no matter what you do you could alienate a portion of the population. I guess I've never been too bright because I believe the future of my family's home city are more important than my financial goals.

When I saw that Jerry Hamelton was running for city council, I realized I did not know him or anything about him. I saw a post on social media about a land deal that I had some knowledge of, so I entered a discussion. At first I thought he was uninformed, but found that he knew the facts but chose to misrepresent them. In subsequent discussions I have found him to be angry, vindictive and by no means the type of person we need on council. I have heard people say he is passionate, to be passionately wrong or passionately unreasonable are not leadership qualities to be embraced. After railing against Golf Carts and ATVs at a recent council meeting, he stormed from the room before council was to discuss one of the biggest road expenditures in our history. What we saw was not a leader but a boy taking his bat and going home.

I therefore choose to select Kevin Rink as the community servant and steady hand that Fort Madison needs for At Large City Council. If anybody cares I also see Matt Morhfeld as the experienced hand we need as mayor and Rebecca Bowker as the best choice for first ward. I can promise you those are the most Democrats I have ever endorsed

Tom Schulz,
Fort Madison



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From the Front/Classifieds

Few contested local elections Tuesday

ELECTIONS - Continued from Page 1

newcomer Jerry Hamelton. Hamelton's embarked on a fiery campaign and, at the center of the debate, is the newly approved golf cart law and the idea of a franchise tax to help the city out of financial woes.

Rink supported the golf cart/ATV ordinance. He is also open to the idea of a franchise tax on city utilities to help bring the city out of debt. Hamelton calls the idea of a franchise tax morally corrupt and said wasteful spending is to blame for budget woes. He also has called Rink out for not representing the voice of the people in voting for the new golf cart/ATV ordinance.

The 3rd Ward seat is also being vacated with Mohrfeld's run for mayor. Twenty-one year old Tyler Miller is the only candidate for that spot. Chad Cangas is running unopposed for the 5th Ward seat.

In the Fort Madison School board seat, four seats are open with six candidates.

Incumbents Dianne Hope, Jared Hotop, Carol Ross, and Lois DiPrima are trying to hold onto their seats while Josh Wykert, who held a school board seat for about two months, is seeking a more permanent position. Newcomer Candice Smrt is also running.

The new board will again be saddled with trying to find a solution to aging elementary schools as well as how best to utilize the extension of the state's Secure an Advance Vision for Education (SAVE) funds through 2050.

Elsewhere in north Lee County, Houghton has six candidates for five Council member seats with Marty Bentler, Cheryl Brock, Jay Henrich, Kurt Lowenberg, Russell Schwartz, and incumbent Andy Wilson all seeking seats. Gale Thompson is the only candidate for the mayor's seat.

Donnellson has no contested seats with Jennifer Estrada and Jan Fraise running for two at-large seats and Brian Moeller and Selissa Weber are running to fill two at-large vacancies.

Montrose incumbents Mayor Ron Dinwiddie, and council members Jeff Junkins and Darcie Uhlmeier are all seeking re-election unopposed.

St. Paul Mayor Janice Neuweg is running unopposed and incumbents Rod Cox, Mark Hymes, Randy Neuweg, and Stephanie Schinstock, all incumbents, are running with John Dingman for the five open seats.

Central Lee has three seats open on the board with Kimberlee Hasek (District 1), Bill Young (District 2), and Mark Hulsebus (District 3), all running unopposed.

In West Point, Mayor Paul Walker is unopposed, while all five current city councilman Bruce Wellman, Dan Waters, Will Stuekerjuergen, Brian Meierotto, and Joseph Loving are all on the ballot again for the five seats.

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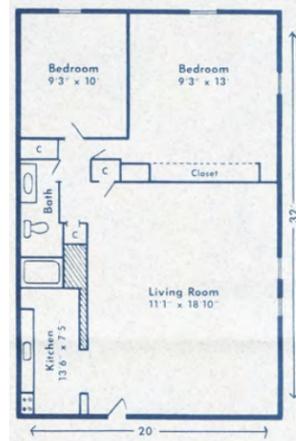
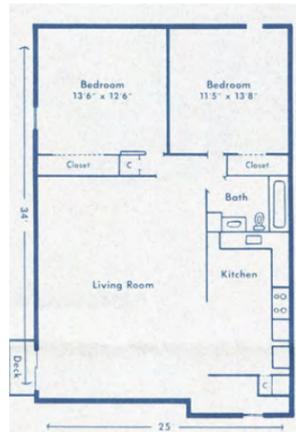


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Local News/Weather

Policy says committee recommendations are to come to board for action

BOARD - Continued from Page 1

educational purposes with a 54.5% approval. However, at the time, that vote didn't carry a sunset clause, so state legislators later imposed a 2030 sunset on approvals throughout the state.

Approval of the RPS would allow the district to borrow on SAVE funds, which were recently extended by state legislators through 2050. According to board president Tim Wondra, the district can't use any of the SAVE money until after the middle school has been paid off.

Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said the earliest the district could put the RPS in front of voters would be in March.

But Hotop and Menke expressed concern that the board may have violated board policy by not bringing the recommendation before the board before moving forward with the project.

According to the School board policy 208-R, "The Board of Directors possesses certain legal powers and prerogatives which cannot be delegated or surrendered to others. Therefore, all recommendations of an advisory committee must be submitted to the Board for action."

"It looks like decisions were made and, according to our policy, committees are to recommend things to the board. It looks like the decision was already made and I hadn't seen any board voting come across for that \$22,000," Hotop said.

He said he was in favor of moving forward with the assessment, but argued the board was breaking policy by not allowing board action.

School policy doesn't, however, require board approval on consulting services that don't exceed \$25,000.

Slater said the committee made the recommendation to have Chiri to spend the money on the assessment because it was under the \$25,000 and a vote by the board wasn't required.

"This did not meet that threshold. This is a staffing decision by the facilities committee to recommend that Nic's department conduct this assessment. Once the assessment is done, we will bring it back for any decisions that will be made by the board," Dr. Slater said.

Menke said he was in agreement with Hotop and said committees are a board tool for research and not to tell people to spend money.

"If you would have brought it in front of us, it would have gotten voted on," Menke said.

Steffensmeier, who sits on the committee, said he agreed that it should have been brought in front of the board.

"I agree, Jared, to get transparency we should have had a vote on it," Steffensmeier said.

Hope said the transparency is in the letter of the recommendation and any talk of a general obligation bond is off the table.

"What we're looking at is our facilities as a whole and what do we need to serve our students based on what we currently have," Hope said.

"The transparency is coming here at this point in time. It's an interim report, because the facilities report will be coming from Estes and that will be shared with the facilities committee and then it will come to the board."

"(The policy) doesn't say the board will vote on anything," Slater said. "Recommendations will be brought to you. You're being informed about the recommendation that was made."

Ross, Steffensmeier, and Hope, along with District Director of Marketing and Online Technology Sebastian Seifert, Marketing Specialist Kayla Schwartz, Slater, District Business Manager Sandy Elmore, Curriculum Director Kim Harmon, and Chiri all sit on the committee.

Wondra, along with Hope, DiPrima, and Ross all indicated that the committee is working properly by recommending Chiri move forward with the project, which is expected to begin immediately and last about two weeks.

City outlines leaf burning rules

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

FORT MADISON - The City of Fort Madison Fire Department will allow the controlled burning of leaves only from November 9 to December 8, 2019 without application for a temporary burning permit, subject to the following restrictions per International Fire Code:

1. The open burning of leaves shall only be allowed from one hour after sunrise, to one hour before sunset.

2. No open burning will be allowed on any Public Street, alley, or sidewalk.

3. The location of the burning area is not less than 50 feet from any structure or not less than 15 feet from any structure if an approved waste burner is used.

4. A competent person shall constantly attend all fires until the fire is completely extinguished.

5. A working garden hose or other fire extinguisher is readily available for use.

6. Any fire causing a nuisance or reported discomfort shall be immediately extinguished.

7. The Fire Chief may prohibit any or all open burning when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make open burning hazardous.

Applicants for temporary fire permits for any purpose must be obtained from the City Fire Department.

Adherence and conformance with these procedures outlined should be of positive benefit to the citizens of Fort Madison.

The City of Fort Madison hereby notifies the citizens and property owners of the proper procedures for disposal of the fall accumulation of leaves.

According to City Code Title 6, Chapter 3, Section 14:

LITTERING: No person shall throw, rake, deposit, drop, or spill leaves, litter, solid waste material or foreign material upon the streets, sidewalks, or other public rights of ways within the city.

This section of the City Code prohibits the raking of leaves into the street or alley for the purpose of disposal. The Primary reason for this prohibition is to keep the leaves from entering the storm drain system. An accumulation of leaves can block the storm drain inlets or clog the storm drainage pipes that could result in flooding.

Residents have the option of bagging leaves in approved yard waste bags for pickup by city crews or to haul the leaves to the Landfill for composting. There is no charge for dumping yard waste at the Landfill.



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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 05 Nov



Light Rain
 High- 55.1° F | Low - 36.2° F

WED 06 Nov



Light Snow
 High- 32.4° F | Low - 22.0° F

THU 07 Nov



Light Snow
 High- 30.9° F | Low - 25.8° F

FRI 08 Nov



Light Rain
 High- 43.5° F | Low - 38.7° F

SAT 09 Nov



Overcast
 High- 33.2° F | Low - 21.3° F

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