



# Pen City Current

Thursday, January 26, 2017 | 3 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 32

## \$15M sewer work underway

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PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It's an icky subject, but the money that goes into the city's handling of a flush can be mindboggling.

The City of Fort Madison is currently overseeing the construction of basically an entire new waste water treatment facility along the river just southwest of Hall Towing. The project is in its 2nd phase at a cost of about \$15 million, according to City Public Works Director Larry Driscoll.

Phase 1 was completed in 2016 at a cost of about \$1.5 million. That phase resulted in replacing almost every pump and light in the facility. Phase 2 is basically the reconstruction of the facility including bringing a larger generator replacing all the moving parts on any stirring or circulation mechanisms, removing and replacing all outdated parts, and replacing and extending "screw pumps" on the grounds.

The whole process is simply to take the water from the city's sewers,

See FACILITY, page 2



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



### Upgrades

Above, construction crews pour concrete into a pad frame for a new generator at the Fort Madison Waste Water Treatment Plant. The facility is undergoing a \$15M refurb as part of a two-phase \$19M project that should be completed by year's end. At left, Jeff Helling, city water superintendent speaks with a contractor. Below is a new sludge pump installed in the first phase of the project.



## HTC to launch new building campaign

PCC STAFF

On Monday, HTC will be announcing the capital campaign to build a new elementary school in West Point.

There is an all-school mass at the elementary located at 413 Ave C West Point, IA 52656 with the Bishop Martin Amos. It will be followed by an unveiling of the new school project plans. More than 500 guests and students are expected to attend, and a lunch will be provided for all at the conclusion of the program. at 10 a.m. All events will take place in the elementary gymnasium.

This fundraising effort will provide the means for the construction of new 21st century collaborative learning spaces, enclose and unify the campus, create new offices and expanded storage space, and make necessary handicap accessibility upgrades.

The event is open to the public.

## Dallas City contractor joins with FM company

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - D&D Construction, LLC, owned and operated by David Greenig of Dallas City, IL, most recently was acquired by JJD Contracting Co, Inc. of Fort Madison, IA.

Now branded as D&D Contracting Company, D&D will continue to operate as a complete turnkey Independent Authorized Varco Pruden Dealer and Erector. D&D Contracting Co, with over 75 years of combined experience,



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gineering programming, VP combines steel structural materials with virtually any exterior finish to create metal buildings that are energy efficient and provide years of trouble-free performance. Working alongside a network of builders, such as D&D Contracting Co., architects, and engineers, VP provides aesthetically appealing buildings with optimum functionality.

For personal service, please contact us at 319.372.2551 or jacob@jjd-contracting.com.

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From the Front/Local News

# New facility will be more efficient, save costs

**FACILITY** - Continued from Page 1

extract solids, decontaminate the water and get it ready for release into the mighty Mississippi. And you can't do it with screen. This process utilizes aeration, chemical treatments, multi-stage water flows, huge pumps, a plethora of electrical switches, power generation and even some doodie eatin' bugs.

But the results are two fold, a fertilized sludge that can be used by local farmers in fields and an environmentally approved end water product that can be released into the natural waterway.

So why now?

"It's old," said Jeff Helling, water pollution control superintendent for the city. "We have had some pumps out here that have been running for 49 years."

Driscoll said in addition to the age of the facility, the city has to keep up with federal guidelines for phosphorous and ammonia.

"This is phase two, phase 1 was replacing mechanical pumps and the 2nd phase is the treatment process," Driscoll said. "There are new state laws for phosphorus and ammonia and we had to meet the new guidelines."

He said the current construction is refurbishing control systems and tanks, adding new filters to remove some of the phosphorus and a larger sludge tank to handle the thicker sludge that will come from the facility, as well as allowing the plant to hold more longer. Driscoll said the facility usually thickens the sludge to 3 percent, but will add a thickener to move that percentage to 10% so it doesn't have to be hauled off as often, which is a savings to the city because the city pays to have the sludge hauled away.

"We're lucky because we have a lot of sand in this part of the state and we can apply a lot of that sludge to the ground and have it drain away. And we're an agriculture community so we can help the farmers with this," Driscoll said. "Up north where there's a lot of clay they have to dry the sludge. It's like dirt when it's done... doesn't smell like dirt, but it's a dry product so you can incinerate it or put it on the fields."

Leander Contracting out of Canton, Ill. is the lead contractor on the project. The city recently took steps to borrow just over \$19 million that the state had set aside to do the project. Driscoll said the first phase was completed using sewer revenues, but that money will be replaced with the money now accessible from the state and phase 2 work will be paid for out of the loan notes.

"We're basically refurbishing every motor and every moving part," Helling said. "The screw pumps, clar-



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## Lots of work

Jeff Helling, city water pollution superintendent, observes work being done to put in new conduit near the chlorination building above. At right, a 17-foot screw pump shows how water is moved through part of the facility.

ifiers, any portion of it that's a moving part is being replaced. The cement structures will stay in place, but basically everything else is being refurbished. We'll take it down one at a time because we have to keep the plant functional."

Other things being added are new braceways for control module wiring, replacing drives, adding a larger sludge tank on the north side of the plant grounds, as well as bringing in a new generator to increase energy production.

Construction crews were filling a large cement pad for the new generator to sit on.

"We're building a new generator pad, replacing the old generator. We hope to have that generator in next week. It's two times the physical size of the current one which is a 500-kilowatt generator. The new one will be 1 million kilowatts. They've also drilled pilings down 40 feet underneath the pad to give it good support because we're close to the river and the ground could settle. This entire plant is built in the river, basically on land that's been brought in over time," Helling said.

So how does the sewer treatment plant prepare the water for release into the river? In a nutshell, the water flows down to the treatment plant and is pumped into "primary clarifier holding areas." Helling said the water sits in those areas for about 2 to 3 hours to allow the



heavy sludge to settle and suspended sludge to rise to the top. Then heavy sludge at the bottom gets separated and the suspended sludge then gets pumped into aeration tanks where 'bugs' in those tanks start digesting the suspended solids. They get heavy and sink to the bottom where they are scraped off and some are even put back into the tank to keep a good bug population base.

Then the water is sent through a chlorination tank where regulated amounts of chlorine are added to decontaminate the water, the water is then again pumped through a holding area where sodium bisulphate is added to clean up the chlorination. Federal and state guideline dictate minimum levels of chlorine that can be present in the water before it is put into the river.

New levies are also being built on the river side of the property. Helling said those are being built up to protect the facility for flooding. He said the floods of 1993 and 2008 were hard on the plant and the new levies should solve that problem as well.

"Parts of this facility are almost 50 years old. It's been a good facility and has taken care of us for a long time," Helling said.



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## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

01/23/17 - 7:17 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 800 block of Avenue G.  
 01/24/17 - 2:46 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2800 block of Avenue A.  
 01/24/17 - 4:54 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at 11th Street and Avenue E.  
 01/24/17 - 4:54 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Danielle Kristine Weeks, 27, of the 800 block of 34th Street, at the intersection of 11th Street and Avenue E for failure to yield the right from a stop sign. She was cited and released.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/19/17 - 6:43 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy 2. A vehicle driven by Bradley Lee Hudson, 43 of Farmington, collided with a vehicle driven by Terence Alexander Rudd, 43 of Montrose. There were no injuries reported. Rudd was cited for no insurance.  
 01/24/17 - 10:20 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Elizabeth Diane Mortimer, 25, of Keokuk, at the Wapello County Jail on warrant for probation/pretrial violation. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.  
 01/24/17 - 1:55 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jerry Gasper Drago,

62, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Correctional Center on a warrant for disorderly conduct. He was jailed.

### Fort Madison Fire Department

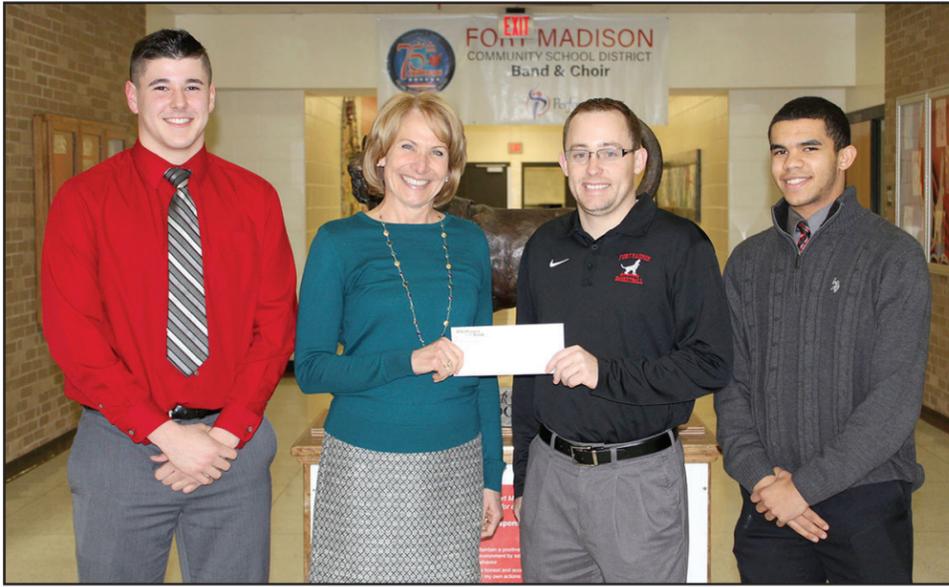
01/24/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls. (Addresses are not listed due to privacy laws)  
 01/24/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to a smoke investigation. No location given-general area.

It should be noted a criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law. All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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## Local News



### Scoring for charity

Courtesy photo

The Fort Madison Boys Basketball team hosted a Coaches v. Cancer event Jan. 13 to raise money in the fight against cancer. From left to right FMHS senior Austin Rose, North Lee County Relay for Life Chairwoman Angie Budnik, FMHS Head Coach Ryan Wilson and senior CJ Richardson are shown with a check for \$577 raised at the event.

### FMCH offers tips on fighting flu

**PCC STAFF**  
FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital is closely monitoring the progression of influenza in our community. We have seen an increase in the number of patients presenting with flu symptoms. Therefore, a decision has been made to implement visitation restrictions in the FMCH Birthplace and postpartum suites.

Birthplace visitors are limited to the father or significant other or coach and grandparents who do not display any flu like symptoms. Siblings will not be allowed under this restriction. This restriction will last until the time that the threat of increased exposure has passed. The staff of the Birthplace understands that having a new baby is an enjoyable and rewarding time that everyone wants to share in but the safety and health of both the mother and infant are our top priorities.

Our team members are following the CDC's guidelines, as well as our own infection control procedures to help protect

our patients, employees and hospital visitors.

In addition, we ask that all visitors to FMCH help us limit the spread of the influenza virus by adhering to the following recommendation:

If you are experiencing any of the symptoms of the flu including: fever, cough, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, body aches, runny or stuffy nose we ask that you refrain from visiting both inpatient and outpatient surgery areas of the hospital.

People who have influenza can be contagious beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5 to 7 days after becoming sick. Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

Most importantly, the hospital is working to educate our community about ways to prevent the spread of influenza and other viruses. These measures can help prevent spread of the illness:

- Wash your hands

frequently with soap and water; if soap and water are not available use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue in the trash after you use it and then sanitize your hands; or cough and sneeze into your elbow if a tissue is not available.

- Avoid close contact with sick people.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, as germs spread this way.

- If you get sick with influenza, stay home from work or school and limit close contact with others to help prevent the spread of flu

- If you are sick, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone

- And remember it is NOT too late to get a flu shot!

Fort Madison Community Hospital is concerned about the health of our community and wants to do our part to protect everyone from the spread of flu viruses during this time of heightened awareness.



### Jim Baier donation

Courtesy photo

JDRF is the big winner here. Jamie Baier of Jim Baier Ford in Fort Madison, donated his winnings from the 2016 CINCH Shootout Fantasy Draft to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Baier is joined by Josh Denning, of Ameriprise Financial, Josh Denning and Associates. Denning is the chairman of the Tri-State Rodeo.

## JDRF wins with CINCH Fantasy Draft

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The 2016 Tri-State Rodeo Committee promoted a new opportunity for area businesses to give back to their favorite charity. A Fantasy Draft for the CINCH Shootout made its debut at this year's event. Seven local businesses paid to play with a \$500 donation. The CINCH Shootout was held on Wednesday, September 7th, 2016.

The teams involved were Fleck Sales; Ameriprise Financial, Joshua Denning & Associates; Jim Baier Dodge; Lee County Bank; Catfish Bend Casino; Baxter Construction; and Huffman Farm and Home. Each team had a captain, who was also a contestant in the CINCH Shootout, to help draft the remaining members of their team. Teams picked a contestant for each event. The CINCH Shootout features seven events including Bareback Riding; Steer Wrestling; Team Roping; Saddle Bronc Riding; Tie-Down Roping; Girls Barrel Racing; and Bull Riding. The team with the most points based on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishes in each event was declared the winner of the prize purse worth \$3,500 to be donated to the charity of their choosing.

The 2016 winning team was sponsored by Jim Baier Dodge who chose the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund (JDRF) in honor of Isabella Baier and Parker Denning.

"I would like to thank the local businesses who participated in the CINCH Fantasy Draft and congratulations to Jamie and Jim Baier Dodge for picking the winning team. I couldn't be more excited personally on who Jamie chose as both of our families have been affected by Type 1 Diabetes," expressed Josh Denning, Tri-State Rodeo Chairman.

The 2017 CINCH Shootout will be held Wednesday, September 6th during the Tri-State Rodeo at the C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena, where top cowboys and cowgirls compete for \$120,000 in total prize money for this one night event.

"The CINCH Fantasy Draft is another way local businesses come together, give back and have fun while they do it. We look forward to the 2017 CINCH Shootout with plans to make it bigger and better," stated Josh Denning.

Tickets to the 2017 Tri-State Rodeo and the CINCH Shootout will go on sale in April.

**Let us celebrate with you! Send us your weddings, births, engagements and other special occasions to editor@pencitycurrent.com.**

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