



Pen City Current

Friday, January 12, 2018 | 7 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 24

District collecting signatures for next bond effort

School Board could put issue on April 3 ballot

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Volunteers are currently seeking signatures to have a referendum put on an April ballot to construct a new preK-3rd elementary school in Fort Madison.

The effort to pass the bond referendum has been voted down two times, most recently in June of 2017.

The new referendum will be to authorize spending up

to \$30 million on the construction of the facility. That represents an increase over the last referendum to an increase in construction on the project.

The district needs 166 signatures, and according to Superintendent Erin Slater, more than 40 signatures, intent signatures have already been collected. She said the question on the ballot will not change other than the price, and the scope of the project is remaining the same.

The Fort Madison Community School District Board of Directors hasn't formally voted to put the issue back



SLATER

struction of a \$3 million referendum due to construction costs

signatures, intent signatures

on the ballot, but that vote could be coming shortly.

Slater said she hopes to have enough signatures collected to present to the board at the Jan. 22 meeting, when the board would then be able to vote to have the referendum put on the ballot on April 3.

In June, district residents voted 56% in favor of building the new school, however state law requires a supermajority of 60% plus one vote for the measure to be approved.

Central Lee school district unveiled plans last week to ask voters for close to \$10 million for construction

See REFERENDUM, page 6



Photo courtesy of FMCH

Hall named FMCH employee of the month

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Karen Hall as their November Employee of the Month. Hall works as a radiology technician in the Radiology Department at FMCH. She has been with FMCH for twelve years. Hall was recognized with this nomination:

A couple weeks ago this employee was leaving for lunch, in the parking lot they encountered a gentleman stumbling into cars.

They asked if the man was ok and as he came out from between the cars this employee observed he had one leg covered in blood. The patient had accidentally struck his leg with an axe and drove himself to the ER, parking over by the helicopter pad. This employee, after seeing his injury ran back to the ER and got a wheelchair and rushed back to get the patient. After they scooped him up in the chair the patient passed out. This employee hurried into the ER with

the patient where he was cared for and then admitted. This is just one example of the care and attention this employee provides all of their patients. They are a true asset to our organization. The patient also took the time to send a testimonial through our website about this employee's quick actions.

"I might better be known as the guy that chopped up his leg with an axe and then drove himself to

See FMCH, page 7

2017 Recaps

FM Partners tracked \$68M in local investments

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - When looking solely at building and equipment investment in Fort Madison for 2017, city economic officials saw more than \$68 million in investments for the year.



GOBBLE

Fort Madison Partners Executive Director Tim Gobble said that figure is comparable from industries reporting in 2016.

In addition to the capital investment, Gobble said 2017 also saw over 140 new jobs created in the city at \$16/hour or higher.

"For 2017, over 140 new

jobs were created at \$16/hour or more," he said "A few were under that, but the majority are more than \$16. These are actual numbers from industry. When I reach out to our industry on these types of things I go in asking for full time employment numbers and then categorize them as, \$15-\$18/hour, \$18-\$19/hour, and then \$19 and over. Those are numbers I can use for incentives and grants I can apply for through the state incentive programs."

Gobble said because Lee County is categorized as a stressed county, therefore providing the area smaller wage thresholds to overcome for state incentive money, these figures help show the growth and potential of the area. But he's higher.

See 2017, page 7

Advertiser Index

CBIZ Center for Business..... P.7	Hope Associates Real Estate P.4
Classifieds Ps.4-5	IWitnessBullying.org P.4
Fareway Food Stores Fort Madison P.3	Lee County Health Department..... P.2
Fullenkamp Insurance P.6	Pen City Current..... Ps.3-7
Great River Regional Waste Authority P.2	Professional Services P.5
Green Oak Development..... P.4	State Farm Insurance – Thomas Klann..... P.3
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center P.6	West Liberty Foods..... P.4

News Index

Business News P.7
Education News..... P.6
For the Record..... P.3
From the front..... Ps.6-7
Local News Ps.2,7
Lottery Numbers P.2
Obituaries P.3
–Mary Marie Compnell
Weather P.6

Scan the code to
Subscribe today
Paid & Free Options Available!



Local News/Lottery Numbers

It's Time To Celebrate New Beginnings! Twenty8Teen

Thank you to all of our customers who helped us reduce our environmental footprint in 2017!

Great River Regional Waste Authority is looking forward to continuing our efforts to manage our environmental footprint and help educate our communities on ways to help in 2018!

Things to remember in 2018 when recycling:
Please do not place plastic bags in recycling bins.

Rinse & Clean all food jars and cans before placing in recycling bins.

Flatten boxes for better storage and volume reduction. *Empty all boxes before recycling.

Place all recyclable products loose in bins.

Do not recycle wrapping paper.

Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste. *Click Here* for more guidance!

For your convenience:

- Convenient Drop-Off Locations in 10 cities
- Curbside Recycling Bins are available at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations
- HHW Collection Available by appointment during regular business hours at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Ft. Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave, Fort Madison, IA, 1-319-372-6140

Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane, Keokuk, IA, 1-319-524-6175

Visit Us Online! • www.grrwa.com • facebook.com/grrwa

Task force makes FM felony meth bust

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on a felony drug charge.

Michael Melvin Sholl, 59, of 814 ½ Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on January 9th, 2018 at the Fort Madison Police Department on a felony drug charge. Sholl is charged with delivery of less than five grams of methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a park, a class C felony. If convicted, Sholl faces up to 15 years in a state correctional facility.



SHOLL

The arrest of Sholl stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Fort Madison Police Department and the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.



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

 1/11 8 12 15 16 51 Lucky Ball: 9	 1/11 MID-DAY 6 6 6 1/11 EVENING 1 0 9	 1/11 MID-DAY 4 6 1 1 1/11 EVENING 4 0 7 1
---	--	--

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Promoting Health Throughout the Lifespan

Lee County Health Department has a number of programs to help you in every stage of your life. To learn more about the following programs visit us online by clicking this ad.



- Hospice
- Homecare
- Wellness
- Senior Health
- Environmental Health
- Emergency Preparedness
- 1st Five
- HOPES
- I-Smile Silver®
- Immunizations
- Child / Adolescent Health



Touching the Community with Care

2218 Avenue H • Fort Madison, IA
 (319)372-5225 or (800)458-5572
www.leecountyhd.org



Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

MARY MARIE COMPNELL

Mary Marie Compnell, 104 years, of West Point, Iowa died at 12:30 pm Friday, December 8, 2017 at the West Point Care Center, West Point. She was born March 2, 1913 at Parkersburg, West Virginia, a daughter of John and Lula (Phillips) Seamone and stepdaughter of Angele (Carapezza) Seamone. On August 7, 1931, she married Andrew Compnell at Oakland, Maryland.



COMPNELL

Mary was a homemaker. She lived in West Virginia until moving to West Point in 1997. She enjoyed gardening, cooking and sewing. She was of the Protestant Faith.

She is survived by her daughter Mary Louise Arie, of West Point, Iowa; one brother: Woodrow Seamone, of Lewes, Delaware; one sister, Pauline Poffenberger, of Hagerstown, Maryland; four grandchildren: Diane (Jack) Powers, of Fort Madison, Iowa, Joyce (Mark) Whitcomb of West Des Moines, Iowa, Dale Arie of West Point, Iowa, and Denise (Jeff) Thomas of West Des Moines, Iowa; 10 great grandchildren: Deborah (Jonathan) Sands of Urbandale, Iowa, Meghan (Haley) Powers-Risdal of Des Moines, Iowa, Brian Powers of Fort Madison, Iowa, Andrew (Shannon) Powers of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Angeline Powers of Ames, Iowa, Eion Powers of Des Moines, Iowa, Samantha Whitcomb of Iowa City, Iowa, Alex Whitcomb of West Des Moines, Iowa, Jordan Thomas of West Des Moines, Iowa, and Dylan Thomas of Cedar Falls, Iowa; one great great grandson, Jackson Evans of Urbandale, Iowa. She was preceded in death by her parents, stepmother, husband, three brothers: Douglas, Richard, and John Seamone, three sisters: Sylvia Hershman, Virginia Grove and Lou Anna Flegal.

Her family will greet friends from 10:30 - 11:30 am Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home, West Point. Burial will be at a later date at Cross Roads Cemetery, Tacy, West Virginia. A memorial has been established for Hope Haven, contributions may be made at the Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home, West Point. Online condolences to the Compnell Family may be made at, www.barrholtkampfuneralhome.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/10/18 - 2:05 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Daphne Kay Akers, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 2500 block of Avenue L on charges of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and possession of drug paraphernalia (two counts). She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/10/18 - 9:56 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of Avenue H.
 01/10/18 - 10:53 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 6100 block of Reve Court.
 01/10/18 - 1:13 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 900 block of 34th Street.
 01/10/18 - 10:17 p.m. - Fort

Madison Police arrested Shawn Marie McAllister, 37, of Burlington in the 1900 block of Avenue E, on a charge of OWI. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's report

1/10/18 - 11:27 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2700 block of 239th Avenue. A vehicle had crashed into the tree line just off the roadway. The owner was not on scene but a family member was in control of the vehicle. No citations were issued at the scene. The car was considered a total loss.
 1/10/18 - 11:56 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Codey Lane Page, 41, of Montrose, at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a warrant for judgement

entry. He was taken to the Lee County jail and held.
 1/11/18 - 1:26 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher David Sattler, 27, West Point, in the 2400 block of 255th Street, in Montrose on a charge of OWI-2nd offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are to be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

01/08/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two false alarms and one lift assist
 01/09/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical and one assist.
 01/10/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one CO2 leak and five medical calls.

EXCLUSIVE COUPON OFFER!

EXCLUSIVE COUPON OFFER
Valid at Fareway Ft. Madison Store Only!

Buy any 2 Bottles of Wine Get 1 Free

Of equal or lesser value

SKU: 50013
EXPIRES 1.13.18

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD OR PRINT

FAREWAY
FOOD STORES

1802 Ave H, Fort Madison, IA
319-372-2223
Open Monday thru Saturday
7:00am - 9:00pm

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

Two heads are better than one.

Thomas Klann RICP LTCF LUTCF
Agent
Bus: 319-372-5982
www.fortmadisoninsurance.com
2623 Avenue L
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Jess N Steenberg
Licensed Team Member
Bus: 319-372-5982
jess@fortmadisoninsurance.com

Especially when it comes to reaching your financial goals.

If you have questions or just want to discuss your options, we're both available to talk.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

CALL US TODAY.

1001373.2

State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

Advertise in a brand new way.

Nissa (319)520.8953

Shawna (319)470.0622

Lee (319)371.4125

Follow Us

@pencitycurrent

Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

Copyright © 2016 by Pen City Current
All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.

Pen City Current

Founded in 2016

P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Nissa Rung, Advertising
(319).520.8953
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising
(319).470.0622
ross@pencitycurrent.com

Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

Classifieds



Wishing you a wonderful **NEW YEAR** filled with many **TREASURED MOMENTS!**

HOPE ASSOCIATES
REAL ESTATE
902 Avenue G
Ft. Madison, Ia
319-372-4040

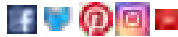
Serving Southeast Iowa with over 150 Years of combined experience in residential, commercial and agriculture real estate!

View our listings: www.seia.rapmls.com

First. Fresh. Local.

Your Community | 24/7 | Your Information

Pen City current
www.pencitycurrent.com



Selling classic cars in a modern way



Up to 200 words
1 photo • 14 days
FREE

Place your ad online 24/7

www.pencitycurrent.com

Email your ad to

classifieds@pencitycurrent.com

Call (319)371.4125

Follow Us @pencitycurrent



HELP WANTED

Immediate Openings & Upcoming Job Recruits!

Looking to fill a little time in your routine?

ServiceMaster Cleaning & Restoration is seeking candidates to fill both Full and Part Time positions within our Janitorial Division. Candidates must pass background check and drug screening. Call 1-800-584-3364 for more information or stop by 1502 Avenue L, Ft. Madison to apply.

Join us at our January Job Recruits:

Tuesday, January 9th • 1:00pm - 3:00pm
IowaWorks Southeast Iowa
1000 N Roosevelt Ave,
Burlington, Iowa

Thursday, January 18th • 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Fort Madison IowaWorks
933 Avenue H, Ft. Madison,
Iowa

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Advertise in a brand new way.

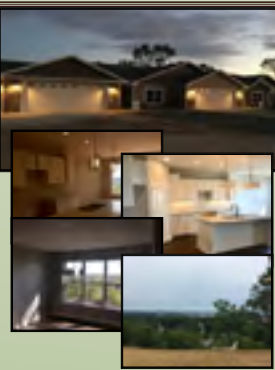
Nissa
(319)520.8953
Shawna
(319)470.0622
Lee
(319)371.4125



APARTMENTS FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT: 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath centrally located at 1933 Avenue I in Ft. Madison. Refrigerator and stove provided. \$550/month. Please call (319) 371-4040 for more details or appointment to view. Leave a message if no answer.

Make one of these New Homes your New Home today!



3502 & 3504 WOODLAND HEIGHTS • Ft. Madison, Ia

Maintenance Free Luxury Condominium w/ 3 Car Garage
Stunning River Views, Many Upgrades

Condominium Features:

3 Car Garage, 3-4 Bedroom, 9ft Finished Walk-out Basement, Master Suite, Private Deck & Patio
Quartz Counter Tops, Tile Master Bath, Stylish Custom Wood Product Cabinetry

Exclusive Residence Features:

- Landscaping, Building Exterior & Winter Maintenance Provided
- Private Pond with walking trail and relaxing patio
- Vibrant views including the Mississippi River, Colorful Forest & Private Pond



302 33rd Street • Ft. Madison, Ia

Built in 2015 - Tri-Level Home
3 Bedrooms - Master Suite w/ Master Bath & Walk-in Closet
2.5 baths

Engineered Hardwood Floor
Open Floor Plan
Finished Basement
Spacious Yard

New Safe Family Friendly Neighborhood - Green Oak Development



41 7th Street • West Point, Ia

3 Year Tax Abatement, \$7,500 Savings!
3 Car Garage

Open Floor Plan Concept with Great Room
Master Suite with Walk-in Closet & Dual Sink Vanity
Massive 9 Foot Basement with Game/Bar Area
Main Floor Laundry
Large Storage Room
New Neighborhood with Great Family Atmosphere

Call Jill to view any of these beautiful homes!

Follow us on Facebook! www.greenoakdevelopment-ia.com Call: 319-470-2540



WHEN YOU SEE BULLYING, USE THIS EMOJI TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.



ARE YOU AT A CROSSROADS?

Walk down the path toward a new opportunity.

One of North America's fastest growing food processing companies has immediate openings for highly motivated individuals to join their team!



IMMEDIATE INTERVIEWS EVERY TUESDAY 9AM-3PM
GET A RAISE BEFORE YOU EVEN GET STARTED!

2nd Shift - General Production

Positive attitude and excellent attendance demonstrated by a solid work history
Pay: ~~\$11.50 per hour plus \$0.30 shift differential~~
Pay: \$11.85 per hour plus \$0.30 shift differential

Competitive benefits package includes health, vision, life, and dental insurance, employee discounts, matching 401k. Plus paid holidays and vacation effective first day of employment.



West Liberty Foods.

Apply online at <http://careers.wlfoods.com>
Equal Opportunity Employer

Classifieds

SHOP the classifieds



PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM OR CALL (319)371.4125

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Nissa Rung, Sales & Marketing Consultant
 n.rung@pencitycurrent.com
 319.520.8953

Fort Madison's 24/7 All Digital Source for News & Advertising • www.pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Sales & Marketing Consultant
 sross@pencitycurrent.com
 319.470.0622

Fort Madison's 24/7 All Digital Source for News & Advertising • www.pencitycurrent.com

Because your wedding gown is
Precious
 WEDDING GOWN PRESERVATION

IRIS CITY CLEANERS
 319 385 9707 . 888 485 9707
www.IrisCityCleaners.com

Shopping for a mortgage?

Thomas Klann RICP LTCF LUTCF, Agent
 State Farm Agent
 2623 Avenue L
 Fort Madison, IA 52627
 Bus: 319-372-5982
 NMLS #139716, NMLS MLO #1359992
 MLO License #24290

We have a great selection.
 As life changes, so do your needs. Let State Farm Bank® help with a mortgage that fits your life and your budget. Let us help you make the right move. Bank with a Good Neighbor®.
CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

1001306.1 Some products and services not available in all areas. State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL

5 Generations of Printing

Posters Business Cards Photo Correction Wedding Invitations Supplies Custom Design Office & Invitations Online Ordering

319-372-2721 • doddprinting.com

ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICE BUSINESS
90 days • Only \$74⁹⁹
 2x2 Business Card Size Ad

Place your ad online 24/7 www.pencitycurrent.com
 Email your ad classifieds@pencitycurrent.com
 Call (319)371.4125

STEVE & MICHAELA MCLAIN

Saturday, January 13th
 7:30pm to 10:30pm

1135 Ave. E
 Wednesday-Saturday
 5:00pm

Don't Let Your Business Slip Away

If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today because when your world is protected – it's business as usual.

Larry Holtkamp
 1301 37th St
 Fort Madison
 (319) 372-9145
 (319) 470-1927 Cell
LARRYHOLTkamp.COM

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Auto | Home | Life | Annuities | Business | Farm & Ranch

Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company,* Western Agricultural Insurance Company,* Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services FC109 (4-17)

Elevated Comfort.

"I keep coming back! The beds are amazing and the staff is fabulous!"
 - Mark M.

We are expanding! 78 Rooms with choices to fit all your needs!
 Now taking reservations for Fishing Tournaments, Sporting Events and the Annual Tri-State Rodeo!

Boulders Inn & Suites
 Fort Madison, Iowa
 4901 Ave O
 Fort Madison, IA 52627
 Tel: 319-246-1401
www.bouldersinnandsuites.com
 Email: info@bouldersinnfortmadison.com

Like us on Facebook!

RODEO PARK REHAB

Short-term rehabilitation

Fully equipped state-of-the-art therapy gym
 Occupational, physical, and speech therapy
 Personalized therapy plan
 Private rooms
 Compassionate nursing staff

We'll get you ready to:
"Giddy Up & Go Home!"

THE MADISON
 EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANCE

319-372-8021 | 1702 41st Street, Fort Madison, IA

From the Front/Weather

FULLENKAMP
Trusted Choice Insurance Agency, Inc
Since 1963

Proud to provide exceptional service and professional excellence.



**AUTO • HOME • FARM • LIFE
BUSINESS • BONDS • ANNUITIES
HEALTH • DISABILITY CARE
LONG TERM CARE**

Call one of our licensed agents today for all of your insurance needs!

307 5th Street
West Point, IA 52627
319-837-6178 • 800-292-2208
www.fullenkampins.com

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 12 Jan
Clear skies
High – 13.9° F | Low – 8.5° F

SAT 13 Jan
Clear Skies
High– 8.5° F | Low – (4.5)° F

SUN 14 Jan
Light Snow
High– 18.8° F | Low – 9.9° F

MON 15 Jan
Light Snow
High – 10.4° F | Low – 1.0° F

TUE 16 Jan
Clear Skies
High– 5.2° F | Low – (2.5)° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

District may employ satellite voting

REFERENDUM - Continued from Page 1

in that district. No time frame was given on when that referendum would be put to voters.

Nikki Sugars, the Lee County deputy auditor and election's administrator, said it cost the district \$6,088 to put on the election in June. But she said with satellite polling the cost would increase.

She said the district could petition the county to do satellite, but it's at the County Auditor Denise Fraise's discretion to allow the early polling.

"Before the election takes place, we can have voting at satellite locations," Sugars said. "Everybody in the district would be allowed to vote there. We did a satellite at the the high school MPR during the previous school referendums."

Slater said nothing has been finalized out of the committee yet, but they have discussed the idea of using satellite polling to make voting more convenient for district residents and to try and garner the other 4% needed to approve the measure.

"We have not finalized any plans. Our first job is have signatures to present to the board and then we'll talk about the specifics of plans," she said. "But we have talked about using satellite polling for the convenience of voters."

She said getting approval from the district on the third attempt will require re-engaging the community that came out and voted last time.

"We need to look at the turnout as far as demographics and those that didn't vote and keep reaching out to them. We want to give them ample time and information and let them know where and when they can vote."

The proposed new school would be located just east of the current Fort Madison Middle School just south of Bluff Road.

Place your ad online 24/7

We are grateful for each and every one of our
CUSTOMERS
To show our appreciation in 2018...
mention our Griffin Gratitude Card and receive **\$18.00** Credit posted to your card!

GRIFFIN'S GRATITUDE REWARD CARD
5% of every invoice, sales tax excluded, will be added to your Gratitude Card to use for future services. Your card can be used for future visits up to 50% off the invoice.
Plus, get \$25 for every new customer you refer to Griffin's.

Save on regular maintenance this season with these coupons!
*Present or mention these coupons at time of service

\$99⁹⁵
Alignment Special
Includes:
Computerized Alignment
Brake Inspection
Tire Rotation

*For faster service, please call ahead for an appointment. Valid on most cars/light trucks. Excludes parts. Cannot combine with any other offers. Valid for a limited time only!

\$25 OFF
Any Repair or Maintenance
Order \$250 or More

\$50 OFF
Any Repair or Maintenance
Order \$500 or More

\$75 OFF
Any Repair or Maintenance
Order \$750 or More

Excludes tires and batteries. Cannot combine with any other offers. One time use. Valid for a limited time only!

\$10 OFF Oil Change
Includes FREE
Seasonal Check Up:

- ✓ Battery Check ✓ Suspension Check
- ✓ All Fluids Level Check
- ✓ Radiator & Coolant Check
- ✓ Tire Check ✓ Lights Check
- ✓ PLUS Road Test

*For faster service, please call ahead for an appointment. Cannot combine with any other offers. Valid for a limited time only!

CLICK HERE TO VIEW ALL OUR SPECIALS!



319-372-2478
535 Avenue G
Fort Madison, IA
Mon - Thurs: 7:30am - 5:30pm
Friday: 7:30am - 5:00pm

www.griffinmuffler.com

Like us on Facebook!



From the Front

Partners group looks to fine tune identity in 2018

2017 - Continued from Page 1

quick to lay credit at the feet of those private companies and their leadership.

“A lot of people can take ownership of these numbers towards job growth at a particular industry or the amount of money they invest, But we talk about it as a strength of our economy,” he said.

He said the numbers he’s reporting do not include all the industry and businesses in town so the numbers are probably higher than what he’s collected.

The other accomplishments of the year include working with groups like Lost Bear Coffee to get a branch opened up in Fort Madison and continuing to work with the Baxter Sports Complex on its programming.

SPORTS COMPLEX

“We’re looking at different ways to streamline their processes,” Gobble said. “We have a new director that is very eager to change some things around like working closely with the YMCA and identify opportunities to get more youth involved, or maybe help buy down some costs for youth sports and other different ways to enhance some of the programs that are already in place.”

Jeff Woodside took over operations of the sports complex this year after Wes Holtkamp left to pursue other professional goals. The complex is in its third year of operation on the city’s west side.

DOWNTOWN BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Gobble said he’s been staying in close contact with Kyle Galloway at Barker Financial, the owners of two buildings currently under renovation - the Lee County Bank building and the Cattermole Library. The group also owns the Sears building, but plans were put on hold with that building pending completion of the other two.

The Fort Madison Partners groups are looking at possibly relocating to the first floor of the Cattermole when it is completed,

Gobble said a snag with windows in the Lee County Bank building is holding up work temporarily.

“The windows in the Lee County Building are a hold up. The federal historical groups (SHPO) haven’t signed off on the design. And until that is signed off on and the upper residential areas are complete, their hands are tied on renovating the commercial space.” he said.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Partners recently completed a three-year strategic plan for the umbrella group including Fort Madison Economic Development Corporation, The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce, and Fort Madison Main Street.

“What came out of our strategic plan is our relationship with the city. We need to make sure that is stronger and keep open lines of communication.”

BEAUTIFICATION

Gobble said he would like see increased beautification efforts in 2018. One way to help with this initiative is Partners is spear-heading a paint-a-thon in conjunction with Kempker’s True Value Rental and Community Action of SE Iowa. The idea is to identify 3 or 4 homes our first year in the spring to paint. There will be guidelines and an application process with information coming out in February- it will be a city-wide program. He also said he’d like to open a line of communication with the city to look at the current code system on abandoned and dilapidated properties and see if there is an opportunity to enhance what is already in place.

“I would like to look at what other communities are doing and see if there is an opportunity out there to push some of these owners to get the projects completed.”

MARINA

Gobble said the most recent plan he has in the office dates back to 2008 and the marina is still a top priority with Partners along with looking at ways the feasibility study of improving the deck approaches of the swing-span bridge may affect the marina. The feasibility study for the approaches (both Iowa and Illinois) would help identify how to reestablish truck traffic on the bridge- to allow heavier truck traffic- but that’s an entirely different animal and a costly one at that.

“Although those plans for the marina we have in the office are nice, they may be a bit aggressive. We could do some pieces of the plan, but there are some sections that we could possibly wait on. Let’s fill up what we have empty and then grow from there and focus on getting it to a point where it’s something that people want to come to first,” Gobble said.

He said there have been individuals interested in development of the marina. “We need to make sure what is coming to us is a viable approach- but the City will need to take the lead on it as it is owned by the City currently. One area we need to look at is the designation of the marina as being labeled a “safe harbor”, which causes other hurdles with that designation getting major improvements done with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

“To jump back to the bridge study, this will be a City and State- both Iowa and Illinois- project but I know we’re going to try and take an active role, especially on the FMEDC side, we want to at least get the bridge study going and then see where it goes from there.”

CHAMBER

2018 is shaping up to be an identification and return on investment year for first year Chamber Director Savanna Collier.

“We just want to focus on the members themselves. Find out what they want - what they need and then take that information and see how we can improve on return of their investment,” Collier said.

She said the recent strategic planning showed there was an identity crisis and that people were showing

confusion about what role the Chamber played aside from Partners as a whole.

“I want to, at some point, ask our members what they need from us and go from there. I don’t want to pull from thin air and hope it has some benefit for them.

Because I’m new, it gives me a leg up and when I go into talk to them I can say, ‘What kinds of things are you looking for from us. What hasn’t happened in the past that you’d like to see? I think the big thing is return on investment for our members. I think that’s the biggest thing for us for the next year or so.’”



COLLIER

She said she also wants to improve marketing for the Chamber’s networking groups such as Young Professionals and Business Women Connect.

“The programs we do have we want to market better and get more involvement. Those types of networking programs will help with our identity crisis. The Chamber gets lost because people think we only do things with Main Street, but the Chamber encompasses everything, industry, retail, finance, service etc. There are so many things that come out of this office itself, I see how it’s hard to understand who does what,” Collier said.

Gobble said the group needs a simpler definition.

“We need to get to the point where people see us as Partners is just the house we live in. I’m economic development, she’s Chamber, and she’s Main Street, Not sure we’ll ever get there, but that’s simplest way to look at it,” he said.

MAIN STREET

Main Street Director Cassie Gilbert said 2017 has been a great year for the downtown and listed several bullet points that point to the progress and success of the Fort Madison Main Street program.

She said 18 businesses have either opened or completed a successful succession transition, the downtown upper story apartment work is coming along. She said that’s important because there are very few apartments that come available each year and they are very popular.



GILBERT

“Our downtown building owners are also reinvesting in themselves. For example, Score Properties, owned by Rebecca Bowker, recently installed solar panels to increase efficiency and lower electric bills for their commercial enterprise and their residential tenants,” Gilbert said.

Fort Madison Main Street received a grant from Mid-WestOne bank for trimming downtown trees and the purchase of downtown items such as trash cans.

“Main Street also worked with the historic commission to create vinyl banners to be put up in empty storefronts to help enhance the image of downtown and our connection to the past,” she said. “And our Promotions Committee created a Self-Guided Tin Ceiling Tour, helping us to promote our historic building and the preservation that our downtown building owners are dedicated to.”

Patient sends thanks to hospital employee of the month

FMCH - Continued from Page 1

the hospital, but I want everyone to know that the real miracles began after I reached the hospital. The kindest act was the lady, who saw me walking in and went back inside to get a wheel chair and wheel me inside. Beyond that point what I remember most is that a tourniquet really hurts and I am very grateful to everyone that I was around to feel it. Thanks to all.”

When asked about her favorite part of working at FMCH, Hall replied, “My radiology family has been wonderful. They welcomed me in as a new grad when I was just 20. They taught me the ropes and showed me how to be a good team player. I love how my day is never the same. We get to see all walks of life and rarely do we have a dull moment!”

Hall enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband and two young children when not working. She is also an avid photographer.

#HyperLocalSuperFresh

EARN GOOD MONEY
COMPETITIVE BENEFITS
TRAVEL THE COUNTRY
WORK INDEPENDENTLY
TRAIN IN 4 WEEKS

Class A CDL Truck Training
Learn more! 319-208-5375

CBIZ
 CENTER FOR BUSINESS