



Pen City Current

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 9

City moves on sidewalk project

Main Street may look at options to help with project

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON -Fort Madison city leaders took another step on a sidewalk project that could put new sidewalks and, potentially new curbing, in downtown Fort Madison.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, the council voted 6-0 to approve a professional services agreement with HR Green to design the sidewalk and storm-water improvement project.



RANDOLPH

The money used to fund the estimated \$1.8 million project is actually the interest paid on the city's waste water treatment plant renovation. A special funding program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, allows the city to use the interest on the loans for the waste water treatment project to fund a special project aimed at improved stormwater drainage.

The funding, according to Andrew Marsh, a project specialist with HR Green, is 10% of the cost of the waste water treatment plant, capped at \$1.5 million.

“
This is money that we would have paid back to the state, and they're just saying, "Here, keep it and do a project with it."

-Brad Randolph,
Mayor, Fort Madison

The new sidewalks would include six feet from the curb back toward the buildings, of permeable pavers that allow storm water to flow through and into the rock bed underneath. The six remaining feet from the pavers to the buildings would be regular concrete to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Mayor Brad Randolph said he couldn't emphasize enough how beneficial the funding of the project is.

“This is money that we would have paid back to the state, and they are just saying, “Here, keep it and do a project with it,” he said.

City Public Works Director Larry Driscoll said the project had to address stormwater drainage, which this project would. He also reminded the audience that it will

See **SIDEWALKS**, page 8



Ava PEITZ

Pen City Current Intern,
Freshman - Holy Trinity

Simple pros, cons of net neutrality

This past week, one of the biggest news headlines has been net neutrality, and I'm sure you've probably heard about it several times by now. However, you might not know exactly what it means. In all reality, the answer is simple.

Net neutrality is “the basic principle that prohibits internet service providers like AT&T, Comcast and Verizon from speeding up, slowing down or blocking any content, applications or websites you want to use,” according to Save the Internet, an organization that has been following net neutrality laws since last summer. Net neutrality is not what we're gaining, it's what's being taken away. In short, the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) voted against net neutrality, meaning that it was repealed.

The Obama Administration created a law that protected net neutrality in 2010, and after a court took it down for a while in 2014, the law was again reinstated in late 2015. Supporters of net neutrality say that it will keep the internet open and free, and that small businesses will be able to grow faster.

Being a teenager myself, I know that my peers and I use the internet for almost everything. Whether it be writing a paper or learning words in a foreign language, I often turn to search engines for research. So obviously, I was a bit confused about how net neutrality was going to affect me. As it turns out, quite a bit. In general, net neutrality prevents internet providers, like Verizon, from choosing what websites and internet content you can/cannot view.

According to sophomore Reagan Garrels, who attends Holy Trinity Catholic High School, net neutrality has its perks, but not very many. “Sure, it isn't all too great, because of freedom (online), but I think it will create competition, which is always needed to boost the economy.” Jayde Watznauer, another sophomore at Holy Trinity, believes that net neutrality prohibits people from having a free online experience. “It definitely keeps people from doing what they want online.”

At first, after reading multiple articles, I was convinced that the repeal of net neutrality would mean that

See **PEITZ**, page 8



Courtesy photo

The Lee County Economic Development Group graduated 12 students from its career-oriented 12-Plus program with a ceremony Wednesday morning at Central Lee High School.

LCEDG honors 12 from 12-Plus program

DONNELSON - Twelve students that took part in the Lee County Economic Development Group's 12 Plus program were honored Wednesday morning as part of graduation ceremonies for the program at Central Lee High School

As part of Lee County EDG's efforts to build a future workforce for industry

See **12-PLUS**, page 3

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

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OBITUARIES

PATRICIA O'BRIEN DICKENSON

Patricia O'Brien Dickinson, 83 of Johns Creek, GA, passed away on Monday, December 18, 2017. Pat is survived by her husband of 60 years, B.W. Dickinson, two sons, Charles W., Carrollton TX., Craig W. and wife Debra, Kingwood TX. Daughter Cathy A Puechner and husband Richard J., Johns Creek, GA., Grandsons, Craig Dickinson, Van, TX. Mitch Puechner, Johns Creek, GA. Granddaughters, Megan (Alan) Dike, Van TX. Rachel Puechner, Houston, TX. Great grandsons Zaydin Dickinson and Drifter Dike both of Van TX. Born November, 21,1934 in Quincy, IL to William and Thora Tanner O'Brien. She attended the Mendon Schools and graduated from Unity High School in 1952. She was joined in marriage, April 7, 1957 at the Christian Church Ursa, IL. She was a member of First Christian, Disciples of Christ Church. She resided in Tri State area until 1981, subsequently moving to Carrollton TX, Freehold NJ Lawrenceville GA, and Fresno, CA. where they lived for 30 years and Pat was active in the Newcomers Auxiliary and enjoyed her monthly luncheons, coffees and Bunco group. In October of 2016 Pat and Bev moved to be with their daughter Cathy and husband Richard in Johns Creek, GA.



DICKENSON

Visitation will be Tuesday, December 26, from 4pm to 6pm at Hunter Funeral Home, Mendon IL. Service will be Wednesday December 27th, 11AM, at the Hunter Funeral Home with the Reverend Jerry Bown presiding. Interment will be in the New Providence Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested memorials to the donor preference.

LONDO E. SIMPSON

Londo E. Simpson, 81, of Montrose, passed away on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 6:55 PM at the Ft. Madison Community Hospital.

He was born in Des Moines to Everett and Rebecca Simpson. Londo married Carol Ann Atkinson and they later divorced. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Montrose. He worked in maintenance for local factories. Londo raised ponies and horses and built carriages and wagons that his animals would pull in parades.

Survivors include a daughter, Susan Simpson of Mt. Union, IA; a son, Scott Simpson of Stronghurst, IL; a grandson, T.J. Simpson of Houghton and a half sister, Vicki. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sons, Steve Simpson and James "Daniel" Simpson.

The funeral mass will be held on Friday, December 22, 2017 at 11 AM at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Montrose with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. The family will meet with friends from 10:30 AM until the time of the service at 11 AM. Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

A memorial has been established for Great River Hospice House and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com



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12/20
 1 20 61 64 69
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 Power Play: 2



12/20
 5 12 23 24 32
 All Star Bonus: 2



12/20 MID-DAY
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12/20 EVENING
 5 8 8



12/20 MID-DAY
 1 7 9 4
12/20 EVENING
 0 4 3 8

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Obituaries/Current-Lee

OBITUARIES

DEBBIE BARLOW

Debbie Barlow, 67 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 10:00 pm Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at her home. She was born November 11, 1950 in Keokuk, Iowa, a daughter of Lloyd and Madeline (Malloy) Horton. On September 21, 1968, she married Robert "Bob" Joseph Barlow at Fort Madison, Iowa. He preceded her in death May 29, 2007.



BARLOW

Debbie was a homemaker. She was of the Christian faith. She enjoyed fishing, camping, sewing, antiquing, bird watching, and her animals.

She is survived by two sons, Robert "Robbie" (wife Erica) Barlow, Jr. of Revere, Missouri and Thomas Jeremy (wife Kim) Hymes of Burlington, Iowa; two daughters: Lanorah Elaine Boyle of Fort Madison, Iowa and Roberta Joan (husband Bill) Hol of Oskaloosa, Iowa; one brother Kenneth Horton of Montrose, Iowa; two sisters, Doris (husband Dale) Lopez of Hope Mills, North Carolina and Betty Clement of Crowley, Louisiana; her fiancé Ron Barnes of Fort Madison; step-daughter Lindsey Barnes of Fort Madison; brother-in-law Rich Barlow of Fort Madison; sister-in-law Sandy McCollum of Fort Madison; seven grandchildren, two great grandchildren, three step-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one sister Joyce Williams, one son-in-law Charles Boyle, and one brother-in-law Darrell Barlow.

Per her wishes her body has been cremated. Her family will greet friends from 9:30 - 11:30 am Saturday, December 23, 2017 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A Memorial Service will following and begin at 11:30 am Saturday morning, December 23, 2017 with Harry Scanlan officiating. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Online condolences to the Barlow Family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

DEBRA BETTE SALAZAR

Debra Bette Salazar, 67, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 11:35 a.m. on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at her home. She was born on October 6, 1950 in Fort Madison, IA to Vernon G. & Louise A. Dossett Jones. She was a homemaker and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, flower gardening and visiting with her friends at 10th Street Station.



SALAZAR

Debbie is survived by: her life partner, companion and best friend of 34 years, Ron Marshall of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Danette (Jamie) Baier of Fort Madison, IA & Jenica Salazar Mullarkey of Burlington, IA; 2-sons: Ronnie (Jennifer) Smith of Gallatin, TN & Jude Salazar of Nashville, TN; 10-grandchildren: Sydney Lynn, Cade, Ryder, Sawyer, Isabella Rose, Christopher, Ava, Lilly, Nina & Ruby; 2-great grandsons: Liam & Sullivan; 2-sisters: Shanna Myers of Queen City, MO & Marge Martin of Fort Madison, IA. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2017 with the family to receive friends from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, December 22, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Pastor Steve Huecker officiating. Burial will be held at Myers Cemetery. A memorial has been established in Debbie's memory. Online condolences to Debbie's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

CURRENT-LEE

Christmas Eve services announced

Fort Madison Christian Church Christmas Eve Services, Sunday, December 24, 6:00 p.m.

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Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries 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.

Program focuses on career readiness

12-PLUS - Continued from Page 1

to grow and expand in Lee County, Lee County EDG developed a high school employability class called 12 Plus. This class was designed by Lee County employers and educators to help develop the skills necessary to start a new career in manufacturing.

"Lee County EDG has listened to our manufacturing partners regarding the skills they need in entry level applicants. Lee County EDG Marketing & Communications Manager Dana Millard stated, "We tailored this program to meet those needs of our manufacturers."

Students completed 80 hours of instruction which included guest speakers from industry, Southeastern Community College, Iowa Works and other community leaders. Subjects covered during the class included: safety in the workplace, basic math, reading comprehension, quality fundamentals, problem-solving, mechanical knowledge, employability skills and more. They also developed their resume writing and interview skills to prepare for one-on-one mock interviews.

The students also learned about careers in the area, going on tours of local employers and developing a team project for Pinnacle Foods and Climax Molybdenum.

"I highly recommend this course to anyone unsure of what their future will hold," said Daminick Folluo of Keokuk High School.

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Light Snow

High - 29.9° F | Low - 17.9° F

SAT 23 Dec



Light Snow

High - 24.6° F | Low - 20.1° F

SUN 24 Dec



Light Snow

High - 24.5° F | Low - 22.9° F

MON 25 Dec



Light Snow

High - 20.6° F | Low - 19.5° F

OpenWeatherMap

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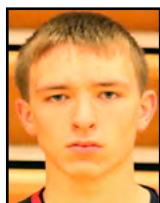
Hounds get 25 from Cresswell at IC Liberty

FM faces Notre Dame on Thursday before holiday break

BY PCC STAFF

NORTH LIBERTY - The Fort Madison Bloodhounds moved above .500 on the season with a 68-45 win over Iowa City Liberty on the road Tuesday night to highlight area boys basketball action.

Senior Kaleb Cresswell exploded for 25 points, including going a perfect 8 of 8 from the free throw line and connecting on three 3-pointers. Senior Treavor



CRESSWELL

James-Kokjohn put in 17 for the Hounds in the non-conference game.

Fort Madison trailed 6-8 at the end of the first quarter but clamped down on Liberty in the second quarter, outscoring the hosts 15-8. Cresswell and Kokjohn each had seven to lead the Hounds in the first half.

The Hounds had one of their best defensive efforts in the third quarter holding Liberty to just four points, while Fort Madison stepped on the gas to put the game almost out of reach with 20 points in the quarter to

lead 41-20.

Sheymouhr Redd-Donald had eight points for Fort Madison and Brandon Keester, returning from sitting out Friday's game against Mt. Pleasant, added seven. Logan Rashid chipped in with four points, while Jayden Fedler and Lorenzo Riles each added two points.

Liberty's 6'5" sophomore Andre Brandon led the hosts with 14 points.

The Hounds host Burlington Notre Dame on Thursday entering winter break, where they won't see action again until Jan. 2 at Washington.

HTC rally falls short

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - A late rally by Holy Trinity came up just short as Wapello downed the Lady Crusaders 47-45 in Tuesday girls basketball action.

A 3-pointer from the left baseline by Taylor Boeding with :02 on the clock got HTC within a bucket, but they couldn't stop the clock.

Wapello held a seven-point lead two times in the fourth quarter, including a 43-36 lead with just two minutes remaining. The Crusaders got buckets from Eryn Anderson to close within six and then the junior hit two free throws after a foul by the Arrows' Sadie Burke with just :54 seconds left.

Senior Brett Schneider, playing with four fouls, then stole the ball after Wapello got the ball across the half court line and raced down for a fastbreak bucket to make it 42-44. Boeding fouled on the other end sending Tiffany Parsons to the line and Parsons converted the front end of the one-and-one for a three-point lead. The Crusaders' Sam Hoenig then fouled again as Wapello was bringing the ball up the floor sending Emma Reid to the line. Reid hit both free throws for a five-point lead

HTC raced down the floor and found Boeding open on the baseline as time was running out.

Emily Box led Holy Trinity with 17 points inside the paint. Schneider had 10 points, followed by Anderson's seven, Boeding with six, Ashlynn Haas with three, and Avery Hopper added two points.

The 3-6 Crusaders are on winter break and will be off until Jan. 2 when they travel to New London.



Above, HTC freshman Claire Pothitakis puts up a shot against the Wapello Arrows in Tuesday's 45-47 loss at home. At right, Emily Box scores two of her 17 inside against Tiffany Parsons. Holy Trinity cut the lead to two points with :02 left in the game.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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Lady Hounds fall to 0-6 with losses

BY PCC STAFF

QUINCY - Illini West rolled over the Fort Madison Bloodhounds 57-9 at the John Wood Shootout in Quincy Tuesday night.

The Lady Hounds were led by Eleesha Estrada with four points. Nadia Boeding and Maddie Rashid each had a bucket for Fort Madison and Anna Kester added a free throw.

The Hounds were without leading scorer Sara Bernhardt and senior Kamryn Bailey.

Fort Madison also fell to Iowa City Liberty on Saturday, 61-33. Braxtyn McGhghy led the Lady Hounds with 10 points. Dalyn Wondra had eight for Fort Madison, while Kester and Kamryn Bailey each threw in seven points. Bernhardt added a free throw.

Cora Saunders led Iowa City with 15 points, all 3-pointers.

The girls are now on winter break and won't play again until Jan. 2 when they travel to Fairfield.

Sports

HTC learns in 70-41 loss

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Head Coach John Hellige said the Holy Trinity boys basketball team would have a season of learning and some growing pains.

And Tuesday's 70-41 loss at the hands of Trenton Massner and the Wapello Indians provided his

young squad with a learning experience facing a senior-laden, athletic, and physical squad.

The Indians' Trenton Massner, who is leading both the Southeast Iowa Superconference north and south division in scoring with 21 points per game, had a couple of dunks in the game, one on a one-hander in the middle of the paint and the other

on an alley-oop down the right baseline.

Massner only scored 17 in the game, but was pulled early in the fourth quarter when the Indians had the game in hand.

The young Crusaders, led by sophomore Reed Fehseke's 12 points, methodically and patiently worked their offense and half-court defense with mild pressure on the Indians throughout the game.

Despite the Indians racing out to a 20-9 first quarter lead, the Crusaders battled back to make it an eight-point game with two minutes left in the first half at 19-27 on a Matt Hellige bucket inside. But then Wapello pushed the lead back to 18 on a 10-0 run with five coming from Massner and several turnovers by the Crusaders in the frenzied pace of Wapello's game.

"It's all part of growing up and we want to play the good teams. They expose your weaknesses," Hellige said. "I told the boys at halftime we don't usually travel and we traveled 10



HTC junior Adam Rauenbuehler tries to squeeze between two Wapello defenders in Tuesday's 41-70 loss at home. At left, Matt Hellige tries a hot shot against the Indians.



to 12 times tonight. I really thought the first quarter and a half we played very well. We were down eight with the ball and we traveled and did some other stuff."

HTC couldn't get much going in the second half with Wapello pushing the lead over 30 points on several occasions. Blake Crabtree got hot in the fourth quarter hitting a couple 3-pointers from the right baseline on back-to-back possessions to cut in the Indians 33-point lead and Fehseke added a

3-pointer with just seconds remaining for HTC.

"We were younger guys versus a very talented, very strong, senior-dominated team," Hellige said. "We're gonna continue to work over the holidays and do some fun things. We'll practice most days with the exception of a few days and get ready for New London. It's teams like this that really get us ready for the second half of the season."

Hellige said the Crusaders are coming along in terms of development,

but there is still room for improvement.

"We're not quite where we need to be, but my attitude is that we continue to improve, stay patient and positive, and work toward our goals."

Hellige, Crabtree, and Jake Eaves all had six points for HTC. Brant Holtkamp had five points, Quentin Schneider had four, and Adam Rauenbuehler had two.

The Crusaders are 2-6 on the year and travel to New London on Jan. 2.



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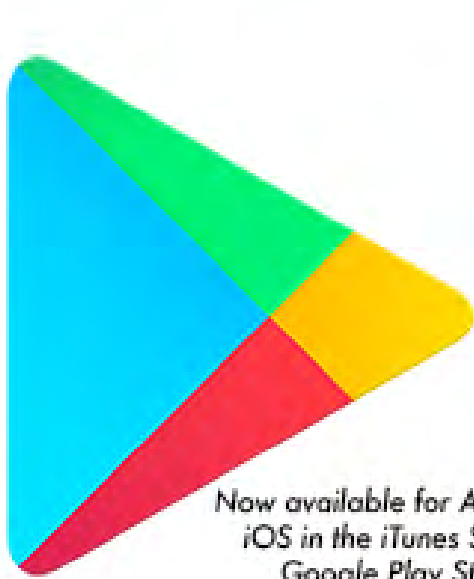
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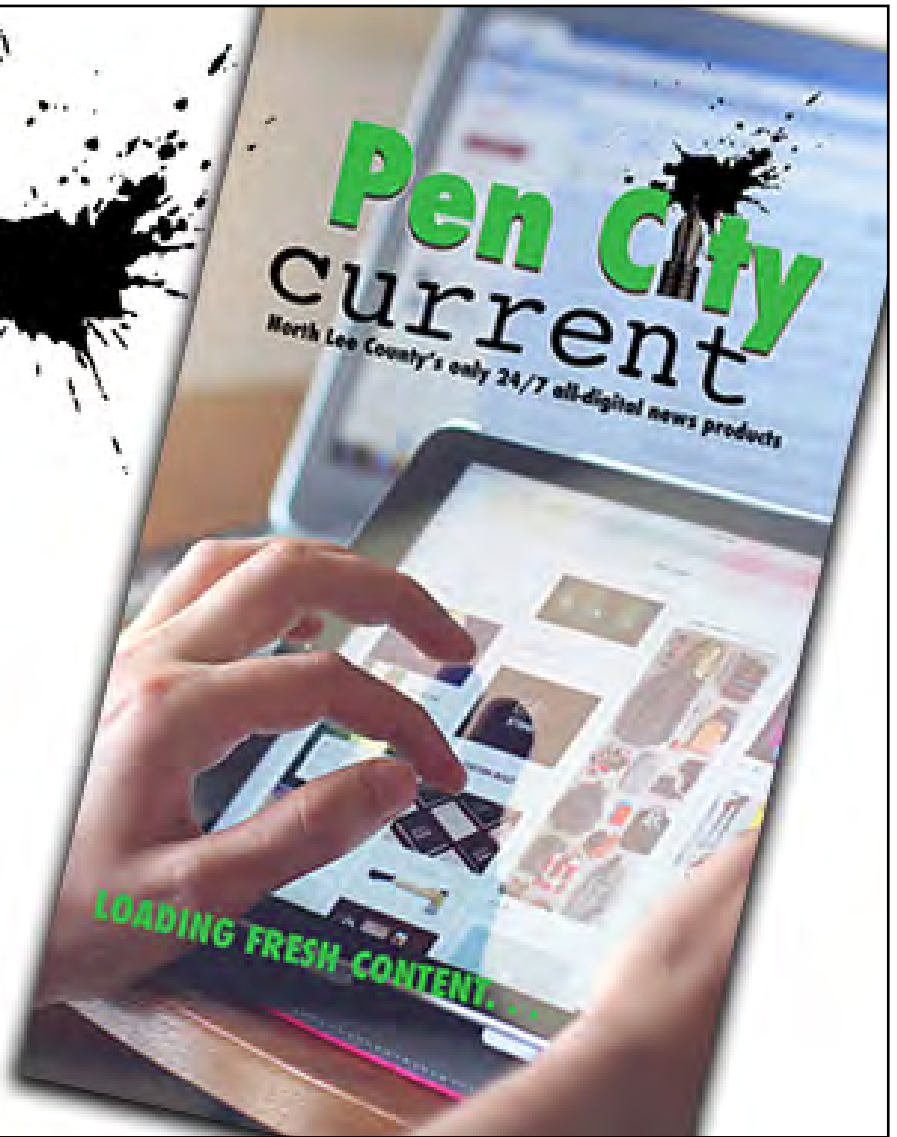
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From the Front

Congress should fight to restore Internet neutrality

PEITZ - Continued from Page 1

I would have to pay more money to send a text, or extra money to use Snapchat. However, the news that I'd been seeing all over social media sounded way more harmful than reality. Although companies may have to pay more to use faster internet lanes, there's no need to worry about paying a dollar per tweet.

On the opposite end, your internet bill could go up, which is definitely not favorable. Open access to internet is important for everyone, and small businesses may suffer if certain internet providers choose to block their content. Basically, Internet providers would yield control over the speed at which websites are viewed in their plans, in other words they could have a throttle on how you view certain web material.

Personally, I stand with the net neutrality side, meaning that I think congress should fight to regain net neutrality. With companies picking and choosing internet content, repealing the net neutrality rules may benefit larger internet companies, like AT&T, U.S. Cellular, and Verizon, but for companies who depend on internet providers, like small businesses, it's a different story. Their websites may be blocked by bigger companies, causing many innovative businesses to crumble, instead of expanding. Along with blocking small business ads, larger internet companies can slow down speed on your phone if you're viewing something they don't like, like a competing company's ad or a local business's commercial. Along with that, large internet companies could contribute to a politician's campaign, causing the company to slow down browser speed for anyone viewing another candidate's advertisements or social medias.

In general, net neutrality may help large internet providers. But everyone else? Perhaps not.

Ava Peitz is a freshmen at Holy Trinity Catholic who is interning with Pen City Current. You can reach her at editor@pencitycurrent.com



Main Street Iowa aware of city's plans with downtown walks

SIDEWALKS - Continued from Page 1

not impact the streets or street surfaces.

The city has plans to redo that stretch of road on Avenue G when it puts in new separated storm and sewer water lines after the Old Highway 61 project is completed. The city plans to start replacing Old Highway 61 from 2nd Street to 6th Street in 2018 and that project will progress west in subsequent years.

Randolph asked Marsh again about how replacing the curbing could fit in.

"It was put to us that whatever had to be removed as part of the project they would replace, and that kind of goes hand in hand," Randolph said.

"We could be potentially reimbursed for that. The curbing will be bid with the project and that is an eligible expense if we can prove that is contributing to the infiltration of rain water," Marsh said.

But the cap of \$1.5 million would be the extent of the covered costs of the project. So if the curbing were an eligible expense it would still have to come in under the \$1.5 million cap of the entire project. If it's over, the city could look at ways to fund that difference.

City Manager David Varley told the council the project also opens up options for Fort Madison Main Street and downtown groups to bump up the project if they can find funding to help put in streetscape wishes, such as period lighting or whatever is on their list for future improvements. But he reminded everyone that the city's contribution is fixed.

Councilman Rusty Andrews, the past president of Fort Madison Main Street, said at first glance \$1.8 million for 8 blocks of sidewalk seemed like a lot to swallow.

"We need to do it. It's the right place to spend the money. The bigger picture is \$1.8 million, projected cost, to do four blocks of sidewalk - what part of that makes sense? But the only reason it makes sense is that it's just paid interest to the state. Let's use it here. But if the city needs to kick in a little, how do you not?"

Cassie Gilbert, Fort Madison's Main

Street Coordinator, said Main Street Iowa is aware Fort Madison is moving forward with the project.

"Main Street Iowa is aware this is happening tonight," she said after the meeting. "But other than that they have to wait 'til it's approved before they can help me do anything."

Andrews said after HR Green finishes their work of getting the project specs designed and approved for funding, then Main Street can look at options.

"Let HR do their job. They come back and say the project will cost \$2 million and the city only has \$1.5 million to see that through (Gilbert) could use that to her advantage in applying for funding from different sources. Whether it be private sources or Main Street Iowa."

Driscoll said the city will probably try to facilitate a committee consisting of Main Street, business owners, and city officials to come up with a plan for the impact of the project and then possibly hold a community-wide meeting to get input from city residents.

Tim Cutsforth, a project manager with HR Green, said at a previous council meeting the application process would take six months, and the project itself could be completed in a single construction season. Driscoll wrote in his memo to the council, the project would be set to be completed by 2020. The cost for HR Green is \$213,000 for their services.

In other action, the council.

- voted to reappoint Varley as the city's representative on the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission.

- voted 6-0 to approve a contract with K&A Excavating LLC for intersection repairs at 7th Street and Hwy 2 (Avenue H) in the amount of \$307,903.50

- voted 6-0, to file an application with SEIRPC for grant funds to replace the surface of Hwy 61 between 20th and 30th streets. The project is scheduled for 2022.

- voted 6-0, to approve an agreement with Visu-Sewer to clean and inspect Riverview Park's trunk sewer main at a cost not to exceed \$150,000.

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