



Pen City Current

Thursday, April 13, 2017 | 9 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 98

FMCS D, teachers union exchange offers

FMEA wants 3% plus step, District wants step

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After a very quick meeting Wednesday afternoon, negotiations were underway between the Fort Madison School District and the Fort Madison Education Association.

After reading a brief statement, FMEA Chief Negotiator Angie Rothlauf, a teacher at Lincoln, told the board and about 65 people in attendance, the association is looking for a five-year contract with a 3% yearly increase. She also requested that the district retain bargaining rights, where applicable, as a process despite a change in Iowa law that pulled several articles from collective bargaining laws.

"We believe everyone in attendance sees the value of providing the highest level of instruction to the students of this community in an environment conducive to successful learning," Rothlauf said.

"While competitive salaries and benefits are essential, there are other also other critical factors that impact a district's ability to keep educators. With that in mind, we ask the district to consider all aspects of our initial proposal that was prepared with that concept in mind. We are including all provisions in our



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Members of the Fort Madison community and the Fort Madison teachers' union met in the parking lot of the Fort Madison Administration offices prior to submitting their initial proposal for contract negotiations.

current contract as part of the initial proposal. We realize that this includes some items that are excluded from formal bargaining. We are doing so to emphasize the fact that most of these items are critical to all employees."

Rothlauf outlined that the association was

seeking a contract duration of five years with a proposed increase of 3% for each of the contract years in addition to earned steps.

Emily Ellingston, the district's lawyer, spoke

See **CONTRACTS**, page 2

Taylor OK after hospital visit

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES - State Sen. Rich Taylor was taken to the hospital on Monday after falling ill during a debate session.

Taylor (D-Mt. Pleasant) was back at the Capitol building in the afternoon to continue the session.

"I got very hot in a

meeting and I went outside for some fresh cool air," Taylor said on Wednesday.

"A few fellow senators came out to see if I was alright.

They say I was having trouble breathing and was very pale. Someone called 911 and the game was on."

Rescue personnel arrived at the Capitol building and took Taylor to the Des Moines Mercy Hospital.

"They poked me full of holes, I guess to let some of the hot air out, took some pictures for their scrapbook and told me I am 'perfectly normal,'" he said.

"I missed my first vote ever. I suppose it had to happen sometime but I was pretty proud of my lifetime record of never missing a vote."



TAYLOR

Employee injured at IFC facility Saturday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEVER - An employee working at the Iowa Fertilizer Plant in Wever was seriously injured early Saturday morning.

According to plant spokesman Jesse Harris, the employee suffered serious, but not life-threatening injuries at about 4 a.m. Saturday morning. The employee was transported immediately to Great River Medical

Center in Burlington and then moved to an Iowa City hospital for further treatment.

The fertilizer plant tested its alarms on Friday morning. In a Monday interview, Harris indicated the alarms that day were part of the start up and testing processes and did not indicate an incident took place at that time.

"I did check with the plant and there were no incidents reported Friday morning, but there were alarm tests," Harris

had said in the Monday article.

Today, Harris said he didn't want to create any confusion but had checked for earlier dates and not the weekend and with testing going on Friday, those were the alarms and testing he had checked on. Harris said he thought the questions from the Pen City Current were pertaining to earlier in the week.

"I don't want to create any confusion out there. This was a Saturday



incident and we were testing our alarm systems on Friday at 10 a.m. Our thoughts and prayers are with the employee and the employee's family," he said. "Safety is the foun-

dation of our operations and we will conduct a full review of the incident to determine what, if any, changes are necessary to prevent a similar incident in the future."

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From the Front/Obituaries

Teachers want district to keep bargaining language in contract

CONTRACT - Continued from Page 1

on behalf of the district, and kept her discussion to contract language and what will be “delete, permissive” and “delete excluded” which included 13 articles of the current contract.

Included in those, in part, were insurance, compensation, leaves, and dues among others. The “delete, excluded” language reflects changes to Chapter 20 laws that were implemented this year.

Rothlauf said it was the

association’s hope that all language, that is permissive language under the new law, would be retained in the contract.

The district also proposed that “each eligible employee’s base wages increase the equivalent of one step, as reflected in the salary schedule from the 2016 to 2017 contract”.

A review of the current step increases in that contract showed the percent rates range from 1.08% for newest teach-

ers to 1.48% for the most tenured teacher.

“To the extent that any step movement includes any Teacher Salary Supplement payment, the board identifies such supplemental payment as an excluded topic of bargaining” the offer indicated.

After the initial proposals were exchanged, the meeting was closed to the public.

“We hope we can work together to make it equitable for both sides,”

“

We hope we can make it equitable for both sides.”

-Susan Johnson, Lincoln Elementary teacher

said Lincoln Elementary teacher Susan Johnson after the meeting.



Photo Courtesy of Lee County Bank

Mike Culbertson, Lee County Bank President, is pictured here presenting the check for \$510 to Sandy Brown of PAW to help with septic issues at the no-kill animal shelter. The funds were raised as part of a bake sale held at the bank Monday.

OBITUARIES

EMILY JACOBSMEIER

Emily Jacobsmeier, 80, of Davenport, IA and formerly of Ft. Madison passed away on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 5:11 AM at the Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House in Bettendorf, IA.

She was born on November 2, 1936 in Ft. Madison to Manuel and Sara Pabon Cangas. Emily married Edward Kane in October of 1980 and he passed away in January of 1991. She then married Wendell Jacobsmeier on January 13, 2001 in Keokuk. She was a member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Davenport and a former member of Sacred Heart Church in Ft. Madison. She enjoyed gardening, music, dancing, singing and bowling.

Survivors include Husband, Wendell Jacobsmeier of Davenport; a sister, Nettie Hernandez of Ft. Madison; a brother, Leonard Cangas of Des Moines; five step children Theresa Matlick of Parker, CO, Lisa Snodgrass of Quincy, IL, David (Stephanie) Jacobsmeier of Keokuk, Todd Jacobsmeier of Portland, OR and Sean (Theresa) Jacobsmeier of Davenport; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and first husband. Emily asked for pardon of all whom she has injured and she forgives all who have injured her.

A memorial mass will be held on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 11 AM at Sacred Heart Church in Ft. Madison, the family will meet with friends from 10 AM until the time of the service at the church and burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

A memorial has been established in her memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Department Report

04/11/17 – 9:30 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a property damage accident at Chalk Ridge Road / Devine Drive.
04/11/17 – 10:13 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 1500 block of Avenue F.
04/11/17 – 3:11 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited and released Christopher Allen Seitz, 39, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L on a charge of 5th degree theft.
04/11/17 – 3:35 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
04/11/17 – 4:02 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue L.

Lee County Sheriff's Department Report

County Sheriff's deputies arrested Voncelle Michelle Blue, 28, of West Des Moines, at the Polk County Jail, on a warrant for contempt – failure to pay court costs. She was jailed.
04/11/17 - 9:30 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on ChalkRidge Road. A vehicle driven by Seth Thomas Wright crossed the center line and lost control before striking a shipping container that was on the right side of the road. Wright was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital for injuries sustained at the scene and was cited for not providing insurance. *All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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Pen City Current will not publish its digital e-Edition on Easter Sunday, April 16 & Monday, April 17 in order to enjoy the holiday with our families.

However, any breaking news will continue to be posted to our website at pencitycurrent.com.

We wish you & yours a wonderful Easter.



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Pen City Current
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Fort Madison, IA

Local News

10th Street Station wants your vote for best sandwich

Local diner listed in USA Today sandwich poll

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A national reader's choice contest currently shows a Fort Madison restaurant as one of the best loose meat sandwiches in the state of Iowa.

But that's not good enough for owner Dave Taylor. He wants to be No. 1 and he's asking for your help.

The USA Today is currently running a Reader's Choice 2017 vote contest to find the best loose meat sandwich in Iowa and voters have until May 8 to choose their favorite.

"We're asking for your help. We're currently number 2 in the poll and a place in Ottumwa is No. 1, but we think we've got a better sandwich," Taylor said Wednesday morning. "We're just thrilled to

be considered, as the new owners. We're going up against other generational businesses that have been around 50 to 60 years. We'd like to be rated No. 1 and help bring daytrippers to Fort Madison to see our beautiful riverfront."

Taylor said anyone can vote once a day every day by clicking on the link below.

The article in the national newspaper indicated the history of the local favorite was originally called a Tavern Sandwich in 1924 and then a "Maid-Rite" appeared in 1926, which is now a franchised regional brand.

"10th Street Station has been serving customers since 1929, and this Fort Madison favorite features several variations of the loose meat sandwich, including one with cheese and another with bacon

"We're asking for your help. We're currently No. 2 in the poll and a place in Ottumwa is No. 1, but we think we've got a better sandwich."

-Dave Taylor, owner
10th Street Station

and cheese," the voting website reads.

Voting goes through May 8, with the winners being announced in the publication on May 12.

Taylor said he received an email on Thursday that the diner was in the running and was asked to send in some images for the publication and



Photo courtesy of 10th Street Station

the picture showing in the voting page was taken locally and sent in.

"We were No. 3 but we have moved into No. 2. We're asking everyone to vote one time a day every day until May 8."

As of this morning, 16 Iowa restaurants were still in the running with the 10th Street Station in the 2nd spot. To vote click:

<http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-loose-meat-sandwich-in-iowa/10th-street-station-fort-madison/>



Great River Regional Waste Authority's Earth Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Saturday April 22nd, 2017 ~ 9:00am to 12:00pm Located in Central Park



Fort Madison Residents Only, No Businesses Please



Great River Regional Waste Authority will be accepting the following Household Hazardous Waste items during the Annual Community Clean Up Event. We encourage you to call ahead and make an appointment for the collection.

- Fertilizers, Herbicides, Insecticides, Pesticides
- Oil Based Paints, Paint Thinners & Solvents
 - Household & Auto Cleaning Products
 - Car Batteries, Motor Oil, Antifreeze
- Car Batteries and Rechargeable Batteries
 - Swimming Pool Chemicals
 - Propane Tanks
 - AND MORE!

*No Latex Paints Please

Call 319-372-6140 to schedule your appointed time or to check to see if your items qualify for this event.

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- Compare computer printouts with original part specifications to verify accuracy of instructions.
- Perform preventative maintenance or minor repairs on machines.
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- Production and Processing— Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.
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Contact Information: Kevin Mehaffy, 1311 Pilot Grove Road, Pilot Grove, Iowa, 52648, 319-469-3961

Application Deadline: April 28th, 2016



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- Upgraded Kitchen with Upper Glass Cabinetry

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- 3 Full Baths
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New Construction Built in 2017

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- Granite Counter Tops
- 4 Bedrooms w/ Master Suite
- 3 Full Baths
- 9 ft. Finished Basement
- Modern Open Floor Plan
- Covered Rear Porch
- New Family Friendly Neighborhood
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Open House

Thursday, April 13 • 4:30-6pm
225 Avenue E
Hosted by Linda Reding



REDUCED

Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24' X 36' insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.

Listing #20163776 • \$129,500



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3684 Argyle Road, Keokuk
Listing #20164982 • \$191,500



4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage
1,260 sq. ft. • 4.59 acres

Custom Designed, Energy Efficient home with an open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, on a hard surface road. Includes large deck extends the entire back length of the house, master bedroom that opens up to the back deck, jack and jill master bath and second bedroom. The property also includes an oversized 2 car garage with a heated workshop attached.

4911 Bluff Road
Listing #20164861 • \$157,500



3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres

Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage.

3098 County Road 103
Listing #20164991 • \$129,900



2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage
1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres

Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property!!! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!

1712 Avenue E
Listing #20164725 • \$92,000



4BR • 1.50BA
1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot

This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!

1703 Avenue L
Listing #20165151 • \$55,900



3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,488 sq. ft. • 16,247 sq. ft. lot

Has been owned by this seller since 1960!!! Large eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor includes stove, microwave, washer and dryer, main floor laundry (in bedroom), formal dining room with built-in hutch, and spacious living room. The house sits on a HUGE lot and has a nice 2 car garage in back. Home has Gas Heat and central air with maintenance-free siding on house and garage.





3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres
 Quality and beauty! Many updates and upgrades including a new concrete patio/carport with surround sound and mood lighting, new kitchen, bath and lighting throughout. This is an AMAZING house that you MUST see to appreciate!!!
Listing #20164622 • \$88,000



3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres
 Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.
Listing #20163951 • \$129,000



5BR • 2.50BA • 2 car garage
2,834 sq. ft.
14,868 sq. ft. lot
 Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!
Listing #20164117 • \$127,500



2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
1,224 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot
 A house with character! Wrap-around porch, original hardwood in formal dining room/living room combo, main floor laundry, nice size eat-in kitchen including appliances, dining room has original fireplace, basement and 1 car garage.
Listing #20162543 • \$53,000



5BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
1,904 sq. ft. • 1,903 sq. ft. lot
 Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Ft. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.
Listing #20162346
\$86,950



3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
928 sq. ft. • 1,087 sq. ft. lot
 Very nice maintenancefree home by Lincoln School with a 75 X 145 fenced yard, nice patio, fire pit and child's play set! Some very nice built-ins, some original hardwood flooring, full basement including laundry area. Also find extra parking, garage and carport area on the paved alley.
Listing #20164148 • \$72,500



5BR • 3BA
3,119 sq. ft.
14,500 sq. ft. lot
 From the period wrought iron fencing to the amazing stained oak staircase...from the impressive arches to the large wrap porch, this beautiful turn of the century (20th) home offers all the beauty and elegance of that era. This is a beautifully appointed home with all the modern conveniences. There is an extra large lot for your family to enjoy!!
Listing #20162159 • \$164,000



3 BR • 2 BA • 1 car garage
2,260 sq. ft.
6,784 sq. ft. lot
 Lots of new! Semi open floor plan, new flooring, great open basement family space, and many updates including heat/air units, kitchen back splash, counters and more! Fenced in back yard with stamped concrete patio and awning. Call today to see this great home in a quiet neighborhood.
Listing #20164544 • \$139,900



3BR • 3BA
2,754 sq. ft.
3,550 sq. ft. lot
 Gorgeous, turn-key home with large patio minimum maintenance. UPDATES GALORE!!! Practically perfect in every way, this 1841 home includes the latest improvements while keeping its Victorian charm.
Listing #23006122 • \$99,999



2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
930 sq. ft. • 7,280 sq. ft. lot
 This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!
Listing #20164279 • \$38,500





2BR • 1BA
1,144 sq. ft.
3,625 sq. ft. lot

Move-in ready with many updates including kitchen WITH appliances, fresh paint, newer electrical (100 AMP breaker), new water lines at street and more! The home is clean as a whistle and ready to move in!

Listing #20161431 • \$42,500



2BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
679 sq. ft. • 6,500 sq. ft. lot
 Nice, small home. Seller has purchased and remodeled. Excellent condition.
Listing #20164161 • \$62,500



2 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
528 sq. ft. • 5,600 sq. ft. lot
 Super deal on this cream puff home, offering 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, new roof, newer windows, siding and REALLY nice garage!
Listing #20164597 • \$29,900



4 BR • 1.75 BA
3 car garage • 2,052 sq. ft.
8,700 sq. ft. lot
 Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24' X 36' insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.
Listing #20163776 • \$129,500



**Let Hope help
 you find your
 next home!**



3 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
1,248 sq. ft. • 0.37 acres

Well-kept ranch on a beautiful, large corner lot in West Point, IA. New wooden privacy fence surrounding the entire back yard. There is also an attached garage and storage shed. A large wooden deck leads to the front door where you can sit and enjoy those beautiful Iowa summer sunsets! PLUS a covered deck in the back for those rainy days. This house is a rare find.

Listing #20164234 • \$119,900



2 car garage • 2,527 sq. ft.
 UNIQUELY beautiful 9.38 river bluff acreage. This home boasts many updates including complete master suite, heat and A/C, Septic system, deck, roof & gutters, flooring, and the list goes on. This private property includes fenced in barn area for animal lovers, mature fruit trees plus trees have been dropped for a beautiful panoramic river view that will last for years! Owner also plans to leave a John Deer mower and new snow blower!!
Listing #20162733 • \$269,000



3 BR • 2.50 BA
2 car garage • 1,194 sq. ft.
10,400 sq. ft. lot

Great family home is move-in ready. Nice-sized kitchen with all appliances, dining area, and nice living room all on the upper level. Completely re-modeled family room with a wood burning fireplace on lower level. Many updates include newer flooring, roof and HVAC system.

Listing #20164531 \$114,900



Land

14.65 acres • 638,514 sq. ft.
 Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30' X 60' building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.
Listing #20162574 • \$249,000



3BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
888 sq. ft. • 9,450 sq. ft. lot
 RARE RANCH with large fenced back yard and attached garage! Updated windows and kitchen, newer HVAC and water heater. Family Room in the basement. Just waiting for your own personal touch!
Listing #20163423 • \$74,900



Land

50.82 acres
2,213,719 sq. ft.
 Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.
Listing #20162779 • \$559,020

Sports/Opinion



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Sand man

Above, FMHS senior Bill Young blasts out of the sand on Hole #3 Tuesday afternoon as area boys golfers competed in the Lee County Invitational at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course. At right, HTC's Collin Thornton lines up a putt on the same hole.



Lady Hounds take racquet to Keokuk

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Fort Madison girls tennis team took seven of nine games from host Keokuk Tuesday night.

The Lady Hounds won No. 2 through No. 6 in singles matches highlighted by three 8-1 wins at Nos. 3, 5, and 6.

At No. 3 Hope Gray downed Abby Vaughn, At No. 5 Charissa Smith downed the Chief's Riley James, and Lanie Kuntz downed Lydia Davidson at No. 6 all by 8-1 scores.

Kearstyn Johnson downed Kali Redd 8-4 at No. 2 and Larissa Ferrill downed Hailey Swan 8-4 to round out the Hounds wins in singles competition.

Katie Larson fell to Jordyn Thompson 4-8 at No. 1 singles.

"Thompson is tough competition, but Katie hung right there with her and played very competitively," said Head Coach Amy Doherty.

In doubles competition, Larson and Gray fell 5-8 to Thompson and Rudd.

But Johnson and Ferrill won 8-3 over Vaughn and Swan. Smith and Kuntz also won 8-3 over James and Davidson.

"It was a great job by the girls tonight," said head coach Amy Doherty. The match score of No. 2 doubles doesn't do justice for how close those games were."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LCHD board member outlines need for new building

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Lee County Board of Health, I am writing about the need for a new Lee County Health Department building and location. For 20+ years the health department has demonstrated a need to move from its current location to a more practical and accessible building for the public and its employees.

The current LCHD location at 2218 Ave H is a rented property. Although the owner of the property has been a great landlord and community partner to LCHD, the need for a county-owned building for LCHD is realistic and greatly needed. This is due to two primary reasons:

1. The projected costs of renting and completing building repairs and maintenance for an old building in the long term outweighs the costs of a new county-owned building on county owned property. The heating and cooling system needs updated, the electrical system is outdated and at its maximum capacity, and the elevator has been dismantled and is beyond repair. For those interested, LCHD's finance administrator has available financial data to support the comparable cost projections of remaining at the current location vs. a new building over the next 20-25-year period.

2. The second reason is the size and available space of the current location. This space is no longer compatible with the number of services/programs LCHD offers and the number of employees it houses. In 1989 when LCHD moved into the current location, there were just 6 programs with 22 employees. Today there are 19 programs with 36 employees, 4 contracted staff, and office volunteers, all working in just 7,500 square feet. Some staff/volunteers are working in hallways and many program materials/supplies are stacked in boxes and/or stored in any space available. Available storage space is completely full at ground level and the overflow storage room on the 4th floor of the rented building requires four flights of steps to store and retrieve needed supplies by program staff.

As stated before, LCHD has been looking for a new location for several years. Over 20 sites have been looked at for possibilities by the building committee. Most of the buildings looked at were in similar size or condition which would cost as much as a new building between purchasing property, making needed renovations, and land acquisition.

The building committee and Board of Health have determined that the best scenario involves building a new health department on county owned property next to the Sheriff's Office. This would be centrally located and handicapped accessible. On behalf of the Board of Health, I am hoping the public understands the need for this new building and votes YES on May 2, 2017. If you would like to tour the current location or request additional information about the new building plans, please call the administrator at LCHD.

Paula Spiekermeier