



Pen City Current

Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 199

City to upgrade water treatment plant ops

SCADA system first on the list to replace at 9-year-old plant

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City officials stopped just short Tuesday of approving a quarter-million dollar automation system for the city's water treatment plant.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, public works director Larry Driscoll told the council the SCADA system, which stands for

Supervisor Control and Data Acquisition, is needed to improve efficiency at the water treatment plant.

The current SCADA system online at the plant was installed when the plant was built in 2010.

Driscoll approached the council several months ago with expansion plans including providing water service to Scott's Miracle Gro.

Plans included three upgrades, the first of which is the SCADA system, which is all the control operations to run the plant. The second was to add a sand filter, and the third would be a sixth well for water production.

"With or without Scotts, the SCADA system needs

to be completed and so does the sand filter so those are the two items I want to move forward with," he said.

The SCADA system carried a cost of \$377,000, but Driscoll said that included a camera system that he has since removed from the upgrade, cutting the cost to \$266,000.

Councilman Matt Mohrfeld asked if it would be big issue to table the purchase since he received the report about eight hours before the council meeting.

"As I read that report, it's one that merit's re-reading. Not that I don't trust you by any means, everything

See **COUNCIL**, page 4



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Members of the Fort Madison Lions Club and the Fort Madison Kiwanis Club hand out fresh baked chocolate chip cookies provided by the Lions Club Wednesday morning at the Fort Madison pier to passengers on the American Harmony. The boat docked this morning for an 8.5 hour excursion. Another boat will be at the dock again tomorrow in the only back-to-back stops this year.

Fall citywide clean-up, hydrant flushing set

City sets three days aside for clean up

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The City of Fort Madison will be conducting City Wide Fall Clean Up October 10-12. Fort Madison residents may

bring their refuse to the central location at the City lot at 15th Street & Avenue I between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Oct 10 & Oct 11) and 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Oct 12).

Residents must provide a valid form of identification and City Water Bill in order to place refuse items in dumpsters. Please call 372-

7700 x 201 for more information or check the City Website at <http://www.fortmadison-ia.com/>.

There are many residents within the City of Fort Madison who cannot bring or do not have the capability to bring their items to the central location site at 15th Street

See **CITY**, page 8

Artists take over Central Park Sunday

BY BRIAN RIGGS

Fort Madison Area Arts Association Director

FORT MADISON – Ft. Madison's Art-in-Central Park has well over a decade of family fun Sundays under their belt since FMAAA brought the event back to town. Over twenty visual artists will be displayed under the shade trees of Central Park this Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., showing you a variety of mediums. Musical performances will crank out the tunes in the gazebo in the afternoon. The Kid's Art Fun Zone will be in flow from 12:30-2:30 p.m. by the playground.

A Microbrew BBQ awaits visitors in the shelter house featuring The Lost Duck Brewery's pulled pork sandwiches. Axalta Coating Systems is the Event sponsor for this cultural arena at Central Park on Sunday. This event fills the park and has something for everyone in the family.

The Kid's Art Fun Zone will run from 12:30-2:30 p.m. around the playground. Popular Sweet Mimi the Balloon Clown is back in action. Susan Buehler will man the Halloween figurine ceramics painting booth. Pumpkins for Painting will again be available as has proven to be a winner in the past. Kid's Art FunZone is sponsored by Seither & Cherry Inc.

Music in the gazebo kicks off at noon with one-man-band veteran Bocephus Wayne, sponsored by Jim Baier Inc. Bocephus sings and plays guitar, snaredrum, and harmonica all at the same time.

Artists will take over Central Park again this Sunday for the annual Art in Central Park put on by the Fort Madison Area Arts Association.

The Hillside's bluegrass style will start pickin-and-grinnin around 1 p.m., sponsored by MidWestOne

See **FMAAA**, page 8

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Obituaries/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

09/17/19 – 11:11 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Avenue L.
 09/17/19 – 3:11 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 900 block of Avenue D.
 09/17/19 – 12:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Joshua Charles Corcoran, 38, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of 11th Street on a charge of trespassing. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

09/17/19 – 11:08 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Lindsay Renee Hayes, 37, of West Point at the intersection of 30th Street and Avenue L, on a charge of driving while barred and providing false identification. She was released on a promise to appear.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

09/17/19 – 3:36 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Anthony Gary Payton, 43, of Roseberg, Ore., at the Fulton Correctional Center in Fulton

on a charge of violation of probation. He was jailed.
 09/17/19 – 9:56 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Damian Lee Hamann, 30, at the sheriff's office on judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

09/17/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls and one lift assist.



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Saturday, September 28
9:00 am to 11:00 am
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OBITUARIES

KENNETH A. GRANT

Kenneth A. "Kenny" Grant, 73, of Keokuk, IA passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, February 24th, 2019.

He was born to Fred and Veronica Ronnenberg Grant on October 8th, 1945 in Winona, Minnesota.



GRANT

Kenny is survived by his siblings Richard (Pat) Grant, Ruth-Jeanne Aikin, Don (Kate) Grant, Carol Grant, Nancy Zetes, Fred (Liz) Grant, Dorie (Mark) Etrheim, Mike Grant, and Sharon (Bryan) Simonson as well as many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews and best friend Mike Rooney "Roon-dawg".

Kenny proudly served in the United States Army.

Kenny lived and worked in Quincy, IL for several years before he moved to Keokuk. He had been employed as a mechanic, for the City of Keokuk, for twenty-one years, until his retirement in 2009.



Kenny was an active member of the American Legion Post #41, VFW, and Southside Boat Club all in Keokuk.

A graveside service with military rites will be held at 2:30 p.m., Friday in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Family and friends will meet at the American Legion Post #41 in Keokuk, immediately following the service.

Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

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

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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



9/17
 12 15 30 50 65
 Mega Ball: 1
 Megaplier: 4



9/17 MID-DAY
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9/17 EVENING
 0 5 4



9/17 MID-DAY
 8 4 6 1
9/17 EVENING
 2 7 9 4

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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Education News

HTC seniors named to National Merit program

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – Jason Woodley, principal of Holy Trinity Catholic High School announced today that Wyatt Hellman and Samantha Pothitakis have been named Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program.

A Letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, has been presented by the principal to these scholastically talented seniors.

Wyatt Hellman and Samantha Pothitakis both received Commended Students letters from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for performances on the PSAT and NMSQT tests earlier this year. Photo Courtesy of Holy Trinity Catholic High School

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2020 competition for National Merit Scholarship Awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC.

“These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”



Courtesy Photo

Wyatt Hellman and Samantha Pothitakis both received Commended Students letters from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for performances on the PSAT and NMSQT tests earlier this year.

No Plastic Bags in the recycling bins

*When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please **DO NOT** put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.*

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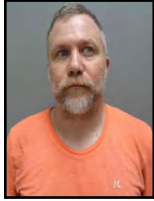



Lee County News/From the Front

Task Force makes three area felony meth arrests

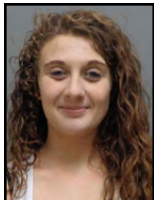
BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force has arrested three individuals on unrelated felony and misdemeanor drug charges between September 7th and September 12th.



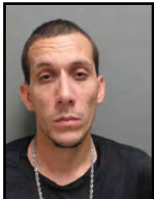
BULLARD

Warren Bullard, 43, of Ft. Madison, Iowa was arrested on September 7th, 2019 in the 2200 block Ave L, Ft. Madison, IA for an outstanding warrant along with felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Bullard is charged with Possession with the Intent to Deliver More Than Five Grams of Methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a school a class B felony with enhancements, Possession of Marijuana a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia a simple misdemeanor.



NELLIGAN

Laura Nelligan, 23, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 9th, 2019, in the 500 Block of Johnson Street in Keokuk, for Delivery of Less than Five Grams of Methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a public park a class B felony with enhancements.



SMITH

Mike Smith, 29, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 9th, 2019 in the 2200 block of South 7th St. in Keokuk, IA for Possession of More than Five Grams of Methamphetamine with the Intent to Deliver while in Possession of a Firearm a class B felony with enhancements, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon a class D felony, Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd or subsequent offense a class D Felony, Violation of Drug Tax Stamp a class D felony, and Possession of Marijuana 3rd or subsequent offense an aggravated misdemeanor.

The Keokuk Police Department and, the Fort Madison Police Department, assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendants are 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.

Plans for the water treatment plant top \$2M

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

on the surface looked good, but typically on a \$266,000 investment, I wouldn't mind looking through the details of the report," Mohrfeld.

Driscoll said the plant wasn't in an emergency state, but he'd like to move forward with the upgrades as soon as possible.

Mohrfeld moved to table the purchase which was approved 4-1. Councilman Bob Morawitz said he read the report and voted against tabling the move.

Driscoll said the filter will cost the department \$500,000 and the new well will cost about \$1.5 million. He said, in answer to Councilman Rusty Andrews question, the cost will fit in the budget because Scott's Miracle Grow has guaranteed to purchase the additional water. But he said with or without Scott's additional water purchases in the future, the city needs the

SCADA and the filter. The additional well will be required to handle Scott's additional water purchases going forward.

"With Scott's going online with us we'll need that well. And with income received from Scott's we'll have that paid for in five years. They're going to be under contract so if they would happen to fold or sell to someone else, we're guaranteed to get that money over 20 years," Driscoll said.

Mohrfeld asked if the new system would reduce the need for manpower at the plant, but Driscoll said he wouldn't recommend cutting anymore staff from the plant.

"This would give us the option, especially on weekends, to operate without it being manned," Driscoll said. "This also prepares the city for the lack of operators that we don't get. In order to be at the plant you have to be a

grade 2 operator, otherwise you can't operate out there by yourself."

The purchase will likely be back in front of the council at its next regular meeting Oct. 1

In other action, the council:

- set a public hearing in two weeks to consider a \$2.83 million bid to build a platform at the former Amtrak depot, where city officials hope to move the depot in the near future. The \$2.83 million bid is \$1.4 million over estimates from Klingner & Associates.

- approved filing an application for federal funds to help offset costs of Phase IV of the PORT trail, which is a 10 foot sidewalk from Avenue L, north on 48th Street to River Valley Road.

- appointed Mike Benda to the Civil Service Commission and reappointed Zach Pieper to the Airport Commission.



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Current-Lee/Sports

CURRENT-LEE

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

Bloodhound Booster Events

The Fort Madison Bloodhound Booster Club is hosting a BINGO night on Sept. 21, at the LULAC in Fort Madison. Also the Booster Club is having organizations in the area sponsor the Bark and Bite at home football games this year. Wilson BBQ is sponsoring this Friday with pulled pork sandwiches and baked beans.

Art in Central Park

The annual Fort Madison Area Arts Association's Art-in-Central-Park is Sunday, Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Central Park in Fort Madison. The day will be filled with art, music and fun and games for adults and children alike. The park is located at 9th Street and Avenue E.

North Lee County Relay for Life

The annual Relay for Life takes place this year on September 27th from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will feature Maddie Poppe in Concert. This year's theme is "idols of strength".

Weekly Book Sale

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

Volunteer Fair

The United Way and Fort Madison Public Library will be holding a volunteer fair Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library's

Sheaffer Memorial Meeting Room Refreshments will be provided and attendees will have a chance to explore volunteer opportunities in the area.

Small Grand Things Grand Opening

The new venue south of West Point is having a Grand Opening on Sept. 28 from 6 p.m. to midnight with food, music, and fun featuring Wilson Bros. BBQ, Caleb Booten performing from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Will Stuekerjuergen DJing until midnight. For more information visit the website at smallgrandthings.com.

Diaper Drive

Griffin Muffler & Brake Center of Fort Madison is spearheading the annual diaper drive during the month of September for families of Lee County in need. Diapers can be dropped at the center of Connection Bank.

Special Olympics Fundraiser

The Fort Madison Eagles Club will be hosting a fundraiser for area Special Olympics kids. The event will feature a Diving for Dollars from Bobby Reid and Bob Chesnut. Reid will skydive onto a field, and the number he lands on will win \$500 if present and \$250 if not present. An \$8 meal will served after the drop at the Eagles with half the proceeds going to area Special Olympics athletes

Fort Madison Farmer's Market

The farmer's market continues through Sept. 30 on Mondays on the east side of Central Park in Fort Madison from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Every second Monday is Kid's Day at the market.

FMMS Little Hounds move to 2-0 on year

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison's junior high football teams stayed perfect on the season with 7th and 8th grade wins over West Burlington on Tuesday night.

Teague Smith had two touchdown runs in Fort Madison's 20-6 win over the Falcons. Smith's scores came on runs of 54 and 20 yards as part of 135-yards on 11 carries. Henry Wiseman added 52 yards and a score on nine attempts.

Smith had eight tackles, while Aiden Benda and Isaac Thacher each recorded seven and Jayden Bowen had six. Thacher also had a fumble recovery.

The Hounds take on Burlington at home next Tuesday beginning at 4:30 p.m.

In the 7th grade game, Brody Cashman had two touchdowns and Caden Barnes added a score in Fort Madison's 22-6 win. Logan Pennock was recognized for his defensive effort and Hunter Cook, Alex Helman, Eran Warner, Chase Allen, and Triston Marshall performed very well on the offensive line.

The 7th graders (2-0) travel to Edward Stone Middle School on Tuesday.

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Classifieds/From the Front

the classifieds

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Columbus Club in Fort Madison is looking for a part-time bartender who is available to work primarily evening hours a few nights a week. We are also in search of a waitress who is available from 4:30 to 8:30 Friday evenings. Contact Mandy at 319-470-2762 for details.

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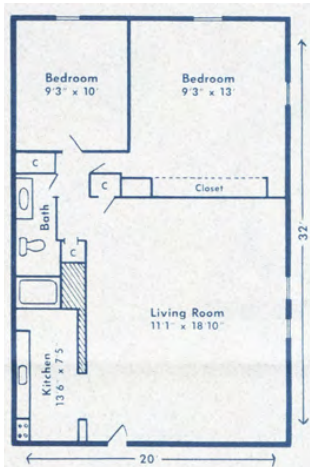
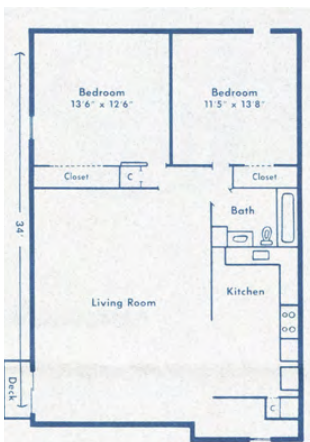
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Music, crafts and more at Art-in-Central Park

FMAAA - Continued from Page 1

Bank. The Hillsiders formed as a house band for The Hillside with the goal of keeping music in that establishment flowing. Stephanie White and Brad Kurtz do just that with their well timed harmonizing. Clay Huston finishes the music at 3 p.m., sponsored by Sunnybrook of Ft. Madison. His loop machine is an interesting nuance to his performance. Clay is one of the two instructors that FMAAA works with from Musicians Pro Shop of Burlington. Guitar Tuesdays at FMAAA provide half-hour lessons. If your hankering to learn we can get you going at 825 Avenue G.

Visual artists at Art-in-Central Park include work in the mediums of wood, copper, jewelry, photography, pastel, and drawing. Artist vendor maps will be in the park describing name, medium, and booth numbers. More than 20 artist vendors await your attention



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

There's something for kids and adults alike this Sunday at Art in Central Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fort Madison put on by the Fort Madison Area Arts Association. The park is located at 9th Street and Avenue E.



under the shade trees of Central Park. Regional favorites such as silversmith Erika Wolfe and pastel maestro David Garrison are on board as

well as many new artist vendors.

They will vie for \$250 Fort Madison Area Arts Association purchase award, \$200 Friends of

FMAAA purchase award, and \$150 Fort Madison Rotary Club purchase award. FMAAA Booth Awards will be determined as well for three artists rockin' the best booth display. Enjoy an entertaining weekend slate of culture in your neck of the woods as FMAAA is Always Moving for Ft. Madison.

Hydrant flushing to begin next week in FM

CITY - Continued from Page 1

& Avenue I during City Wide Fall Clean Up. If you are interested in being a Good Samaritan by helping these folks out please call City Hall at (319) 372-7700 x 201 and leave your name and phone number so that we may call upon you to assist those in need.

City staff has also announced semi annual hydrant flushing take place on Monday, September 23, 2019 beginning at 7:00 a.m. The hydrant flushing will continue through Friday, September 27, 2019 at 3:00 p.m..

Motorists are advised to use caution when they encounter water department crews flushing hydrants. Customers may experience discoloration of the water and reduced pressure. Conditions should return to normal in a short period.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

- THU 19 Sep** Moderate Rain
High – 83.9° F | Low – 69.6° F
- FRI 20 Sep** Light Rain
High– 81.1° F | Low – 71.0° F
- SAT 21 Sep** Heavy Rain
High– 72.6° F | Low – 69.6° F
- SUN 22 Sep** Heavy Rain
High – 73.7° F | Low – 65.0° F
- MON 23 Sep** Clear Skies
High– 77.0° F | Low – 64.9° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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