



Pen City Current

Wednesday, July 18, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 168

Mayor says city will look at fireworks code

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After the third straight meeting where city residents addressed city leaders about fireworks in the city, Mayor Brad Randolph said it's time to take another look at the ordinance.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, city residents Theresa Dearing and Bonnie Neyens both expressed concerns about the recent open fireworks period in the city surrounding the 4th

of July holiday.

State laws changed in 2017 to allow fireworks to be sold in Iowa and set new time frames when shooting fireworks off within the state would be legal.

"I love the fireworks in the park on 4th of July, but the rest of the fireworks going on from the first of June until last night was not acceptable to me," Dearing said.

She said the night she came back from the fireworks at the park was like a war zone in her neighborhood and she could see it in her husband's eyes, who is a veteran and served in Vietnam. She also said her house

burned when she was younger, so she has a fear of fire.

Dearing asked about the liability if a firework lands on a house or damages property.

"Who's liable there? That's a concern for me."

Neyens said she also would like the city to review the current code, which runs congruent with the state laws.

Randolph said he got to watch the fireworks on Ninth Street in the alley between avenues G and H.

"I came to a quick realization, I thought, boy this a

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

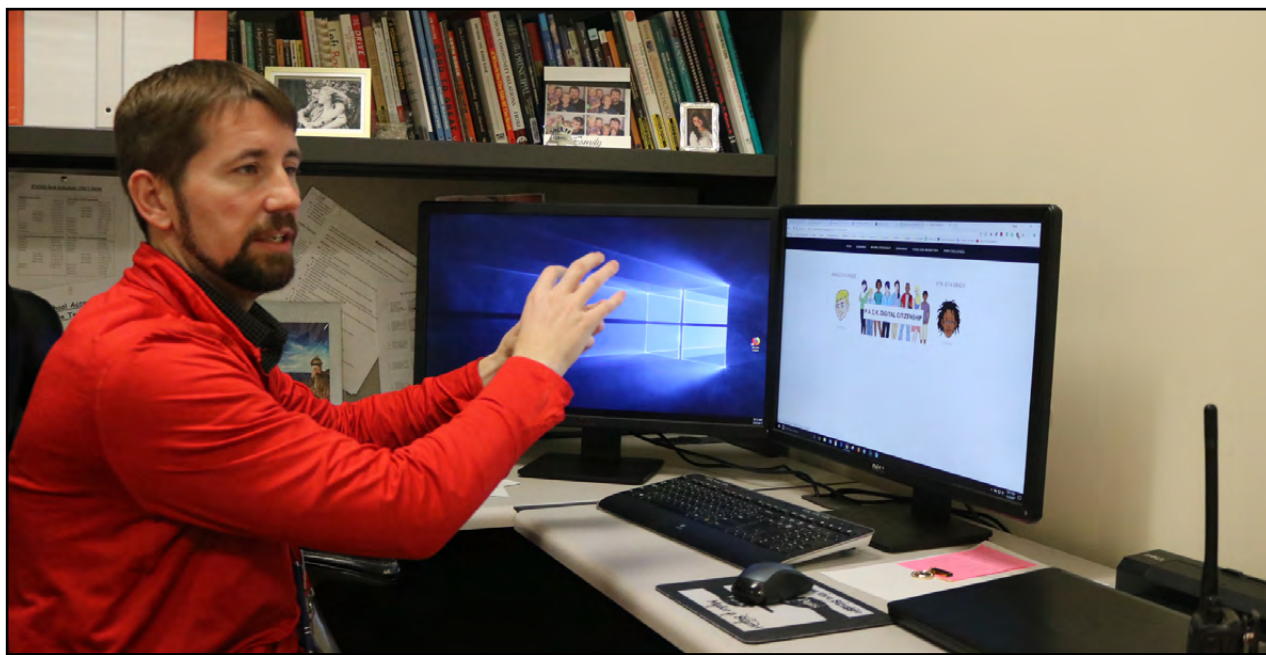


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Middle School Asst. Principal Brent Zirkel submitted his resignation from the district Tuesday to take a similar position in Williamsburg.

Zirkel to leave FMMS for Williamsburg

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - One of the main cogs of the Fort Madison Middle School leadership team has submitted his resignation.

Brent Zirkel, the school's assistant principal who conceptualized the school's PACK program, is leaving to take a position with the Williamsburg School district.

Zirkel announced Tuesday that he was leaving the district to a position that will allow him to further utilize his bilingual expertise as well as his administrative certificate as an assistant principal at the Williamsburg Junior/Senior High. The school is a 7th-12th grade facility about 20 minutes west of Iowa City.

Andrew Troxel, a member of the district Teacher Leadership program and Andy Mitchell, the district's former Activities Director also put in resignations this year. Troxel is going back to his alma mater in Wisconsin, and taking Fort Madison School Board member Jillian Troxel with him. Mitchell took a parallel job with the Atlantic, Iowa school district.

Zirkel said he is taking fond memories of the district with him and isn't saying so long.

"My phone's just been blowing up all day and I'm telling people this isn't a goodbye. This is just a 'See ya later'. I love this school district and the staff and students I've worked with and I love this community," he said.

See **RESIGN**, page 4

FM school board looking for Troxel replacement

Seat could go to voters with petition, or another bond effort

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - While the Fort Madison City Council looks to fill a vacancy on the council, the Fort Madison School Board is now looking to fill a vacancy as well.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison Board of Education, the board accepted the resignation of Jillian Troxel effective Aug. 1.

The resignation then kick starts a process for filling the position with either an appointment or a special election.

Superintendent Erin Slater said filling the position by appointment would give the board until Aug. 31 to select someone to fill the seat. District residents would have the option to petition the board for a special election within two weeks of the resignation, which would be Tuesday, Aug. 14. An appointee would fill Troxel's seat until the next regular school board election, where a person would then be elected to fill out the remainder of Troxel's term, which would be Dec. 31, 2021.

However, if the district puts another bond election on the calendar, according to state code, the seat would be put up for election at the same time. The district is still contemplating another run at a bond referendum to build a new elementary school on school property

See **APPOINTMENT**, page 8

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Obituaries/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
 7/16/2018 - 3:17 p.m
 - Fort Madison Police arrested Tanya Jo Worley, 45, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of Avenue A, on a warrant for probation violation. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 7/16/2018 - 8:18 p.m
 - Fort Madison Police arrested Miguel Angel Alvarez, 25, of Fort Madison, in the 1300 block of Avenue E, on a warrant for probation violation and failure to appear. He was held at the Lee County Jail.

7/17/2018 - 3:47 a.m
 - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1300 block of 23rd St.

Lee County Sheriff's Report
 7/16/2018 - 4:23 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested William Ray Jr Kirchner, 29, of Burlington, on a warrant of violation of parole at the Sheriff's office. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 7/17/2018 - 2:57 a.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Raymond Paul Sourwine, 56, of Burlington, on a warrant

for assault with injury in Des Moines County. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report
 07/14/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one false alarm, one medical call.
 07/15/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls.
 07/16/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call.

OBITUARIES

ALAN DALE DEWITT

Alan Dale DeWitt, 60 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 6:41 pm Saturday, July 14, 2018 at the Great River Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born August 30, 1957 in Fort Madison, Iowa, a son of Charles and Melva Jean (Menke) DeWitt.



DEWITT

He was a 1975 graduate of Fort Madison High School. He worked four years for First Miss. In 1982, he started bartending at Vinnie's Longbranch and worked there for 34 years. He liked to shoot pool and was on the Miscue Pool League. He pitched horseshoes, was a published poet, loved the Arts, and liked word games and crossword puzzles. He was a die-hard CUBS fan, and he especially liked being around his family!

He is survived by his parents, Charles and Melva DeWitt of Wever, Iowa; two brothers: Dean (Jody) DeWitt of Fort Madison and Craig DeWitt of Wever, Iowa; two sisters, Lynette Stein of Williamsburg, Iowa and Diana (Howard) Vorwaldt of Wever, Iowa; one aunt, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one brother, Bryan DeWitt, two sisters, Yvonne Metcalf and Terri Wilson, and three nephews, Devin Royer, Samuel Metcalf, and Justin DeWitt.

Per his wishes, his body has been cremated. A private graveside service and burial will be at Oakland Cemetery at a later date. A Celebration of his Life will be held at Vinnie's Longbranch from 2:00 - 6:00 pm Sunday, August 12, 2018. Online condolences to the DeWitt Family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel website, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

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Pen City Current
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Current-Lee/Lottery Numbers

CURRENT-LEE

FORT MADISON - The following is a list of events in and around north Lee County as submitted to Pen City Current.

Fort Madison Depot Farmer's Market

Every Monday local vendors have farmer's market options available at the Old Santa Fe Depot on the Riverfront in Fort Madison. The farmer's market runs every Monday until Oct. 8 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the parking lot west of the depot.

KiDTEK University at SCC

Kidtek U, Southeastern Community Colleges, Summer Youth Camps are ready to keep your children engaged, learning, and having fun all summer long. Camps take place on June and July meeting Monday - Friday from either 9am - noon or 1 - 4pm. Camps are designed for kids of all ages: standard camps for students grades 4 - 6, and advanced camps for grades 7 - 9. Each week-long camp cost \$179. For information about Kidtek U, call (319) 208-5375 or email kidtek@scciowa.edu.

Old Settler's Summer Concert Series

"Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50's on Friday, July 27th when the Pork Producers will be ready to serve you at 5 pm at the Old Settler's Park in Fort Madison.

Old Fort Players

The summer "Youth Fort Players" production of "Homework Eats Dog and Other Woeful Tales", will run July 19-22. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 17 and under. A \$2 discount will be given at the door for each person that brings in a non-perishable food item which will in turn be donated to Fort Madison Food Pantry. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. except for Sunday which is 2 p.m.

SCC Alumni Golf Outing

The 2018 Alumni Golf outing will be held on Friday, July 20 at Sheaffer Golf Course. Contact Becky Rump at brump@scciowa.edu.

Party on the Patio

The summer Party on the Patio series continues on Friday, July 20 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Baxter Sports Complex. Free live music and food and drink specials are available. All proceeds go toward community beautification efforts of Fort Madison Partners.



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 SM	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



7/16
14 17 18 21 48
Lucky Ball: 12



7/16 MID-DAY
8 4 8
7/16 EVENING
3 9 1



7/16 MID-DAY
3 2 0 6
7/16 EVENING
6 3 2 7

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Rebate ends August 31, 2018. See store for details.



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From the Front/Weather

Zirkel leaving just at FMMS gets “running”

RESIGN - Continued from Page 1

“What draws me there is they have a migrant population for about four months out of the year. My first master’s degree was English Language Learners and this position would give me a chance to utilize those skills.”

Zirkel was first hired in the district in 2004 as a Spanish teacher and then earned a master’s degree in bilingual education. When Greg Smith took over as principal, he encouraged him to get his administration certificate. After earning that certificate and going through an internship, Zirkel was offered the assistant principal’s position at the Fort Madison Middle School.

He said he was happy that he had teachers like Ryan Smith and Andrew Troxel to work with at the high school. He also credited Greg Smith with creating an environment where new ideas were no

longer the exception, but the norm.

“I was so fortunate to be able to collaborate with Troxel, Greg Smith, and Ryan Smith. They were all very supportive and open to new ideas and that’s the only way to get better as an educator,” he said.

“You go through training and you learn one thing and then you get where the rubber meets the road on the job. Greg really created an environment where you can take risks and learn from them. By him doing that, I was able to start integrating technology to help our kids use their time more efficiently and effectively.”

Zirkel said one of his first impressions at the Middle School was the high quality of the staff.

“You have to have the right people in place and they have that there,” he said. “And that’s just not the teachers and the princi-

pal, but the custodians and the food service staff and other staff. When I came into the position there, it just had that family feel and I felt fortunate to be joining a family.”

The district had gone through several assistants before Zirkel got to FMMS and he said he wanted to bring some consistency to the job, and although he’s leaving after two years, he said progress was made even after two years, a lot of which started this past school year.

He credits Principal Todd Dirth with allowing him to take some risks and add to what Zirkel calls a “wholistic” approach to educating the students at the school. That approach he says addresses not only educational needs, but social and emotional needs as well.

“One of the things I’m very proud of is there is this wholistic approach



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Pictured here with FMMS Principal Todd Dirth, teacher Brian Mendez, far left, and several students during a lunch period last school year, Asst. Principal Brent Zirkel, far right, announced his resignation Tuesday from the district.

to the student,” he said. “There’s a compassion you’ll find there, and I’d never seen that before where you program to help the kids learn about the social and emotional changes they are going through.”

He said the PACK program was designed to ramp up that portion of the educational process.

“The PACK piece is a response to trying to help the social and emotional needs of our students. To help them with character development and expand on those relationships already being built there,” Zirkel said. “We also looked at digital citizenship. All of our kids live a good portion of their life online and helping them learn how to conduct themselves. That illusion of anonymity is not how the Internet works, and helping them grow

there was something that was important to us.”

The construction of the new middle school has resulted in yearly increases in the performance according to the Iowa Report Card which assesses public schools on achievements. But Zirkel said despite the improvements, the state assessments are an ever-moving target and until the state settles on assessment tools and then aligns curricula with those assessments, that number will remain hard to move.

He said he hopes action taken this year will result in better scores for all the districts.

“When they created that report card, it was like the goal line kept moving and there was no alignment. We have common core and even there the standards change year to year or ev-

ery few years,” he said. “We don’t have an assessment system that’s aligned with common core. We’re teaching it, but the tests we’re grading aren’t correlated to common core. Next year the State of Iowa’s moving to Iowa Assessments and it should be an aligned assessment and that should be the first opportunity to know where our kids are, compared to what we’re teaching.”

Zirkel said he looks at the culture to determine a school’s success.

“Education is in a weird spot as we move from the industrial age through to the conceptual age. Our systems have lagged behind, but we’re moving in the right direction.”

He said staff such as Dirth, Stephanie Dobson, Michelle Bentler, and Brian Mendez are the catalyst behind the new culture at the Middle School.

“I call it Progress though Struggle. We were going outside our comfort zone, but it’s what we believe is best for kids. As we struggle through it, we find the benefits of it and then keep moving forward. We crawled, then walked, and now they’re running,” he said.

“I don’t think our community understands how lucky they are to have the leadership there they have - Stephanie Dobson, Todd Dirth - they are the rocks of the foundation there. They’ve been laying the groundwork there for 12 to 14 years to enable us to do programming pieces and other things. One of the things I’ve learned is that you have to do the management pieces before the instruction pieces. Through Todd I’ve learned a lot of the management so I can get around to the instruction.”

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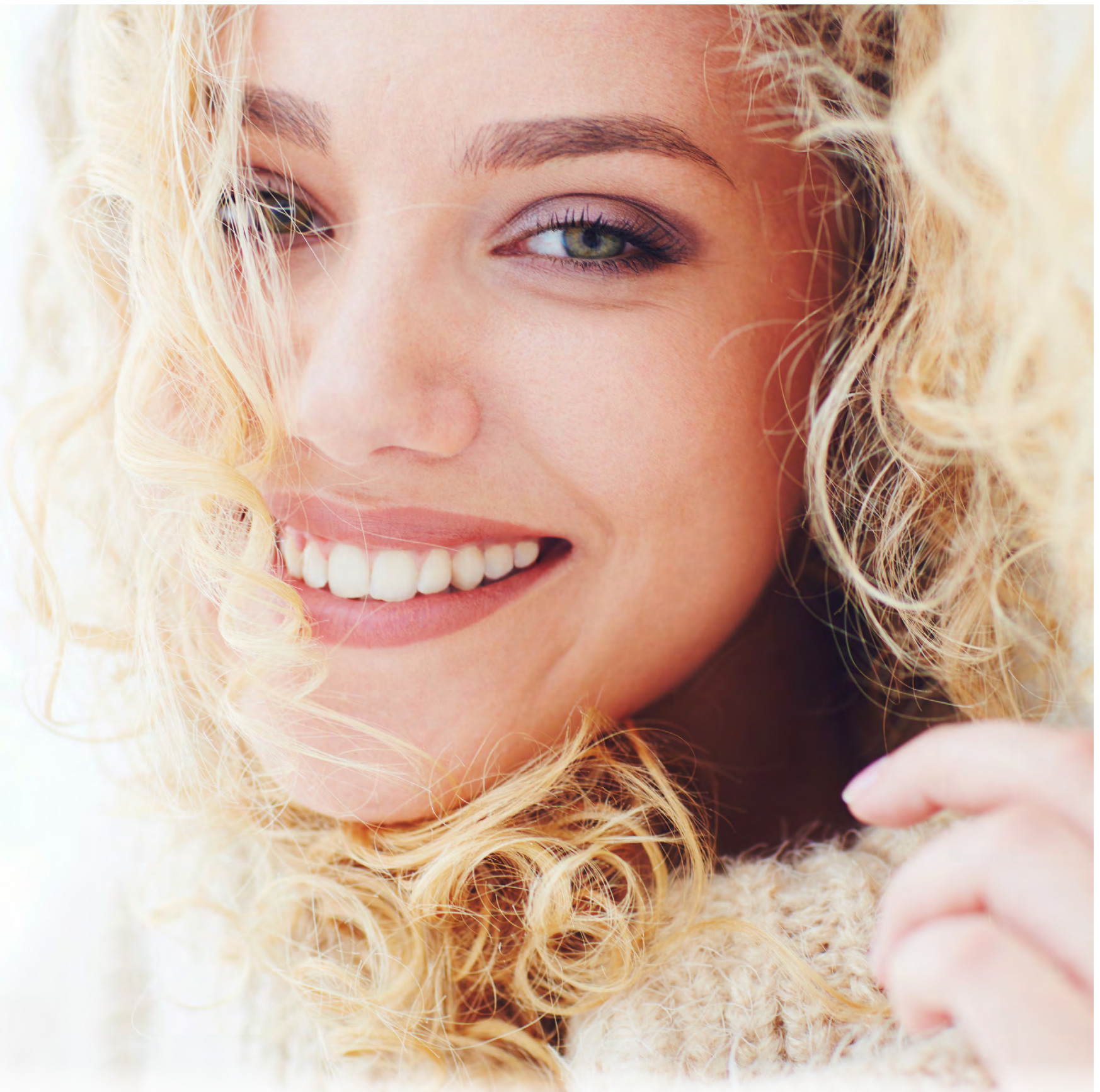
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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 18 Jul	Partly Cloudy High – 81.8° F Low – 73.9° F
THU 19 Jul	Moderate Rain High– 80.5° F Low – 78.3° F
FRI 20 Jul	Moderate Rain High– 80.3° F Low – 71.8° F
SAT 21 Jul	Moderate Rain High – 75.3° F Low –70.8° F
SUN 22 Jul	Light Rain High– 74.4° F Low – 67.1° F

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WEST POINT
CITY COUNCIL
WEST POINT, IOWA
52656
JULY 9, 2018**

Mayor Paul Walker called the properly noticed regular meeting of the City Council of the City of West Point to order in the Conference Room of the Public Library, 317 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 on July 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Mayor Walker, the following indicated Council Members were present: Shawn Bales; Joe Loving; Brian Meierotto; Will Stuekerjuergen; and, Bruce Wellman. Absent: None. The tentative agenda was approved by consensus. On motion approved request to utilize City Square Park for Car Show to be held August 25, 2018. Upon invitation Street Superintendent Flavian Boeding presented the Public Works Department report. Upon invitation Police Chief Roberts presented the Police Department report. Reappointment to Boards and Commissions was tabled. Mayor reported on the following: a blood drive will be held July 10, 2018; thanked the Fireworks Committee for a successful event and the police department for traffic control; thanked Mike Sanders and City and Utility employees for their efforts to install the bell in the City Square Park; and, complimented Library Director Dara Sanders for the positive feedback received for the summer reading program. Mayor reported meeting date and time for upcoming meetings of Library Board; Municipal Utility Board; and, next regular Council Meeting of August 13, 2018 (by consensus the time was changed to 5:30 p.m. due to Festival activities). On motion approved hiring Dennis McGregor as City Administrator/Utility Director, contingent upon approval of the

Utility Board at their meeting to be held on July 10, 2018. On motion approved liquor license application for Phil's Pub with outside service. On motion approved extended service area liquor license applications for the following: Aggie's on the Square; Corner Tap; Fourth Street Bar & Grill; and, Phil's Pub. On motion minutes of prior regular Council Meeting of June 11, 2018 were approved as presented. On motion Treasurer's Report for June 2018 was approved as presented. On motion warrants payable for July 2018 were approved as presented. On motion meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m., July 9, 2018.

**EXPENDITURES FOR
JUNE, 2018**

Archie's Super Service, repair 132.05
 Armstrong Small Engine, repair 38.19
 Baker & Taylor, books 37.25
 Bituminous Materials, road oil 14390.71
 Boeding Fred, training 135.00
 City Clerk - Ft Madison, lab fees 610.00
 Creative Product Source, supplies 188.10
 Daily Democrat, publications 299.51
 Delta Dental, premiums 107.04
 Drake Hardware, repair 1664.09
 Ebert Supply, supplies 5.30
 Floyd's E-Z-Way, trash pickup 40.00
 Garden & Associates, engineering 3686.55
 GRWWA, fees 432.00
 Hawk Eye, ad 213.80
 Hempen Industrial Service, services 2000.00
 Hope Haven Area Dev, services 30.00
 Huffman Welding, supplies 173.37
 I Wireless, telephone 25.39
 Ideal Ready Mixed, concrete 476.00
 Iowa League of Cities, fees 92.50
 Jet Gas, diesel 691.11
 Junior Library Guild, books

463.40
 Kempker's True Value, paint 71.88
 LJ Neuweg Rental, storage fee 65.00
 Mauer Supply, wire 48.95
 McFarland-Swan, supplies 18.50
 Mediacom, telephone 196.65
 Menke Professional Auto, supplies 9.68
 Paul's Plumbing, water heater 818.66
 Per Mar Security, security 267.72
 Pilot Grove Savings Bank, loan 15942.16
 Pranger Mary Jane, cleaning 150.00
 Prosource Specialties, supplies 113.19
 Quill Corp, supplies 121.78
 Ricoh USA, copier 213.04
 Sherwood Co, window graphics 820.00
 SYNCB/Amazon, books 61.42
 The Schnitzelbank, furniture 1390.00
 Treasurer - St of IA, taxes 142.00
 Union Security, premiums 201.45
 US Postal Service, postage 102.00
 Wellmark BC/BS, premiums 2869.89
 West Point & St Paul Fire, allotment 5939.49
 West Point Lumber, supplies 91.93
 West Point Utilities, utilities 1778.99
 Wex Bank, gasoline 395.47
 Windstream, telephone 184.58

RECAPITULATION

FUND: PREV BAL, RCPTS, DSBSD, CUR BAL: Gen. Govt.: 322242.21, 16246.62, 36953.45, 301535.38; Grants: 21405.10, ---, ---, 21405.10; Capital Equip: 4127.06, ---, ---, 4127.06; Lib County: 6079.73, 27.00, 850.17, 5256.56; Lib Mem: 16535.16, 121.75, ---, 16656.91; Road Use: 24510.73, 9492.97, 34003.70, ---; LOS: ---,

6952.46, 6952.46, ---; Lagoon: ---, 3686.55, 3686.55, ---; Sewer: 39296.97, 14088.29, 10768.22, 42617.04; Landfill: 259.53, ---, ---, ---, 259.53
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Thurs., July 26 - 10am-2pm, IowaWORKS, 1000 N Roosevelt Ave, Suite #9, Burlington

From the Front

City lends support to PORT trail

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

free-for-all down here," he said. "With fireworks going off in the middle of public streets and in areas I didn't think they should be going off," he said.

"I grew up shooting bottle rockets at my brother, and I like fireworks, but there's probably a limit to what's acceptable."

He said after going through the full cycle of the fireworks with them being sold in town and everyone having easier access to them, the council should take another look at the code.

"I think that the city and the council need to take a hard look at what's best for the citizens and the public going forward," Randolph said.

Neyens said people have contacted her since she spoke up at the last meeting about the fireworks issue. She said they had

concerns about caring for invalid relatives, people working shifts, people who like to go to bed early, people who keep their yards nice and don't feel they should have to clean up trash in the yard.

Randolph said it would be more a comprehensive look at the law and because the law was passed relatively close to the holiday, the city went with the state's code on the use of fireworks.

He said the sale of fireworks isn't a windfall for the city when you factor in the small sales tax, offset by the costs of emergency services or police responding to calls.

"So be patient with us on that, but let us now take a good hard look at where we're at and what we can do about it."

Councilman Kevin Rink, who represents the area that Dearing and

Neyens live, said the city followed the state as a trial and he agreed that the city needs to take another look at the code.

In other action, the council:

- voted 5-0, to approve city support for up to \$50,000 in monetary and in-kind donations to prop up a local match for a \$100,000 grant for the PORT Trail Phase III. City Public Works Director Larry Driscoll said the PORT committee is doing fundraising to pay the \$50,000 match on their own, but Wellmark, the grant issuer wouldn't issue the grant without the \$50,000 support in place.

- voted 5-0, to approve transferring city owned property to Great River Regional Waste Authority for \$1 to clean up some boundary issues that had occurred with past surveying.

Board actively looking for board seat candidates

APPOINTMENT - Continued from Page 1

adjacent to the Fort Madison Middle School.

"That term could be... will be... interrupted with a school bond referendum, then anyone else could petition to be placed on there as a candidate," said Board Member Dianne Hope.

The board directed district Business Manager, Sandy Elmore to publish a notice that the district will be seeking applications for the seat.

"I really feel an appointment is the way to go," said board member Gayla Young. "Elections are expensive and, unless the community petitions us, I think an appointment is the right way to go."

Board President Tim Wondra said the timeline is short, so he hopes the board gets some candi-

dates for consideration.

"The next board meeting is Aug. 20, so hopefully we'll have candidates express interest and fill out information by the 20th and then that night we could conduct interviews in open session and appoint someone that night. That would be the ultimate goal," Wondra said.

Hope said the board wouldn't necessarily need to do interviews.

"When I read this, we only need to review what the written application is and then make the appointment during the board meeting. We wouldn't have to interview, we can make it based on what has been provided and we only have to make the appointment within 30 days."

Slater said they could review the materials and then invite the candidates to the meeting and give them three to five minutes to address the board and give a statement about their candidacy.

Young said she would personally like to have the candidates there and speak for themselves.

Wondra said applications should be ready by the end of the week and interested parties should

contact the district for information on the application process.

In other action, the council:

- approved 6-0, a three-year contract renewal for Superintendent Erin Slater effective July 16, with a 1.56% increase over last year's salary and annual pay review. Her new salary will be \$180,776.80 for 2018-19.

- approved 6-0, handbooks for AFSCME and Teamster Units 1 and 2 staff. Handbooks outline what used to be in contracts before the state legislature changed Chapter 20 to just include salary negotiations. AFSCME representative Tracy Leonie spoke to the board about working in collaboration when dealing with state legislatures because it was still AFSCME's stance that the handbooks should revert back to contracts.

- approved 6-0, extracurricular contracts and letters of assignments. Extracurricular contracts are amounts paid to staff already on contract with the district for leading or coaching extracurriculars. Letters of assignments are amounts paid to those not otherwise on contract with the district.



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