

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Thursday, August 4, 2022 | 10 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 142



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City working plan for CSO

\$30 MILLION: City needs til 2039 to get sewer separations completed

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - An EPA-mandated sewer separation project is getting increased attention from city officials as a deadline of 2029 grows closer.

The project involves separating the city's sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines to keep untreated sewage from mixing with regular storm water draining into the Mississippi River.

The city already runs all the water from both sewer lines through the city's treatment plant before it is dispersed back into the Mississippi River.

City Manager David Varley said a new plan of attack has

been put in place for getting the work accomplished. But the city will need to extend the deadline to 2039.

The city has hired Ahlers and Cooney out of Des Moines to help navigate funding and extensions with the Environmental Protection Agency. Currently the city has four projects left with an estimated cost of about \$8 million each.

"What we've been able to come up with is money for sewer and water projects coming from the state and federal government is few and far between," Varley said.

"What we have to do now is develop a plan of what we think we can do to get these projects accomplished."

See **SEWER**, page 2



Scully gave a soundtrack for life

Every life has a soundtrack.

You don't realize it at the time. It's only when you get later in life do you realize it.

It can be music, or the spoken word. It can be background noise, or consume you in its cacophony.

Vin Scully was a big part of my soundtrack.

I can still hear the voice of the legendary baseball announcer, who died on Tuesday at 94.

Scully, sportswriter Doug Padilla wrote on Twitter, "welcomed the spring, defined the summer, and ushered in the fall." He called games for the Dodgers, first in Brooklyn, then in Los Angeles, for 67 seasons.

His career moved with the history of the game. His first games were on radio when that was all you had, his last games were available on Major League Baseball's streaming service to be watched on laptops all around the world.

The games I remember most are the ones Scully called.

The great ones — Kirk Gibson's home run in the 1988 World Series that the Dodgers won, Bill Buckner's error in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series, Dwight Clark's catch to give the 49ers the win over the Dallas Cowboys in the 1981 NFC championship game.

The losses that haunt, like the 1985 NLCS loss to the Cardinals.

There were games that I watched that I've interjected Scully's calls into my memory, even though I was watching another network.

There was the game in 1983, when

See **SCULLY**, page 5

Back to School

More than 200 people attended a Back-to-School event at First United Pentacostal Church in Fort Madison this weekend. Close to 60 families were able to get school supplies, backpacks, and other supplies, as well as a lunch.



Courtesy photo

OPINION

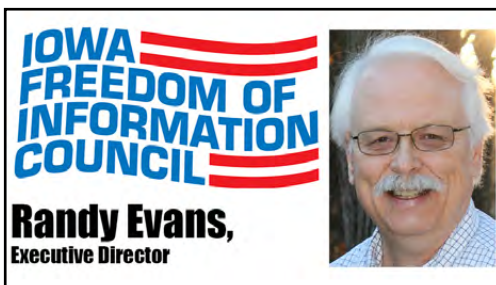
Suspicion is not enough in our system of justice

It is difficult for many of us to muster empathy for people accused of crimes who have complaints about the way police treated them.

This lack of empathy probably occurs because ordinary folks do not think they will be in situations like people accused of crimes.

If that includes you, allow me to introduce you to Anthony Watson, 43, of Coralville, and Jennifer Pritchard, also 43, of Fort Dodge.

Their experiences should be a wake-up



call. We should ask government leaders, especially in Johnson and Hamilton counties, a bunch of "why" and "how" questions — questions about the events and decisions that led these two people

to be jailed and their lives turned topsy-turvy.

This is not some arcane exercise. The taxpayers are paying Watson and Pritchard a combined \$815,000 to compensate them for the harm the justice system caused.

This is not intended as criticism of law officers as a whole. We owe them our gratitude. But the actions of a few officers and prosecutors in these cases undermine public trust, respect and confidence in

See **JUSTICE**, page 4

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
THU 04 Aug.....Sunny & Warm, 87° F/ 67° F
FRI 05 Aug.....Mostly Sunny & Warm, 88° F/ 71° F
SAT 06 Aug.....Hot & Sunny, 92° F/ 74° F

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Lee County News/From the Front

Local Republicans tap Holmes, Gaylord



HOLMES

DONNELSON - The Lee County Republicans had their nomination convention on Monday, August 1st at 6 p.m. at the Pilot Grove Meeting Room in Donnellson. In attendance were 40 delegates representing 18 of Lee County's 22 precincts.



GAYLORD

Of the 40 delegates, 8 were from Supervisor District 3 and unanimously approved Chuck Holmes as the Republican Candidate for the District 3 Lee County Supervisor.

Becky Gaylord was unanimously approved by all 40 delegates as the Republican Candidate for Lee County Treasurer. Both Gaylord and Holmes will appear on the November 8th ballot.

Flag, slogan contest still ongoing

SEWER - Continued from Page 1

Varley said the city can no longer go to the EPA and ask for an additional 10 years.

"We have to come to them with a plan that says, 'here's how we plan to address these issues on the four remaining CSOs,'" Varley said.

Then the city would approach the EPA engineers to get them to meet with city officials to discuss the new plan for separating the sewer lines, while asking for time to come up with the funding as part of a consent decree.

Varley said part of the planning over the next 15 years will include figuring out how to pay for the work to include rate increases based on assumption of costs, interest rates, and performance of the sewer funds.

City Councilman Tom Schulz asked Mayor Matt Mohrfeld how much untreated sewer water is going into the Mississippi River now.

"Zero," Mohrfeld said.

"Not much," Varley said.

Mohrfeld clarified that a high intensity rainfall that would go beyond capacity of the system could result in some leakage.

Schulz said the city is looking at more than \$30 million in mitigation to correct zero pollution.

Varley said there may be a little inaccuracy in that because there are some flow meters at the plant that aren't working properly and need replaced. He said the city could have been getting erroneous readings.

"We can't definitively say we're 100% positive we were not dumping anything into the water and when it does happen it does get treated before it goes in," Varley

said.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker said her previous understanding was that the city already had asked for an extension, and now she wanted to know how long it would be for the city to meet with the EPA.

"My mistaken belief was that we were working on this extension the whole time and now we haven't been - and now we are," she said. "What is our time frame to get with the EPA and tell them we need an extra 10 years?"

Varley said he believes the city could get an audience via Zoom conference within three weeks.

In an unrelated issue, Councilwoman Donna Amandus said entries are coming in for the city flag and slogan contest. The deadline was extended into September so entries are still being accepted. Information can be obtained at Fort Madison City Hall from City Clerk Melinda Blind.

In other action, the council:

- approved applying for a Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) grant for additional PORT trail work.
- approved a partial payment of \$94,807 for Fort Madison airfield lighting improvements.
- approved a resolution approving an emergency abatement on the James Block Building.
- appointed Jamie Carle to the Fort Madison Housing Authority.
- approved a second reading for a change to city code adding a \$750 per day penalty for egregious civil infractions.
- approved a rezoning at 1629, 1633, 1641 33rd Street from single-family to limited industrial district.

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Indiana Congresswoman killed in Wednesday car crash

DES MOINES - Gov. Kim Reynolds ordered all flags in Iowa to be lowered to half-staff immediately until midnight on August 4, 2022 in honor and remembrance of U.S. Representative Jackie Walorski of Indiana. Representative Walorski died in a car accident today, August 3, 2022, in Elkhart County, Indiana. She was 58-years-old.

"Congresswoman Walorski was a true and faithful public servant to the state of Indiana and to our nation," said Gov. Reynolds. "Tonight, we mourn her tragic passing and honor her legacy. Kevin and I join with Iowans in prayer for Jackie's family during this

very difficult time."

The governor's order is issued in conjunction with President Joe Biden's proclamation to lower the United States' flag to half-staff.

Flags will be at half-staff on the State Capitol Building and on flag displays in the Capitol Complex. Flags will also be half-staff on all public buildings, grounds and facilities throughout the state.

Individuals, businesses, schools, municipalities, counties and other government subdivisions are encouraged to fly the flags at half-staff for the same length of time.

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JOSEPH A. KRAUS

Joseph A. Kraus, 96, of Keokuk, passed away on Sunday, July 31, 2022, at his home in Keokuk, Iowa.



KRAUS

Joseph was born on April 3, 1926, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of William J. and Valeria M. (Wilkins) Kraus. He graduated from St. Peter's High School in 1944, and served in the United States Army from 1944 until 1946 during World War II. He achieved the rank of Sergeant and was honorably discharged. He participated during the occupation of France and served Mass as a faithful Catholic. On May 13, 1950, he was united in marriage to Lillian F. Grogan. She preceded him in death on October 21, 2020.

Joseph was a member of All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk and spent his entire working career at the family business, William J. Kraus and Son. He was a man characterized by honesty, a strong work-ethic and a fierce love for his family. He was a devoted husband and father and was well-respected by his community as a gentleman and craftsman.

Joseph is survived by seven children: Joseph M. Kraus of Iowa City, Iowa, Timothy J. (Jan) Kraus of Cape Coral, Florida, Nancy J. (Randy) Derr of Keokuk, Mary Jo (Rick) Gray of Keokuk, Michael J. (Kim) Kraus of Lakemoor, Illinois, Teresa J. (John) Phillips of Kansas City, Missouri, and Christopher J. (Laura) Kraus of Bermuda Dunes, California; his sister Mary Carmen (John) Ritter of Texas; two daughters-in-law: Sarah and Terry Kraus, both of Keokuk; thirty-two grandchildren; fifty great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.



Joseph is preceded in death by his parents; his wife Lillian; two sons: Gregory E. and Daniel J. Kraus; and five siblings: Ann Kamps, William Kraus, Carroll Kraus, Mary Constance Hoxie and Gerald Kraus.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 am on Saturday, August 6, 2022, at All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk. The service will be live-streamed at www.allsaintskeokuk.org/live. Burial with military honors will be held in the Catholic section of Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk. Military honors will be rendered by the United States Army and the American Legion Post #41. Visitation will be held on Friday, August 5, from 2 to 6:30 pm, with family meeting friends from 4 to 6:30 pm at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk. A Christian Vigil service will be held at the funeral home at 6:30 pm on Friday directly following the visitation. The Vigil service will be live-streamed at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

Memorials may be directed to All Saints Catholic Church or the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com. DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

OBITUARIES

GEORGIA ADAMS

Georgia "Kay" Adams, 73, of Keokuk, IA died Thursday, June 2, 2022 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.



ADAMS

She was born July 17, 1948 the daughter of Vernon Joseph and Alice Lucille Steenberg Swift. Kay graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1965.

On September 3, 1966 Kay was united in marriage to William L. "Bill" Adams in Keokuk. He preceded her in death on December 26, 2020.

Kay was a homemaker and a loving wife to Bill.

She was a faithful member of First Christian Church in Keokuk and an active member of the Southside Boat Club in Keokuk.

Over the years, Kay loved to travel and go on vacations with Bill. She enjoyed country music, collecting tea pots and doing word search puzzles. She was gifted in arts and crafts and enjoyed drawing pictures and coloring with colored pencils. Kay loved to bake and decorate cakes and also loved cherry tomatoes fresh from the garden.

She is survived by two brothers, Larry Swift and Lonnie Swift, one sister, Sandra Rummans, two sisters-in-law, Ruth Ann Dickerson and Leona Clendaniel, several nieces and nephews and special friend and caregiver, her "Girl" Stacie Claus and her husband Bill and their children, Nicole, Caylee and Cody.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, August 8, 2022 at the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk with Rev. David Turner officiating. Friends can meet with the family after the service for food and fellowship at First Christian Church in Keokuk.

Memorials may be made to First Christian Church Kids Camp.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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From the Front

Cities paying up for extended incarcerations

JUSTICE - Continued from Page 1

our justice system — just as surely as respect for Texas police was eroded by the video of cops loitering in the school corridor in Uvalde, Texas, while 21 students and teachers were being killed down the hall.

The troubling events involving Watson and Pritchard were brought to light recently by dogged reporting by Trish Mehafeey of the Cedar Rapids Gazette and Kelby Wingert of the Fort Dodge Messenger. Their articles, and Iowa court records, help us understand why the treatment of Watson and Pritchard is a perversion of Iowa's system of justice.

Watson stopped for gas at a Casey's in Iowa City in December 2017. Within minutes, police officer Travis Graves pulled in, having been dispatched to check a report of a reckless driver in the area.

Watson never argued with the officer. He never tried to flee. Whatever Graves asked him to do, Watson complied. But Graves was convinced Watson was impaired by alcohol, marijuana or another controlled drug.

Graves asked him to perform a series of field sobriety tests, then to give two breathalyzer samples. Each time, the tests showed there was no evidence of impairment.

Graves asked Coralville police officer Jeff Reinhard to come to the Iowa City station and perform a visual evaluation of Watson for signs of drug use. Reinhard had been trained to perform these subjective evaluations. Reinhard concluded Watson was under the influence of marijuana.

Graves then asked Watson to give a urine specimen. That test showed no evidence to support Reinhard's conclusion. Nevertheless, Graves charged Watson with drunken driving and locked him up in the Johnson County Jail. The charging documents do not mention Watson had passed the balance, breath and urine tests.

At the time, Watson was on parole on an unrelated charge. The Iowa City officer notified the parole officer of the arrest, knowing that would ensure Watson would remain in

jail until the OWI case was adjudicated.

A month after his arrest, not the day after the arrest, police sent Watson's urine specimen to an out-of-state laboratory to conduct more sophisticated tests for the presence of controlled drugs. Those tests also showed no evidence of drugs, including cannabis.

But it would be five more weeks before Watson was released from jail. Another month would pass before prosecutors dropped the OWI charge. They noted in court documents, "anticipated problems of proof fatal to the prosecution; breath and toxicology tests came back negative for alcohol and/or controlled substances."

By the time the case was dismissed, Watson had been punished aplenty: He spent nearly three months in jail. He lost his job and his apartment during that time.

Jennifer Pritchard's experience is similar. She spent 23 days in the Hamilton County Jail in 2019 after being charged with aiding and abetting in attempted murder.

Pritchard was accused of driving a car belonging to a friend, Jacob Adams, when the two supposedly followed Brianna Purcell as she drove near Stratford. Purcell accused Adams of firing a gun at her from the moving car and then at her camper while she was inside.

Purcell and Adams had what Deputy Sheriff David Turpen called a "volatile past." There also was a fundamental problem with Purcell's allegations: Her story changed wildly during interviews with Hamilton County sheriff's officers.

In Deputy Turpen's reports, Purcell never mentioned being followed or any gunshots being fired at her. She told him several times she was in the camper and never saw a car or shooter.

Her story changed when she was questioned by Sheriff Doug Timmons. She then said the first shots came while she being followed by a car driven by Pritchard, with Adams shooting at her from the passenger seat.

Based on that interview, attempted-murder charges were filed against Pritchard and Adams. They were unable to post \$500,000 cash-only bond, so they were jailed.

When Pritchard was questioned the day after her arrest, she said she was at work in Fort Dodge, 32 miles away, at the time officials said the shooting occurred. A co-worker verified Pritchard's alibi, as did security video.

In asking for the charges to be dismissed, the prosecutor said it was "pursuant to further review and in the interest of justice."

If the events described in court documents in the two cases were not enough to stoke public outrage, the wrongful-arrest lawsuits by Watson and Pritchard fueled public reaction. The Iowa City and Coralville city councils together agreed to pay Watson \$390,000. Hamilton County agreed to pay Pritchard \$425,000.

No one suggests officers should not have thoroughly investigated the allegations against Watson and Pritchard. But two people with jobs were locked up for weeks, depriving them of their freedom — while officers tried to assemble evidence to prove the suspicions and allegations.

That verification should occur before people are jailed. Under the American system of justice, we don't lock people up on a hunch and then go looking for proof.

Randy Evans can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com. Readers can offer their opinions on this issue through letters to the editor in the Bloomfield Democrat.

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Iowa News/From the Front

Scully was a three-hour comfort zone

SCULLY - Continued from Page 1

the Dodgers beat the Braves in a late-September Sunday afternoon matchup that basically ended the NL West chase. The Dodgers rallied with four runs in the ninth inning for a 7-6 win, the last run coming on R.J. Reynolds' squeeze bunt.

I watched the game on the Braves' broadcast, but, thanks to YouTube, I've inserted Scully's words into that memory.

"And Gene Garber, battling now to stay afloat..."

"One and 0..."

"THE SQUEEZE, AND HERE COMES THE RUN..."

"THEY SQUEEZED IT IN..."

And then 64 seconds of silence.

There was an understated genius to Scully's work. He let every game breathe, working at a pace few could match.

In 2006, the Dodgers won a key game in September against the San Diego Padres, hitting four consecutive home runs in the ninth inning to tie the game, then winning it in the 10th on a two-run homer by Normar Garciparra.

Scully was a master at letting the moment speak, so, for the longest time, he said nothing after Garciparra's homer. The pictures, and the crowd noise, was all Scully thought was necessary.

Then he finally spoke up and simply said, "I forgot to tell you ... the Dodgers are in first place."

For the longest time, I was only acquainted with Scully through his national work, whether on CBS for golf or the NFL, and NBC for the Saturday baseball game of the week.

It was a no-brainer to subscribe, then, when MLB made local telecasts available on streaming

services such as [MLB.TV](#) and radio broadcasts available on satellite radio.

It was then I got the full Vin, and it was worth every penny I spent.

Scully was that comfort zone, a three-hour escape every night in the spring and summer, every game in the tension of a fall pennant chase.

You learn when you grieve how important it is to breathe. I lost one of the best friends I ever had in the late summer of 2014, and it was Scully and the Dodgers who provided an escape in the personal and professional sadness and tumult that followed.

Every game from late August and September was an escape as the Dodgers were on their way to the NL West title. A Scully-called game was like that easy chair that enveloped you when you sat in it. Every inning in those weeks, it seemed, allowed me to exhale.

Every year there would be an announcement that Scully would be back for the next season, and he would always follow up that announcement by saying, "God willing." Until 2015, when Scully announced the following season would be his last.

His final home game in 2016 ended on Charlie Culberson's walk-off home run that clinched the NL West title. A week later, Scully's final game was at San Francisco.

I heard his final words from that game again on Tuesday night.

"I have said enough," he said, "for a lifetime."

John Bohnenkamp is an award-winning sports reporter and a regular contributor to Pen City Current

Carbon pipeline companies spent \$100K lobbying

Carbon pipeline companies Summit, Navigator and Wolf spent a collective \$92,600 on lobbying in Iowa's 2022 state legislative session, according to the state lobbying declaration records released this week. Specifically, since January 10, 2022, Summit Carbon Solutions spent \$36,000, Navigator CO2 Ventures spent \$16,600, and Wolf Carbon Solutions spent \$40,000.

In the 2022 state legislative session, multiple bills to prohibit eminent domain for carbon pipelines failed to make it out of committee, despite 80% of registered Iowa voters opposing eminent domain for carbon pipelines.

These carbon pipeline lobbying expenditures far outpace the lobbying expenditures from the Dakota Access Pipeline fight, where Energy Transfer spent between \$25-23.1K on state lobbying each year starting in 2015. Additionally, Summit Carbon Solutions is employing the same lobbyists who worked on that controversial pipeline.

Food & Water Watch Senior Iowa Organizer Emma Schmit issued the following statement:

"The halls of the Iowa legislature are teeming with cushy corporate cronies and their well-heeled Wall Street investors. While Iowans stand in fields and march in streets to hold our public institutions accountable to we the people, pipeline profiteers are greasing the wheels with dirty money.

"Let's get one thing straight — Iowa belongs to the people. Our land belongs to us, and our public institutions must be accountable to us. Carbon pipelines are dangerous and unnecessary, and we don't want them. They've also been massive conflicts of interest for our elected officials from the start. Governor Reynolds must listen to the people, not the money, as we demand she stop carbon pipelines, and prevent eminent domain for private gain."



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 (319) 372-9145
 (319) 470-1927 Cell
LARRYHOLTkamp.COM

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

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Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Western Agricultural Insurance Company, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services PC109 (4-17)

Click here to place your ad online 24/7



July 1st – August 5th

(no meals July 4th)

FM

Sit & Eat Service – Monday thru Friday
For all kids 18 years old and younger.



10:45-11:05

- **Lincoln Elem**
14th St & Ave E
(playground)

11:15-11:35

- **FM High School**
20th St & Ave C
(by pool)

11:00-11:30

- **ECC**
23rd & Ave J
No meals July 4-8
- **YMCA**
220 – 26th St
No meals on Fridays

11:50-12:10

- **Victory Park**
23rd St & Ave F
(playground)

12:30-12:50

- **Richardson Elem.**
33rd St & Ave L
(playground)

1:00-1:20

- **Salvation Army**
1415 Ave M
(south side)

Central Lee Sports Boosters

GOLF OUTING 2022

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2022

GREEN ACRES GOLF COURSE

in Donnellson, Iowa

SHOTGUN START: 10 a.m.

FORMAT: Best Ball

ENTRY FEE: \$400 per team

22 team limit, 4 players per team

**Registration fee includes golf, golf cart,
and lunch & dinner.**

**Prizes will be awarded for the top three teams in
each flight. Door prizes and silent auction for all.**

All proceeds go to the Central Lee Sports Boosters

SPONSORED BY

**Pilot Grove
Savings Bank**

Equal Housing Lender

Member FDIC



Send Registration to:

Eric Van Ausdall

1692 Hwy 2
Donnellson, IA 52625

217-430-4650

eric@myconnectionbank.com

Team Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Player 1: _____ Player 2: _____

Player 3: _____ Player 4: _____

Central Lee Sports Boosters

GOLF OUTING 2022

SPONSORED BY



The Central Lee Sports Boosters is working to raise funds to complete Phase I of the athletics facility improvement plan developed in 2022. Your sponsorship will help improve batting cages, track & field events, and the football & soccer field, while expanding the press box at the football field!

SPONSORSHIPS

PREMIER SPONSOR (\$1,500):

This is the headline sponsor with naming rights for the golf outing. The premier sponsor has the opportunity to display their banner at the venue, have their business as a hole sponsor, and have their logo and name displayed on all marketing materials and social media posts for the event.

HOSPITALITY SPONSOR (\$750):

The golf outing includes lunch, dinner, and beverages for event participants. Our hospitality sponsors will be recognized during lunch and dinner, and also be included near the areas beverages are served. Hospitality sponsors are allowed signage at the lunch, dinner, and beverage locations.

HOLE SPONSOR (\$150):

Each hole will have display signs showcasing businesses and organizations serving as a hole sponsor. Multiple businesses/organizations may be displayed on each tee box throughout the course.

ON-COURSE GAMES (\$250):

Part of what makes a golf event like this a memorable experience are the on-course games/contests. These sponsors will be recognized on the course, in the program, and during the awards ceremony. On-course games include, but are not limited to, long drive, longest putt, and closest to the pin. We can even customize an on-course game to highlight your business!

RAFFLE PRIZE SPONSORS:

At the conclusion of the golfing event, sports boosters will conduct a raffle/silent auction. To create a fun experience for both golfers and non-golfers, the booster club needs sponsors for the items! Businesses will be recognized by the individual item they donate and during the awards ceremony.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Eric Van Ausdall - eric@myconnectionbank.com | **Scott Fogarty** - scottjfoarty@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!!
Back to School Festival
Friday, Aug 5, 2022
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Trinity United Methodist Church 2330 Plank Road Keokuk

Backpacks Pre K-12, info booths, food, activities
Free and open to the public regardless of income



For sponsor and volunteer opportunities, call 319-524-4504