

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 | 7 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 157



www.pencitycurrent.com

900-acre solar field coming

ALLIANT: Energy company to invest “hundreds of millions” in new project

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - A new Alliant Energy 150-megawatt solar panel field is moving forward near Wever.

Alliant officials met with Lee County Supervisors at the board's regular meeting Monday to outline the project, which has been in the works for quite a while.

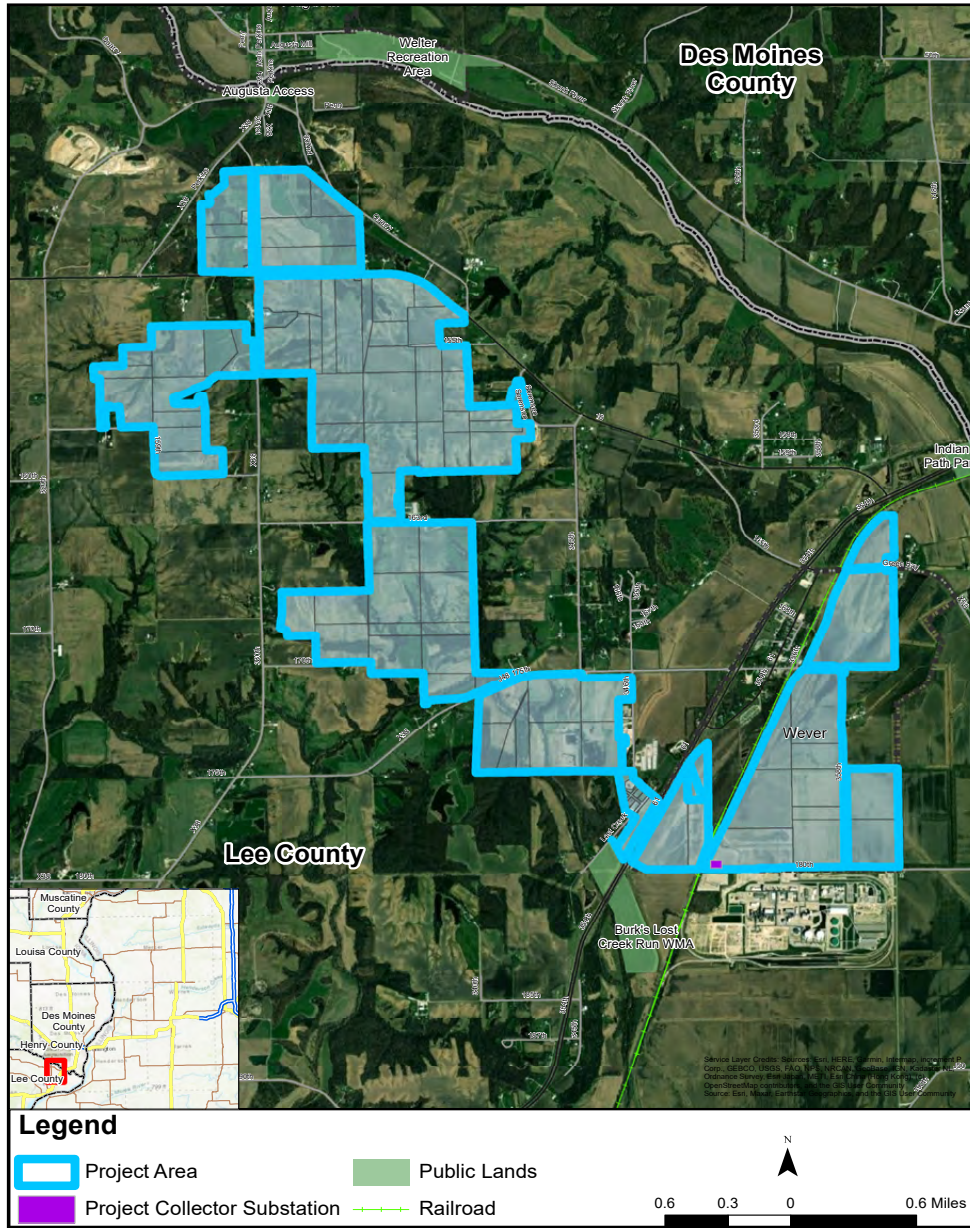
Justin Foss, Renewable Energy Director with Alliant Energy said the company is now ready to make the project publicly known and start working with the county on the necessary agreements.

“We are moving toward starting construction on this project with your blessing and the blessing of the Iowa Utility board as well,” Foss said.

Two years ago Alliant made an announcement that they were embarking a clean energy blueprint, which involved retiring some coal-fired facilities and adding more renewable power generation for Iowa customers.

Shortly after that they decided to add 400 megawatts of solar and 75 megawatts of battery energy storage to support energy resiliency in the state.

See **SOLAR**, page 6



The above map shows the new solar field being proposed by Alliant for Lee County. The blue shaded area represents about 900 acres.

OPINION

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



‘54 Chevy has a bit of extra meaning

Curtis Giberson from Hillsboro studied the ‘54 Chevy he saw on an on-line farm auction. The picture wasn't very good. The caption read, “Only 32,400 miles!”

“Yeah, right,” Curtis muttered to himself, but called the phone number and talked to the auctioneer. “What'dja do, roll the odometer back?” Curtis asked.

“No, seriously,” said the auctioneer, offended. “I'll text you a picture of the interior. You can judge for yourself.”

The interior was immaculate. It was all original, with not a tear or cigarette burn. Curtis' mouth watered. The 32,400 miles were actual! The car had been off the road since 1970 and in a lean-to from the 90's, so the body was covered by surface rust.

Curtis isn't real computer savvy, but he put in an on-line bid. Checking the next day, he saw he had been out bid. So he said a little prayer (he hadn't told his wife, Lori, about the possible expense) and put in what he told himself was his final bid. If he got it, he got it. If not, well, it wasn't meant to be. He forgot about the auction.

The next day his phone rang. “The ‘54 Chevy is yours. Come and get it.”

Curtis gulped. He'd have to tell Lori. Lori cocked her eyebrows, “You did what?”

The ‘54 Chevy had four flat tires, and the 235 cubic inch six-cylinder engine was seized-up. In the trunk was its radiator, carburetor, gas tank, and thankfully, the original fender skirts. The oil-bath air cleaner was MIA. Curtis would have to scour the

See **ART**, page 3

See **SWARM**, page 6

FMAAA

Food, music, and fun on tap at Art in Central Park Sunday

PCC Staff

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison's Annual Art in Central Park is Sunday, September 18th from 10am-4pm

Join us under the beautiful trees in Central Park for the Fort Madison Area Arts Association annual Art in Central Park art fair. In addition to a wonderful cross section of artist and artisan wares there is a terrific lineup of entertainment planned, a Kidzone to channel some creative spirit, and Fat Jimmy's will be on hand with delicious BBQ!

11am Music of SCC featuring the

Art in Central Park FMAAA Art Fair

Sunday, September 18, 2022

11am Music of SCC featuring the Stem Lounge Ensemble

noon Rick Kent

1pm Blame Not the Bard

STEM Lounge Ensemble -- Jazz

Noon Rick Kent -- 70's Rock

1pm Blame Not the Bard -- Irish Trio

3pm Tommy Caruso -- contemporary Singer/Songwriter

Blame Not the Bard is headlining this year sponsored by MidWest One



Bank. This popular Irish trio are high energy crowd pleasing entertainment!! Their music is toe-tapping fun. The day will kick off with Jazz from the STEM Lounge Ensemble, then Rick Kent of Keokuk will be playing and singing favorites from the 70's. Fort Madison native Tommy Caruso will be sharing a selection of his own music to finish off the day.

The FMAAA could not put on this popular event every year without the generous support of all of our spon-

INDEX

2x4s for Hope Escape from Rodeo.....P.8
Business Directory.....P.4
BUSINESS NEWS.....P.2
Cape Air.....P.6
CLASSIFIEDS.....P.4
Connection Bank.....P.3
Fort Colony Family Restaurant.....P.3
FOR THE RECORD.....P.2
Fort Madison Community
Neighborhood Watch Groups.....P.3

FROM THE FRONT.....P.3,6
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.2
LCK Roofing.....P.2
Lee County Health Department.....P.3
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....P.6
LOCAL NEWS.....P.3
Mobile Nursing Services.....P.5
OBITUARIES.....P.3
• Glenda R. Ferguson-Mueller, 82
OPINION.....P.6

Pen City Current.....P.4-5
Pothitakis Dentistry.....P.2
Public Notices.....P.5
RonDavoo.....P.2
SCENE AROUND TOWN.....P.3
Wondra Chiropractic Clinic.....P.5

WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

TUE 13 Sep.....Sunny and warm, 83° F/ 58° F
WED 14 Sep.....Sunny and warm, 84° F/ 62° F
THU 15 Sep.....Sunny and warm, 84° F/ 63° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 09/11.....3 5 28 33 38, Lucky Ball: 18
PICK 3 09/11 MIDDAY.....5 2 8
PICK 3 09/11 EVENING.....1 3 8
PICK 4 09/11 MIDDAY.....0 6 6 8
PICK 4 09/11 EVENING.....6 3 4 3

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For the Record/Business News

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

09/09/22 - 9:22 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jayme Thomasa Jenkins, 36, of Fort Madison at Ivanhoe Apartments, on a warrant for trespass. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

09/09/22 - 1:01 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue E.

09/10/22 - 2:45 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Kristen Leelynn Greik, 26, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue O, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

09/10/22 - 10:01 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3000 block of Avenue L.

09/10/22 - 11:58 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5100 block of Avenue O.

09/11/22 - 11:12 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Camero James Floyd, 38, of Fort Madison in the 3400 block of Av-

enue N, on a charge of violation of a no contact order.

09/11/22 - 5:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3300 block Avenue L.

09/11/22 - 6:05 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Cisaley Dawn Robinson, 39, 1130 Avenue F, Fort Madison, on a charge of dog at large.

09/11/22 - 8:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary 3400 Avenue N.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

09/09/22 - 3:02 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Cassidy Joe Blake, 38, Springville, Iowa, at the sheriff's office on a temporary hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/09/22 - 3:18 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Saira Virginia Jacobs, 35, of West Branch at the sheriff's office on temporary hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

09/10/22 - 12:15 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies re-

sted Harmyn Michelle Combs, 19, of Hannibal, Mo, in the 2400 block of 198th Avenue in Donnellson on a charge of possession of alcohol under age. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.

09/10/22 - 4:35 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Patrick Dale Wright, 48, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Jail and a charge of assault. He was held in custody.

09/10/22 - 4:59 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in the 3000 block of Hwy. 103. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Scott Joseph Gibson, 57, of Keokuk was turning left on Hwy. 103 and was struck from behind by a vehicle driven by Jadyne Kae Ahlen, 26, of Fort Madison who swerved to try and avoid the crash striking the back right side of Gibson's vehicle. Ahlen was cited for failure to maintain control and no proof of insurance. No injuries were reported.

09/10/22 - 8:04 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies re-

sponded to a report of a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61 southbound near 255th Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Julian Dale Lowker, 35, of Lowden was southbound on Hwy. 61. A vehicle driven by Zachary Adam Waldorf, 21 of Fort Madison failed to yield when turning northbound. Lowker struck the side of Waldorf's vehicle. Waldorf was cited for failure to maintain control. No injuries were reported.

Those listed above were charged on suspicion of crimes and are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

09/09/22 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.

09/10/22 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two dumpster fires, one medical call, one carbon monoxide alarm, and two false alarms.

09/11/22 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.

Goodwin to lead IWD engagement division

DES MOINES - Iowa Workforce Development today is launching its new Business Engagement Division, reorganizing employees around the state to create a more efficient team for assessing and resolving the workforce challenges of Iowa employers.

The launch will be accompanied by an employer outreach blitz across the state. Over the next 100 days, IWD leadership and members of the new division will deploy across Iowa to share information about available resources and provide specific points of contact for assisting employers with any workforce need.

The Division, which will be led by Division Administrator Tim Goodwin and Deputy Division Administrator Kathy Anderson, was created at the direction of Governor Kim Reynolds, who challenged IWD to design and implement a "one-stop shop" for employers - an easy-to-access system that will meet employer needs regardless of where they are in the cycle of their business lives.

"We want to spend the next few months connecting with as many Iowa employers as possible so we can make certain that the state is doing everything it can to address their workforce needs and also provide a slate of real solutions," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Iowa has many workforce tools to help with different challenges employers face. It can be difficult for businesses to navigate the available resources in the state, so we have created a one-stop shop to provide concierge service to them, regardless of where the programs are housed."

A key first step involves building long-term relationships. Toward that end, IWD wants to meet with Iowa's employers and will be reaching out to schedule in-person visits with them to evaluate any ongoing workforce needs.

To find more information on the workforce services available to Iowa employers, visit this link. You can contact Business Engagement at iaworks@iwd.iowa.gov, 1-833-469-2967, or by clicking the link above.

Obituaries/Scene Around Town



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Customers start to roll in for fresh produce and baked goods at the Fort Madison farmer's market Monday afternoon in Central Park. The farmer's market runs through the end of the month on Mondays.

KIDZONE back at art fair

ART - Continued from Page 1

sors!! We thank Dana Bushong Jewelry, Jim Baier and Subarena for their sponsorship of the musical entertainment. Art in Central Park would not be complete without our popular KIDZONE brought to us again courtesy of Seither & Cherry. The Kingsley Inn and Harvestville Farms are supporting the Booth Awards again this year with generous donations that help lend a little competition to the event for the participating artists.

Come on down for food and fun, browse the great wares on hand and support local artists. See you in the Park on the 18th!!

OBITUARIES

GLENDA R. FERGUSON-MOELLER

Glenda Rose Ferguson-Moeller, 82, of Houghton, Iowa, passed away at 12:25 p.m. Saturday, September 10, 2022, at the Klein Center in West Burlington, Iowa.

Born on April 14, 1940, in Kahoka, Missouri, the daughter of Leon and Helen (Benge)



FERGUSON-MOELLER

Smith. On June 22, 1958, she married Howard Ferguson. He preceded her in death on July 19, 2002. She then married Marvin Moeller on December 28, 2005.

Survivors include her husband: Marvin; daughter: Kim Ferguson of Niota, Illinois; son: Chad (Sue) Ferguson of Niota, Illinois; two grandchildren: Rob (Beth) Ferguson and Rachel Ferguson; three great grandchildren: Benjamin, William and Wyatt; three step-children: Linda (Sam) Gaylord; Marty (Deb) Moeller and Laura (Justin Cole) Spratt; four step-grandchildren: Mitch (Kathryn) Moeller, Makenzie (Kameron) Cooper, Colton Thompson and Megan Thompson; five step great-grandchildren: Beau, Preston, Addie, Maggie and Layne. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband: Howard and one sister: Wanda Gaylord.

Glenda was a graduate of Fort Madison High School, Southeastern Community College, Western Illinois University and Saint Francis University in Joliet, Illinois. She was a member of Saint John's Catholic Church, the Sunshine Girls and Silver Steppers. Glenda was a Registered Nurse and retired from Southeastern Community College as Director of Health Education. She loved her family. Her best days were spending time with family and friends.

Visitation will begin at 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, Iowa, where the family will meet with friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, Iowa, with Father Dan Dorau officiating.

Following the funeral service a luncheon will be held at the West Point American Legion.

Following the luncheon a private burial will be held in the Appanoose Township Cemetery near Niota, Illinois. A memorial has been established in her memory for Saint John's Church or the Niota Park. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE
CENTRAL LEE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
DONNELLSON, IOWA
52625
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES CENTER
TENTATIVE AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022
WORK SESSION
5:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order
2. Board Workshop - Elementary School Report
3. Adjourn

**REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve agenda (Motion)
4. Welcome to Visitors:
 - a. Visitors to speak about items not on the agenda - None
5. Superintendent's Report:
 - a. Review Preliminary Enrollment for 2022-2023:
 - b. School Safety Grant Information
 - c. Strategic Plan Update
 - d. Homecoming Week
 - e. IASB Board Convention: 11/16/2022 - 11/18/2022
 - f. Finance Report
 - g. Vacancies
6. Consent Agenda: (Motion) (Exhibit I)
 - a. Approve minutes
 - b. Financial Reports: General and Schoolhouse Funds, Clearing Account, Hot Lunch Account
 - c. Approve prepaid bills
 - d. Approve monthly bills
 - e. Overnight Trip Requests: None.
7. Second Reading of Board Policy 414.1
Classified Employee Vacations - Holidays - Personal Leave (Motion)

- (Exhibit II)
8. SBRC Approval – Special Education (Motion)
 9. 2022-23 Cooperative Sharing Agreements: (Motion)
 - a. Girls Bowling - Keokuk Community School District
 - b. Boys Bowling - Keokuk Community School District
 - c. Wrestling - Ft. Madison Community School District
 10. Contract Approvals: (Motion)
 - a. Rhonda Taube - Substitute Bus Driver
 - b. Janet Hissem - Van Route Driver
 - c. Lane Weirather - 8th Grade Boys' Co Basketball Coach
 - d. Andy Crozier - 8th Grade Boys' Co Basketball Coach
 - e. Nadine Weirather - 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach
 11. Resignation: (Motion)
 - a. Brenda Schmidt - Elementary Associate
 12. Board Reports
 13. Adjourn (Motion)

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF
WEST BURLINGTON
Special City Council
Meeting - 091422
Wednesday, September
14, 2022 at 6:00 PM
West Burlington
City Hall
122 Broadway Street**

- AGENDA
CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
CITIZEN INQUIRIES
OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss options for the City's Yard Waste Site
 2. Consider amending Chapter 79 of the City Code related to Snow Removal and discuss process for handling Snow Emergencies
- CITIZEN INQUIRIES
FUTURE WORK
SESSION OR AGENDA ITEMS
ADJOURN

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF
WEST BURLINGTON
Planning and Zoning
Commission Meeting -
091522
Thursday, September
15, 2022 at 6:00 PM
West Burlington
City Hall
122 Broadway Street**

- AGENDA
CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
1. Approve Minutes from the Planning and

- Zoning Commission meeting on June 29, 2022
NEW BUSINESS
1. Consider the adoption of a new City Code Chapter 163 titled "Airport Approach Regulation"
OLD BUSINESS
ADJOURN

**PUBLIC NOTICE
AGENDA
FORT MADISON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Date: Thursday,
September 15, 2022
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Place: Sheaffer Meeting
Room and Online**

- Electronic Meeting (Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8)
An electronic meeting is being held because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical for the health and safety of Library Board members, library employees and the public presented by COVID-19. You can participate in the meeting via telephone and can comment on an agenda

- item by joining the Zoom meeting.
Using your telephone, dial (312) 626 6799 and enter the meeting ID (889 6366 8551) when prompted. If you have trouble connecting to the meeting, please call (319) 372-5721.

- I. Excused absences
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of minutes
- a. Meeting August 18
- V. Approval of the Bills
- VI. Correspondence
- VII. Director's Report
 - a. Financial
 - b. Personnel
 - c. Programming
 - d. Collection Development
 - e. Operations
 - f. Facilities
 - g. Professional
- VIII. Unfinished Business
 - a. Pre-approve computer purchase – upper limit amount – laptops 12 laptops at \$800/laptop - \$10,000 and desktop – 5 (1 for circ 1 and 4 for

- public) at \$700/computer - \$3,500
b. Approve signing contract to receive copyright for Ted Sloat book
X. Upcoming Events and Information
a. Lee County Libraries Meeting, 7pm, September 20 at Fort Madison
b. Library Director Evaluation in October
Next Meeting October 20, 2022

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From the Front

Project a "win-win" for county

SOLAR - Continued from Page 1

"So far we've announced 200 megawatts of solar energy at the former Duane Arnold Energy Center, a former nuclear facility operating in Linn County," Foss said.

"And we are currently in negotiations to add 75 megawatts of storage in that area, but haven't made that final decision.

"We've been developing this for a long time, and while we still haven't formally made a decision to include this as part of our clean energy blueprint, to be eligible, we do need to move forward with this project."

He said Alliant has started working with Lee County Attorney Ross Braden and Lee County Engineer Ben Hull on a development agreement to execute with the county to set expectations for both parties.

Foss said Alliant has already come to agreements with 12 and 24 landowners for right of way for the project which will encompass 900 acres total.

A public hearing on the project is set for Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. in Fort Madison at a location to be determined.

Supervisor Chairman Matt Pflug, said he and Supervisor Ron Fedler have been meeting with Foss said there is no eminent domain involved and all the landowners are on board.

"I see this as a win-win for Lee County going forward," Pflug said.

The property for the site will be directly north of the Iowa Fertilizer Plant and then northwest of the plant almost to the Augusta Access on the south side of the Skunk River.

Foss said there isn't much of a chance of any visibility or glare issues from the panels on Hwy. 61. He said the panels are designed to absorb light, but Alliant does do regular studies on those issues.

He said the energy produced will go onto Alliant's overall energy grid, like all the other facilities in the state.

He said there would be a benefit to IFC because there will be a shared substation the substation where the facility's collector substation is planned, on the northeast corner of 180th Street, which runs along the fertilizer plant's north side, and Hwy. 61.

That collector substation will run above wires to the substation that connects to the fertilizer plant so it will help with resilience, but the energy is directly for the fertilizer plant.

Foss said economic development efforts want to be located near renewable energy. He said this will add to Alliant's ability to assist with local economic development by allowing them to say they are located near sources of renewable energy.

Owner gets 1954 classic in shape for Old Threshers parade

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

internet for one of those. But he got the '54 Chevy home and took it to one of his buddies who worked on old cars. His buddy rebuilt the engine, brakes and installed dual exhaust.

Curtis had been looking for a '54 Chevy for at least 20 years. Why? He had seen a picture of his parents', Dwight and Shirley Giberson, wedding. Dwight Giberson owned a '54 Chevy and that was their honeymoon car. Also, Curtis' mother had graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School in 1954. Dwight and Shirley Giberson were married in 1955. Curtis' father's car was a '54 Chevy 210 or Del Ray. This one was a Bel Air. But that was okay. The body was lighter green than the one they had, but the interior was identical.

Curtis showed the '54 Chevy to his 86-year old mother. Curtis' father had passed away in 2010. Tears formed in her eyes. "Are you going to drive it in the Old Thresher's parade?" she asked. Curtis nodded his head yes. "Can I ride with you?" was her next question.

"If you hadn't asked," Curtis said. "I was going to ask you."

But Curtis still had to get the body ready. There was a patina of rust all over it. He went to work and wet sanded the entire car. He then used a cleaning wax on the body, and a lot of elbow grease on the chrome. Two hours before the Old Thresher's parade, Curtis had the car ready.

He picked up his mother and off they went. She was short, and could hardly see over the dash. Curtis quipped they should get a Sears Catalog. His mother had been practicing her "princess wave." The look in her eye is something Curtis will never forget. Curtis had been going to the Old Thresher's Reunion for over 50 years, and he now wanted to be a participant rather than a spectator. The '54 Chevy served the dual purpose of allowing him to participate, made his mother happy, and it had dual exhaust. Priceless!

One more thing: Dwight Giberson and Shirley Prickett were married on September 2nd, 1955. They didn't go to Old Thresher's that year, they went to Illinois for their honeymoon. (Dwight was looking for car parts.) But every year on Labor Day weekend, Shirley remembers marrying the handsome Dwight Giberson, and his '54 Chevy.



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