

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 158



[www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

## Supervisors ease county hiring

**REPLACEMENTS:** Department heads now can hire replacements without coming to board

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County supervisors will now allow department heads to replace employees without coming to the board, a change from previous hiring practices.

At Monday's Lee County Board of Supervisors, the board moved to allow the change after a lengthy discussion last week to streamline and coordinate the hiring process.

Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb said he couldn't really come up with a reason to not allow department heads to work within their budgets and start the rehiring process

without supervisor approval.

"I don't know that we've never not allowed them to do that unless there was a hiring freeze on," Seyb said.

"This holds their ability to get someone on by a week, or two weeks if it's a holiday. If there's not a hiring freeze, I'm not sure there should be anything precluding them from hiring the replacement."

Lee County Human Resources Director Kim Spear said currently department heads have to come to supervisors twice – once to get permission to hire the replacement and another to approve the hire.

See COUNTY, page 4

### EDITORIAL

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



## Buddy's brush with death

Leaving the veterinarian's office, carrying Buddy wrapped in a blanket, his head barely peeking out, a person coming into the vet's office said, "Ah, poor Buddy!" I realized people, a total stranger in this case, actually know our pets: Buddy, our dog, and Stormy, our tomcat, because I occasionally talk about them in my Empty Nest Column.

Buddy had suddenly become violently sick, defecating and vomiting all over the place. I have never seen an animal so sick! At 13 years old, I thought he was dying. Ginnie accompanied me with Buddy to the vet's office because we thought Buddy might need to be euthanized. Gulp. Visions were going through my mind of where I would bury him: in his pen outside the kitchen door? Naw. Every time we left the house we would see his grave marker. In the garden? Naw. Too far away. In the Colorado Blue Spruce wind break. Yes, that's it. There are plenty of rabbits there for Buddy to chase. Oh, man. This indicates my state of mind.

We had been on vacation to the Outer Banks of North Carolina and had boarded Buddy and Stormy for 10 days. In my opinion that was just way too long a time to board a sensitive dog like Buddy. It had to have stressed him and he came down with a bacterial infection. The vet tech gave him a number of shots and sent us home with three different meds and a special food. (BTW: I'm pretty sure we spend more on healthcare for our pets than we do on ourselves.) Buddy just laid in his pet bed and didn't move, and I mean didn't move, for two days. Man, did he throw a scare into us! People, including us, were praying for him. We also called the kennel and let them know about Buddy's condition.

See SWARM, page 7



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Emergency crews were called to the west side of the Fort Madison High School campus when a dump truck took down power lines on the property at about 3 p.m. Monday afternoon. Alliant Energy crews responded to get service restored. The school did not lose complete power as a result.

### CAR SHOW

## Burger King, Pen City Cruisers team up for October show

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON — BURGER KING® and Pen City Cruisers car club will host its first ever car show in Fort Madison, Iowa on Friday, October 13th, 2023 to bring together enthusiasts

of all types of cars from the surrounding Fort Madison area.

The event will run from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the restaurant's location at 4805 Avenue O. The event is free to attend. Inside the restaurant, BURGER KING® will be offering exciting specials

on food and frozen drinks exclusively for attendees.

The casual, fun event will provide a place to showcase cars, trucks or bikes and connect with fellow automotive enthusiasts and for the community to see the unique vehicles.

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### WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap  
TUE 26 Sep.....Scattered showers & storms, 76° F/ 57° F  
WED 27 Sep.....Sunny & cool, 74° F/ 57° F  
THU 28 Sep.....Mostly sunny & cool, 76° F/ 59° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 09/24.....6 25 26 28 31, Lucky Ball: 17  
PICK 3 MIDDAY 09/24.....8 31  
PICK 3 EVENING 09/24.....7 4 5  
PICK 4 MIDDAY 09/24.....6 2 2 8  
PICK 4 EVENING 09/24.....5 2 0 9

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### NATHANIEL J. SIMONSON

Nathaniel James Simonson, 30, of Keokuk, Iowa, passed away at 6:00 a.m. Friday, September 15, 2023, at his home in Keokuk.

He was born on June 1, 1993, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Scott Simonson and Elizabeth Horsey.



SIMONSON

He is survived by his father: Scott (Nicole) Simonson; siblings: Alex Simonson, Casey Ackerson, Caleb Ackerson, Kelby Ackerson, Emma Ackerson, Tyler Swift, Calynn Kruse and Harper Simonson; grandmothers: Sandra Leski and Beverly Simonson and Financé: Jessica Benning.

He was preceded in death by his mother: Elizabeth Ackerson; step-father: Kevin Ackerson; sister: Hannah Ackerson; grandparents: James and Mary Horsey; grandfathers: John Leski and Terry Simonson.

Nathan was active in local theater & was in many plays for years; where he loved to sing & act. He enjoyed nature, fishing & spending time with his family, friends, fiancé & their dogs. He was the most genuine, compassionate person to everyone he knew & met; being a good person & spreading love was important to him. He absolutely lit up a room when he entered with his smile & goofiness; he loved to make others laugh & smile.

His body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Homes for cremation.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, October 1, 2023, at Argyle Presbyterian Church in Argyle, Iowa with Pastor John Simpson officiating.

A private family burial will be held in Argyle Memorial Gardens, rural Argyle, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

## OBITUARIES

### BEATRICE K. BARKER HOWELL

Beatrice "Bea" Kay Barker Howell passed away peacefully Thursday, September 21, 2023, at her home in Nauvoo, Illinois at the age of 80. She was a beloved Wife, Mother and Granny.



BARKER HOWELL

Bea was born February 11, 1943, in Logan, Utah to loving parents William Vermont "Mont" Barker and Rozella Laursen Barker and raised as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and remained active serving in many calling throughout her life. She was the 4th Child in the family. She was a gentle and loving person her whole life. She loved her Heavenly Father and her Savior Jesus Christ and always tried to live a Christlike life and set an example to those around her.

She grew up in a loving home with wonderful siblings, three of whom have preceded her in death: DeLores Barker Yonk (Nolan Yonk), Eugene "Gene" Barker (Afton Swenson Barker), Carol Barker Christensen (Halbert "Hal") Christensen. She has one surviving sibling: Nola Barker Fenstermacher (Ronald "Ron" Fenstermacher). She is survived by her precious children: Andrea Garcia, Daren Richards, Michael "Mike" Garcia (Joy Garcia), Monica Garcia Bernal (Michael Bernal) and Adam Garcia. Her grandchildren: Kassi Garcia, Kory Garcia, Kristopher Garcia, Konner Garcia, Ken Richards, Alexa Richards, Mychal Joy Garcia.

She had so many great talents she was an amazing dancer and especially loved tap dancing, played the piano and she had a beautiful singing voice. In High School she was also known as a sharpshooter and served in the ROTC. She loved sewing, embroidery of any kind, her Russian embroidery was amazing, and she could do any craft you could think of. She was always learning and studying and making sure she was always involved in her church and community. She was a Genealogy expert who did so much Family History. Plus served on the Grand Jury in Redding, California, for two years until she moved to Nauvoo, Illinois after she married John Howell on November 22, 2013, in Redding, California. She was a world traveler. She loved to do Jigsaw puzzles while visiting with friends.

She served in six Missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Baltimore, Maryland, Hawaii at the Polynesian Cultural Center, A Family History Mission in Salt Lake City, Utah, Heber Valley Camp twice, and Cambodia.

Per her wishes, no services are being planned.

Memorials may be made in her memory and mailed to the family at: Schmitz - Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 201, Nauvoo, Illinois 62354.

Schmitz - Banks & Beals Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at [www.sbbfuneralhome.com](http://www.sbbfuneralhome.com).

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## The Good, The Bad, and The Healthy

**So, what exactly is cholesterol?** Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance in your blood.

High levels of "bad" LDL cholesterol can cause fatty deposits to build up in your blood vessels, leading to heart attack, stroke, or other health problems. High levels of "good" HDL cholesterol may actually lower your risk for health problems – carrying plaque buildup to the liver, where they are flushed out of the body.

Having regular blood tests to check your cholesterol levels is key to your good health. Your healthcare provider at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center can help you manage your cholesterol - to keep you heart healthy.



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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### RONALD MILLER

Ronald Miller 71, of Keokuk died Friday, September 22, 2023 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Ft. Madison, IA

He was born February 2, 1952 in Keokuk the son of Robert and Marjorie Schoch Miller.



MILLER

Ronald graduated from Warsaw High School with the class of 1970. After high school he joined the Army National Guard and proudly served for six years.

On May 25, 1974 he was united in marriage to Debbie Davis in Keokuk. She survives.

He is also survived by his son, Ronald Miller (Risse) of Waco, TX, four grandchildren Eli, Ezra, twins: Asher and Asa Miller, a sister, Diane Fuller (Keith) of Loraine, IL and two brothers-in-law, Steve Davis (Diana) of Hamilton, IL and Mike Phillips (Refina) Patterson, CA.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Ronald had been employed with Keokuk Water Works for 28 years until his retirement.

He was a skilled mechanic with a remarkable ability to fix anything and was a wiz when it came to car motors.

Ronald's passion for tinkering under the hood of cars was unmatched and his expertise was sought after by many. You could find him most weekends working on cars.

He was a car enthusiast, but his love was his 1962 Corvette and his drag car a 1971 Nova, which he considered his pride and joy.

Most of all his family was the center of his life. He was a great husband, dad and grandpa.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor John Happs officiating.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service on Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. with the family meeting with friends at that time.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the donor's choice.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com). The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.



## OBITUARIES

### BEVERLY R. BLACKWELL

Beverly Rose Blackwell, 78 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died peacefully at her home at 6:05 am Saturday, September 23, 2023. She was born June 11, 1945 in Fort Madison, a daughter of Clarence Sr. and Rosie (Passig) Niggemeyer. She married Lee Blackwell on October 16, 1965. He survives.



BLACKWELL

Bev was a 1963 graduate of Fort Madison High School, and a member of Holy Family Parish. She loved animals, especially her dogs and horses. She was a former member of the Fort Madison and Lomax, Illinois Saddle Clubs. She was a homemaker. She loved her family, and was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

She is survived by her husband of nearly 58 years, Lee Blackwell; daughters: Tina (Derrick) Parker, Teresa Blackwell, and "like an adoptive daughter" Melissa Privia, all of Fort Madison; one sister, Diana Nickerson of Boca Raton, Florida; two grandchildren, Donald and Paige Parker; three great grandchildren: Alexandria, Nova, and Onyx; one aunt; numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and four brothers.

Per her wishes, her body has been cremated. Private family burial will be held at a later date at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Fort Madison.

A memorial has been established for PAW Animal Shelter, contributions may be sent to Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Blackwell family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

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## For the Record/Scene Around Town



Photo by Susan Vandenberg/Special to /PCC

### PorchStock 2023

Fort Madison firefighter Justin Cain dances with his son as a band plays in the backyard of the Cain home on Friday night as part of PorchStock 2023 in Fort Madison. A dozen locations featured bands, beverages, and food trucks.

## Danville Telecom waives at OCIO grant

**COUNTY** - Continued from Page 1

Supervisor Tom Schulz said the second request should still come to the board to allow the board to approve the pay structure.

“That’s a necessary step for us to approve the salary,” he said.

Seyb agreed that the final approval was necessary.

“That gives us oversight to see they’ve been hired. But rather than have it come to us twice to approve the hiring, and then the hire, I guess I couldn’t come up with an answer for having to do that,” he said.

“We’re artificially, in my mind, making them do another step. I haven’t seen a time in the last two or three years where we’ve said no to a replacement.”

He said department heads should be allowed to determine if they want to replace someone depending on staff demands and budgets.

In an unrelated issue, the board heard an update on the ongoing Danville Telecom broadband project in Lee County.

Danville Telecom said they will now not be seeking grant reimbursement for their costs on the project. Project bids came in substantially over the engineering estimates for the work and the group

reset the project earlier this year. Under the revised project, grant funds would have been used to build the redundancy loop near Keokuk and the county’s \$1.9 million contribution from American Rescue Plan Act funds would be used to run fiber to approximately 125 underserved homes in the Wever area.

Since that time the state’s Office of Chief Information Officer has reset the grant funding to represent the scaled back unserved/underserved homes in the county, reducing the grant to around \$500,000 from \$3.5 million.

Danville Telecom CEO Tim Fencil told officials at a meeting last week that the compliances required in the grant funds would not make the grant worth pursuing because Danville could do the work with economies of scale cheaper than the state’s grant would require. So the telecommunications company is declining the grant funds.

In other action, Supervisor Tom Schulz said he will be holding a town hall at the north Lee County Administration building’s Supervisor room starting at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday and the meeting is open to the public.

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

09/22/23 – 9:49 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3100 block of Avenue M.

09/22/23 – 11:23 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of Avenue G.

09/22/23 – 11:43 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of 23rd Street.

09/22/23 – 12:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 4600 block of Avenue J.

09/22/23 – 1:23 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

09/22/23 – 7:58 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of 37th Street.

09/23/23 – 1:37 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 800 block of Avenue E.

09/23/23 – 2:14 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Belinda L. McWhortor, 35 of Fort Madison, in the 600 block of 34th Street, on a charge of domestic abuse assault. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

09/23/23 – 2:14 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Grant J. Shallcross, 33, of Fort Madison in the 600 block of 34th Street on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

09/23/23 – 2:26 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

09/23/23 – 3 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue H.

09/24/23 – 6:18 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H.

09/24/23 – 11:33 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jeremy F. Skelton, 32, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue O, on charges of assault with a weapon, 1st-degree harassment and disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

09/24/23 – 11:37 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2100 block of

Avenue F. 09/24/23 – 2:50 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Avenue F.

09/24/23 – 8:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 5100 block of Avenue O.

09/25/23 – 6:48 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Isaiah J. Rutter, 35, of Fort Madison in the 1900 block of Avenue G, on an outstanding warrant for disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

09/22/23 – 8:14 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Stanley A. Barrows, 21, of Walker, Iowa, at the South Lee County Courthouse on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.

09/22/23 – 9:49 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Joel D. Duffie, 42, of West Burlington, at the North Lee County Courthouse on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.

09/23/23 – 6:37 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Adam L. Hudson, 37, of Keokuk at the North Lee County Courthouse on an arrest affidavit. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

09/23/23 – 10:16 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Donna J. Amandus, 59, of Fort Madison on 340th Street in Keokuk on charges of OWI-1st offense and speeding. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on her own recognizance.

09/25/23 – 2:15 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Amanda R. Leadingham, 37, of Keokuk in the 1200 block of Des Moines Street on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

09/25/23 – 2:40 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Britten D. Yemmans, 28, listed at homeless, on South 12th Street, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

Those listed above are arrested on suspicion of a charge and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**CITY OF**  
**WEST BURLINGTON**  
**Regular City Council**  
**Meeting**  
**Wednesday,**  
**September 27, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**  
**West Burlington**  
**City Hall**  
**122 Broadway Street**

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER  
 PLEDGE OF ALLE-  
 GIANCE  
 ROLL CALL  
 PERFECTING & AP-  
 PROVAL OF AGENDA  
 CONSENT AGENDA  
 All items on the Con-  
 sent Agenda are Action  
 items that will be con-  
 sidered by a single vote.  
 Council members may  
 request that an item be  
 pulled for discussion and  
 held for a separate vote.  
 Items on the Consent  
 Agenda may include  
 claims over the City  
 Administrator's authorized  
 spending limit, payments  
 related to previously  
 approved contracts, and  
 non-controversial or rou-  
 tine expenses as defined  
 by the City's Purchasing  
 Policy.  
 1. Minutes from the  
 Regular City Council  
 meeting on September 6,  
 2023  
 2. Clerk's Monthly  
 Financial Report for July  
 2023  
 3. Clerk's Monthly Fi-  
 nancial Report for August  
 2023  
 4. Payment to  
 French-Reneker-Asso-  
 ciates for engineering  
 related to the Mt. Pleas-  
 ant Resurfacing Project  
 - Phase 2 - \$555.00  
 5. Payment of Claims  
 as listed on the Ex-  
 pense Approval Report  
 - \$187,873.15

**COUNCIL & STAFF**  
**REPORTS**  
 • ADMINISTRATOR:  
 • PUBLIC WORKS:  
 • POLICE DEPART-  
 MENT:  
 • FIRE/BUILDING DE-  
 PARTMENT:  
 • CLERK/FINANCE/IT:  
 • OTHER STAFF RE-  
 PORTS:  
 • COUNCIL REPORTS:  
 • COMMUNITY RE-  
 PORTS:  
 CITIZEN INQUIRIES  
 OLD BUSINESS  
 NEW BUSINESS  
 1. Consider a Resolu-  
 tion hiring Jade Hobbs as  
 a Reserve Police Officer  
 2. Consider a Resolu-  
 tion entering into a 28E  
 Agreement concerning  
 Automatic Mutual Aid for  
 Fire Suppression between  
 Burlington, Iowa, West  
 Burlington, Iowa, and the  
 Quad Township Associ-  
 ation  
 3. Consider a Reso-  
 lution accepting the Mt.  
 Pleasant Street Resurfac-  
 ing Project - Phase 2  
 4. Set a Public Hearing  
 date for adoption of the  
 City of West Burlington's  
 Capital Improvement Plan  
 5. Consider the second  
 reading of an Ordinance  
 amending provisions  
 pertaining to Fiscal Man-  
 agement  
 6. Consider the second  
 reading of an Ordinance  
 amending provisions per-  
 taining to Liquor Licenses  
 and Cigarette and Tobac-  
 co Permits  
 7. Consider the pur-  
 chase of a 2023 Ford  
 F-250 Truck, Aluminum  
 Flat Bed, Snowplow  
 8. Consider the pur-  
 chase of a 2023 Ford  
 F-350 Cab Chassis,  
 Aluminum Flat Bed,  
 Snowplow  
 9. Consider a Resolu-  
 tion authorizing the dis-  
 posal of two Public Works

vehicles (2006 Ford F250  
 Truck with Flatbed and  
 Plow 2001 Ford F350  
 Truck with Flatbed Plow)  
**CITIZEN INQUIRIES**  
**ADJOURN**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Subject to change as  
 finalized by the City Clerk.  
 For a final official copy,  
 contact the City Clerk's  
 office at (319) 753-8124.

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE BURLINGTON,**  
**IOWA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Meeting No. 41**  
**September 5, 2023**

The Burlington City  
 Council met in regular  
 session at 5:30 p.m. in  
 the Thomas J. Smith  
 Council Chambers, City  
 Hall, 400 Washington  
 Street, with Mayor Billups,  
 Council Members Critser,  
 Graham-Murray and  
 Maupin present. Council  
 Member Wilson arrived at  
 5:32 p.m.  
**BURLINGTON CITY**  
**COUNCIL**  
**COMMENTS FROM**  
**AUDIENCE:** Leon Sha-  
 han of 1308 Koestner  
 Street #1 stated his  
 concern with the increase  
 in the water bills after his  
 rental unit was switched  
 to metered billing. He  
 stated that water rates  
 need to be revisited.  
 Council Member Wilson  
 arrived at 5:32 p.m.  
 \* PROCLAMATION  
 - Direct Support Profes-  
 sionals (DSP) Recogni-  
 tion Week - Cheryl Plank  
**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
 To the Public:  
 All matters listed under  
 Item I., Consent Agenda,  
 having been discussed  
 were considered to be  
 routine by the City Coun-  
 cil and were enacted by  
 one motion. There was  
 no separate discussion of

these items. If discussion  
 was desired, that item  
 was removed from the  
 Consent Agenda and was  
 considered separately.  
 Introduced By: Critser  
 Seconded By: Maupin  
**MOTION:** To approve  
 all items listed under Item  
 I., Consent Agenda.  
**DISCUSSION:** Mayor  
 Billups reviewed the items  
 listed on the consent  
 agenda to the viewing  
 audience. He announced  
 those individuals ap-  
 pointed to various City  
 commissions and boards.  
 All present had opportu-  
 nity to speak and nothing  
 additional was filed in the  
 office of the City Clerk.  
**(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")**  
**CARRIED**  
**HEARINGS:**  
 1. Statement: Consider-  
 ation of Plans and Spec-  
 ifications for the 2023  
 Mason Road Detention  
 Pond Expansion  
**COMMENTS:** Steve  
 Hartman, City Engineer,  
 stated that the city owns  
 a lot between the airport  
 property and detention  
 basin and Mason Road.  
 He stated that the par-  
 cel offers opportunity for  
 grading and inclusion with  
 the existing detention  
 system. He stated that the  
 project includes excava-  
 tion and grading of the lot  
 to connect to and extend  
 the existing detention ba-  
 sin that exists on airport

property. He stated that  
 the project will relieve or  
 minimize the occasional  
 storm water inundated of  
 two expands the existing  
 detention that is within  
 the airport grounds along  
 Mason Road. He stated  
 that the demolition project  
 will include removing the  
 building and taking out  
 some of the brush and  
 debris from the site. All  
 present had opportunity  
 to speak and nothing  
 additional was filed in the  
 office of the City Clerk.  
 Introduced By: Critser  
 Seconded By: Wilson  
**Motion to Close CAR-**  
**RIED**  
 Introduced By: Critser  
 Seconded By: Maupin  
**Resolution Approving**  
**Plans and Specifications**  
**for the 2023 Mason Road**  
**Detention Pond Expan-**  
**sion**  
**DISCUSSION:** None.  
**(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")**  
**ADOPTED**  
 2. Statement: Consid-  
 eration of an Ordinance  
 Allowing Non-Iowa  
 Residents to be Hired and  
 Employed as Civil Service  
 Employees for the City of  
 Burlington, Iowa  
**COMMENTS:** Stepha-  
 nie Stuecker, Director of  
 Administrative Services,  
 stated that during the  
 legislative session of  
 2016 House File 2267  
 was passed into law ef-  
 fective July 1, 2016 which

allows cities to pass an  
 ordinance to eliminate the  
 state of Iowa residency  
 requirements for covered  
 civil service employees  
 and authorizes a city  
 to establish time and  
 distance requirements of  
 its covered civil service  
 employees. She stated  
 that the changes could  
 help with recruitment of  
 public safety positions.  
 She stated that this will  
 expand the fifteen air  
 mile requirement into  
 Illinois. Leon Shahan of  
 1308 Koestner Street #1  
 stated that he didn't see  
 the benefit of extending  
 the recruitment area into  
 Illinois. All present had  
 opportunity to speak and  
 nothing additional was  
 filed in the office of the  
 City Clerk.  
 Introduced By: Maupin  
 Seconded By: Gra-  
 ham-Murray  
**Motion to Close CAR-**  
**RIED**  
 Introduced By: Maupin  
 Seconded By: Wilson  
**Motion to Amend the**  
**Motion for Preliminary**  
**Adoption of the First**  
**Reading of an Ordinance**  
**Allowing Non-Iowa Res-**  
**idents to be Hired and**  
**Employed as Civil Service**  
**Employees for the City of**  
**Burlington, Iowa**  
**DISCUSSION:** None.  
**(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")**  
**CARRIED**  
 Introduced By: Maupin

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 6 months up to 2 years
- **Lab Technician** - \$26.50-\$31.00 per hour, depending upon  
 experience.
- **Shift Lead** - \$28.05

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 in addition to the posted hourly wages.**

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Seconded By: Wilson  
Motion for Waiver of Preliminary Consideration and Adoption of the First and Second Readings and for Final Adoption of an Ordinance Allowing Non-Iowa Residents to be Hired and Employed as Civil Service Employees for the City of Burlington, Iowa

DISCUSSION: None.  
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")  
CARRIED

3. Statement: Consideration of Sale of a Portion of Property (Parcel 10-25-100-020), Located West of and Adjacent to West Burlington Avenue and South of 10704 Plank Road, with Conditions

COMMENTS: Chad Bird, City Manager, stated that the City Attorney has negotiated sale of Parcel

### HELP WANTED

#### PUBLIC WORKS GENERAL OPERATOR

**GENERAL PURPOSE**  
Performs a variety of unskilled or semi-skilled maintenance work, operates a variety of equipment in the construction, operation, repair, maintenance and replacement of City street, sanitary and storm drainage facilities and systems.

#### DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:  
• Graduation from high school education or GED equivalent and  
• Two (2) years of experience relating to construction, maintenance, or repair, or  
• Any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Special Requirements:  
• Valid State Driver's license  
• Class B CDL or the ability to obtain one within six months of hire.

Necessary knowledge, skills, and experience:

- Some knowledge of equipment, facilities, materials, methods and procedures used in maintenance, construction and repair activities;
- Skill in operation of some of the listed tools and equipment;
- Ability to perform heavy manual tasks for extended periods of time; ability to work safely; ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, other departments and the public; ability to understand and carry out written and oral instructions.

Submit applications to Justina Cullen at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or via email at [jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com](mailto:jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com) by 4:30pm on Friday, September 29, 2023.



10-25-100-020 after a property line dispute with the neighboring property owners. He stated that sale of the parcel would be approved through a written agreement in the amount of \$3,181.50 with terms and conditions that the property be surveyed, fenced, and kept free of any nuisance or complaint issues. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Graham-Murray Seconded By: Maupin

Motion to Close CARRIED

Introduced By: Graham-Murray Seconded By: Critser

Resolution Approving Sale of a Portion of Property (Parcel 10-25-100-020), Located West of and Adjacent to West Burlington Avenue and South of 10704 Plank Road, with Conditions  
DISCUSSION: None.  
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")

ADOPTED  
ORDINANCE:

Introduced By: Wilson Seconded By: Critser

1. Motion to Amend the Motion for Preliminary Adoption of the Second Reading of an Ordinance

### HELP WANTED

#### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FULL-TIME OPERATOR/LAB TECHNICIAN

**GENERAL PURPOSE**  
Assist in the operation and monitoring of the water reclamation facility. Additional duties performed include collecting routine water samples and performing laboratory test; cleaning clarifiers, wet wells and elevated tanks; maintenance of pumps, valves and meters; property maintenance to the building and grounds; and completing daily documentation.

#### DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:  
1. Graduation from high school diploma or GED equivalent  
2. Valid Iowa driver's license  
3. Obtain a Grade II Wastewater Certification in the State of Iowa.  
4. Knowledge of electrical and mechanical equipment  
5. Ability to operate computer programs

Apply at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA or email applications to [jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com](mailto:jcullen@fortmadison-ia.com) by Friday, September 29th.

Applications can be found on the city website at [www.fortmadison-ia.com](http://www.fortmadison-ia.com)



Amending Various Sections of Chapter 31 Riverfront Advisory Board  
DISCUSSION: City Manager Bird stated that the ordinance amendment would allow for non City of Burlington residents to be members of the Riverfront Advisory Board. He stated the change would limit the members to Des Moines County residents with preference given to City of Burlington residents. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")  
CARRIED

Introduced By: Wilson Seconded By: Critser  
2. Motion for Waiver of Preliminary Consideration and Adoption of the Second Reading and for Final Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Chapter 31 Riverfront Advisory Board  
DISCUSSION: None.  
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")

CARRIED

Adjournment: 5:56 p.m.  
Approved: September 18, 2023

Katie Music, CMC Jon D. Billups

City Clerk Mayor  
(See recording on file in the office of the City Clerk for complete discussion and documentation.)

### PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at the Council Chambers of Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison regarding a request to rezone property north of

2205 48th Street (PAW Animal Shelter) from R-1, One Family Dwelling District, to I-2, General Industrial District.

You may appear at the hearing to express your views concerning the above. Written statements may be submitted to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 or [mblind@fortmadison-ia.com](mailto:mblind@fortmadison-ia.com), no later than 4:30 PM on October 3, 2023 or delivered before the hearing is closed.  
Melinda L. Blind  
City Clerk

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# Scene Around Town/Iowa News



Photo by Susan Vandenberg/Special to /PCC

Residents gather around a yard on Friday night in Fort Madison to hear music and meet with friends as volunteers in the city put on the first-ever PorchStock. The event was held throughout the downtown and historic districts of the city with more than 12 locations featuring events.

## State corporate tax rate drops 1.3%

DES MOINES – Last week, Governor Reynolds announced that Iowa’s corporate tax rate will drop to 7.1 percent from 8.4 percent for tax year (TY) 2024, which was not projected to happen until later than TY 2027.

The Governor’s 2022 tax bill, HF2317, includes the formula to reduce the corporate tax rate when net corporate income tax receipts exceed \$700 million. For fiscal year 2023, net corporate income tax receipts exceeded \$838 million, triggering a drop of 15.5 percent in the top corporate tax rate.

“Iowa businesses are growing because government is getting out of their way,” said Governor Kim Reynolds. “From cutting taxes and red tape to expanding economic freedom and opportunity, Iowa is growing and providing businesses and our people the freedom to flourish.”

**Got a news tip?**  
Call Chuck (319)371.1670

## Close call for Empty Nest pet

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

Had there been problems with any other dogs? No.

But then Buddy started to perk up a little, and drank some water, and ate a little of his special food. He could only stand on three legs. I think lying in that same position for so long sort of paralyzed a hind leg. He eventually started standing on all four. Whew! I was having other visions of a three-legged Buddy.

Stormy, our tomcat, was quite jealous of all the attention Buddy was getting. A spiritual healer friend told us it was important for us to lay hands on Buddy and tell him that we loved him and that we wanted him to get better. When we were doing this, Stormy would crowd in and want to be petted. Animals can be so human.

Buddy rebounded, and we breathed a big sigh of relief. I didn’t know I had become so attached to Buddy. Ginnie knew. He is more than part of the family, he is like a child. Buddy has been with me through thick and thin—through a divorce and a couple of relationships. He’s always been there for me. Even Ginnie says he’s the best dog she has ever known.

On another note, I’m going to be “teaching” creative writing again this winter starting in January. (The reason “teaching” is in quotation marks is because I’ve found you don’t “teach” creative writing. You just get out of the way and let students write, then critique their work in a friendly, constructive manner.) Winter is a great time to stay indoors, let the imagination run rampant, and write. We will meet on Saturday afternoons at Ginnie’s and my house east of Mt. Pleasant, for six Saturdays. Some amazing writing has been produced in these classes. Numerous books, poetry and even movie scripts have been published. I limit the class to six serious wannabe writers. If you are interested in attending, my contact information is usually at the end of this column. The pen (or laptop) is mightier than the sword (or AK-47).

# BACK PAIN?

**Do You Have Hip Pain? Are You As Stiff As a Board When You Try to Get Up From a Chair? Have You Run Out of Hope?**

**How 5 Lies About Low BACK PAIN May Keep You Hurting, Frustrated & Exhausted...Forever!**

**NEW Scientific Breakthroughs Often Make Short Work of Low Back Pain...Just What Big Medical Centers and High Priced Clinics Are PRAYING You Never Figure Out On Your Own!**

Hi, I’m Dr. Jason James, and if you’ve got any kind of back, hip or leg pain, your worries may be over in just a few minutes. Why? Because I’m the owner of James Healthcare & Assoc. clinic, and I’ve discovered what may be the best healing secrets for “bad backs” — EVER!



Dr. Jason James, D.C.

I’d be stupid to make such a claim if I couldn’t back it up. But I am so confident we can help your back, I insist on giving you a **100% SATISFACTION PLEDGE** at James Healthcare. I hate empty promises, and I also hate the lies most folks have been told about their backs. That’s why it’s important I expose these MYTHS about back pain.

**MYTH #1: Sciatica (pain down your leg) is always caused by a herniated disc!**

No way...even though most doctors will sell you a \$3,000 MRI at the first sign of leg pain. But they don’t tell you about a 5-inch muscle in the hip that can squeeze the sciatic nerve. And it feels EXACTLY like you’ve got the worst slipped disc on earth. It’s a major discovery and...

The good news is that it can be easy and inexpensive to correct! How? Just keep reading! But first, here’s a picture to show you where the pain comes from:



**MYTH #2: Stiffness from Arthritis means you’re getting old...and it must be the reason for all your pain and stiffness!**

Not true, because thousands of folks with arthritis in their backs have absolutely NO PAIN! Then why do YOU feel like your back will snap if you bend forward or twist too fast? Because the truth is:

Your stiffness may be caused by a hidden, even more dangerous problem than arthritis, and it can lead to a hip replacement!

You see, most folks believe that something mysterious (like maybe an “arthritis fairy”?) waved a wand over them, and they’re cursed... doomed to suffer forever.

But did you know that many arthritis problems are CAUSED by a combination of unseen imbalances in the spine and surrounding muscles? It’s the most common cause of hip replacements but not that hard to correct if we catch it in time. It’s like the tires on your car...

If the alignment is off just a teeny-weeny bit, at first you don’t notice, but over a few thousand miles you start to see signs of wear...that is, if you’re lucky enough to catch it before a flat on the freeway ruins your day. In your spine, you’re lucky if you catch untreated imbalances before they ruin your spine! How to fix them? Just look at Myth #3.

**MYTH #3: Your Back is “Out”!**

Sure, that’s exactly how it feels. But guess what, we found that’s usually not the case. It sounds good, but we now know better. You see, there are 7 different reasons for that painful, locked-up and stuck feeling that causes so much misery:

- low-grade spasm
- pelvis torque and tension
- imbalance of hips

- fallen or dropped arches
- stiff vertebra joint
- adhesions in leg muscle
- pinched nerve

It’s NOT just your spine, and it’s NOT just your muscles. As a matter of fact, if one of the major muscles that stabilize the spine is partly spasmed, a “2nd stringer” will have to carry the load. But this is a serious problem...

**It’s like having your plumber doing all the dangerous electrical work!**

Sure, he may get it done, and it may work at first, but how long until there’s a fire? Or your back locks up? Which leads me to our next myth:

**MYTH #4: “It’s Only a Muscle!”**

Boy, it’s scary how many people think muscle problems are no big deal. Unfortunately, tight, bound-up, and spasmed or tight muscles can wear out joints faster than you can say, “Charley Horse”!

That’s why it’s important to examine the spine AT THE SAME TIME as the muscles that control it. It’s also why we’ve had such outrageous success with even the worst backs at James Healthcare. Because we deal with BOTH the spine and muscles at the same time. We have spine doctors (chiropractors), pain doctors (nurse practitioners) and muscle professionals (therapists) and together they deliver an outstanding way to help “bad backs”. This ties in to Myth #5 and the diagram:



**MYTH #5: “Muscle Relaxants” will help your muscles heal! Good grief, NO!**

Your muscles tighten up for a reason, and muscle relaxants are like turning back the clock on a time bomb...you know it’s still going to blow up! Sure, you may feel better now, but you’ll pay later...and pay “in spades”! So don’t fall for these lies about your low back. They’ll keep you hurting, frustrated and exhausted forever!

**WOULDN’T YOU RATHER:**

**Turn over in bed without pain waking you up?**

Get up in the morning without being as stiff as a board?

Be able to stand for as long as you want without sitting down for relief?

Lean forward over the sink without that “stabbing” in your back or leg?

**SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH:**

A hidden muscle may be causing your SCIATICA! Does Your Back Seem “Too Old” for Your Own Body? Not everyone qualifies for treatment, so help us see if you do. If you check off even one box, drop what you’re doing and call James Healthcare NOW. And bring this coupon when you come in for your **39-Point “Back-Pain Track-Down Exam”**. Now check off what describes you:

- Tension...always tight across the beltline
- Bent—crooked off to one side and can’t stand up straight if your life depended on it
- Trigger Point...zinging pain to butt-cheek
- Stiff as a board...creak and groan when you first get out of bed in the morning
- Traitor...can’t trust your back and what it’s going to do—or when!
- Vice-like...constantly locked down tight!
- Shooting...vicious but short-lived
- Lumbago...hard to pin it down—just seems to hurt all the time, but it’s hard to say where
- One-sided...right at that “bone” on one side
- Jack hammer...pounding off and on like a heartbeat or a toothache in your back
- Aching from 1-5 years
- Chronic pain for over 5 years

No one will try to sell you anything, and you make no commitment...you just find out what’s wrong!

**P.S. Why You MUST Not Wait!** Because of appointment availability, we can only honor this \$27 offer or bringing in a new or gently used winter coat through October 31, 2022. So don’t say, “Well, maybe I’ll be better tomorrow.” Don’t put your life on hold. Don’t call in sick again. Live your life pain free! Tie your own shoes for a change.

**Call NOW! (319) 524-3339**  
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