

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 | 7 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 42



www.pencitycurrent.com

## Camera data "incredible"



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Speed cameras along Hwy. 218 and 27 in Lee County are recording up to 500,000 vehicles a week and recording more than 300 violations a day - some days with only half the six cameras working.

### SHERIFF: Speeds are starting to trickle down from initial 80+ mph in corridor

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The new speed cameras that the county installed in November are documenting what Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said they would... and then some.

Weber said Tuesday that manpower could be the biggest hurdle facing the program that is currently generating more than 300 tickets a day, with projections hinting at up to 600 per day.

On Tuesday, Weber said he had about 500 tickets that staff still had to review and he had about 20 calls to make to people who had filed complaints about the tickets received.

"Seriously, this could be limited by the manpower we have to handle all the citations. Right now we're reviewing sometimes 300 tickets a day.

The county installed six cameras, three northbound and three southbound, on Hwy 27 in the fall and they went active in November with a warning period prior to ticketing taking place.

According to Iowa DOT statistics, there were 74 serious crashes or fatalities in Lee County from Jan. 2021 through February 2024 and 11 of those occurred on Hwy 27 (218). In five of those 11 involved fatalities.

See COUNTY, page 2

### COUNCIL MEETING

## Great River Trust loan helps Block building work

\$100,000 loan will pair with IEDA Catalyst grant to help shore up repairs

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison officials are borrowing \$100,000 from the Great River Housing Inc. to match funds from the state to do more shoring up of the James Block building downtown.

At Tuesday's regular Fort Madison City Council meeting, Mike Norris the executive director of Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, told the council that the Trust had the resources to assist with the building.

"With the trust fund, we try to do things that have two wins at one time – a housing win and an economic development win.

In this case, the housing win's gonna be a little bit delayed, usually we invest straight into the housing, but this is a really big asset for downtown Fort Madison housing potential, but also community development potential," Norris said.

The loan is a 10-year loan for \$100,000 at 1% interest, which would cost the city \$10,000 over the life of the loan.

City Manager Laura Leigois said the loan will be used to match an Iowa Economic Development Authority Downtown Catalyst grant to give the city \$200,000 to shore up a wall that was collapsing on the building.

Leigois said she had talks with Building Director Doug Krogmeier and they submitted a letter to the trust asking for help in improving the building.

"We're excited they did approve the opportunity for us to do this loan, which

See CITY, page 4



NORRIS

### OLD FORT

## Councilman opens Old Fort discussion to public

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Are you interested in the history of Old Fort Madison? Do you want to help share the history of what happened at the Fort for future generations? Be part of the planning

committee for the future of how the community will put together a long-term plan to preserve Fort Madison's history.

Please join Council Member Rusty Andrews at the Old Fort in Riverview Park on Monday, March 18, 2024 at

5:15 pm. Rain location: Riverview Pavilion, 902 Riverview Drive.

If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, but are unable to attend, please contact the City Clerk at [cityclerk@fortmadison-ia.com](mailto:cityclerk@fortmadison-ia.com) or call City Hall at 319-372-7700.

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### WEATHER

WED 06 Mar..... Mostly sunny & cool, 52° F/ 37° F ☀  
THU 07 Mar..... Cool with chance of rain, 57° F/ 45° F ☁  
FRI 08 Mar..... Cool & rainy, 53° F/ 33° F ☔

### IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 03/04..... 3 19 29 53 59, Powerball: 4  
LOTTO AMERICA 03/04..... 4 5 8 22 47, Star Ball: 6 All Star Bonus: 2  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/04..... 3 9 17 30 42, Lucky Ball: 15  
PICK 3 MIDDAY 03/04..... 7 5 2  
PICK 3 EVENING 03/04..... 8 4 2  
PICK 4 MIDDAY 03/04..... 6 5 0 5  
PICK 4 EVENING 03/04..... 3 9 8 7  
POWERBALL 03/04..... 36 42 50 52 67, Powerball: 26 Power Play: 2

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# Obituaries/Iowa News

## OBITUARIES

### REBECCA A. BROWN

Rebecca Ann "Becky" Brown, 72, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:40 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024 at her home. She was born on July 10, 1951 in Fort Madison, IA to Walter F. & Dorothy Drew McKeehan. She married Denis E. Brown on October 24, 1970 in Fort Madison, IA. He preceded her in death on March 15, 1996. She was a homemaker and enjoyed sewing, cross stitching, crocheting afghans and playing cards. She was a huge collector of cows. She loved spending time with her family.



BROWN

Becky is survived by: 1-son: Robert (Dawn) Brown of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Kari (Corby) Troutman of Keosauqua, IA & Tara (Scott) Stalesky of Lake Zurich, IL; 4-grandsons: Cole & Kaleb Troutman of Keosauqua, IA, Brandon Brown of Fort Madison, IA Bryce Stalesky of Lake Zurich, IL; 2-brothers: Steve (Linda) McKeehan of Keosauqua, IA & Dennis McKeehan of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sisters: Gina McKeehan & Shelley McKeehan both of Fort Madison, IA. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband, 1-brother: Dale Fullhart & 1-sister: Sherry Hertzler.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral home & Crematory with Pastor Steve Scott officiating. Burial will be at Soldiers' Circle in Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established in Becky's memory. Online condolences to the Brown family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

## OBITUARIES

### THOMAS D. ELLISON

Thomas "Tom" Dewey Ellison, 79 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died March 4, 2024 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born November 5, 1944 at Adrian, Illinois, a son of Maurice and Frances (Noble) Ellison.



ELLISON

On August 13, 1978, he married Marie Haendler at Colusa, Illinois, they later moved to the Denmark, Iowa area.

Tom enjoyed raising a variety of farm animals and loved outdoor recreational activities, including four wheeling with the grandkids, nieces and nephews.

He was a loving son, brother, uncle, husband, dad, grandpa and great grandpa.

Per his wishes, no services are planned. A memorial has been established, contributions may be left at or mailed to Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Tom Ellison family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.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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## Bird demands YouTube pull pill video

DES MOINES—Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird today led a 16-state coalition in a letter demanding YouTube remove dangerous and misleading information labels attached to videos discussing chemical abortion pills. The label contains inaccurate information that jeopardizes women's health.

An upcoming U.S. Supreme Court case, Food & Drug Administration v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, challenges FDA's decision to remove the requirement for medical supervision before, during, and after taking an abortion pill. That change, doctors argue, endangers women's health by ignoring potential serious complications. Alliance Defending Freedom released a video underscoring the dangers of unsupervised at-home use of the abortion pills, featuring a woman's painful experience using abortion pills alone. In response, YouTube attached a label to the video that made misleading claims about the procedure.

YouTube's misinformation label states that abortion pill procedures are "done by a licensed healthcare professional." The label is inaccurate given that under current FDA protocols, women take abortion pills at home without any medical supervision. The FDA reports that approximately one in 25 women experience severe complications requiring emergency room medical care.

"Women deserve to know the truth about the dangers of chemical abortion pills," said Attorney General Bird. "For YouTube to attach deceptive labels to videos of women sharing their testimonies after suffering from at-home abortion drugs is a disservice to women everywhere. YouTube must end its blatant misinformation campaign that puts women at risk and quit targeting pro-life messages."

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Pen City Current, [www.PenCityCurrent.com](http://www.PenCityCurrent.com), and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016  
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA



## For the Record/From the Front

### For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report 02/29/24 - 3:54 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Charla Reylene Pfeiff, 42, of Fort Madison, at 18th Street and Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension.

02/29/24 - 8:27 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Avenue E.

02/29/24 - 10:00 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Joel Robert Wilsey, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue I, on an unspecified domestic warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/29/24 - 4:16 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 900 block of 2nd Street.

02/29/24 - 8:53 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Nicholas Ryan Queen, 45, of Burlington, in the 400 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for parole violation - original charge possession of methamphetamine with intent to deliver, an unspecified warrant, and charges of being a felon in control of a firearm and possession of drug paraphernalia.

03/01/24 - 7:56 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at 13th Street and Avenue C.

03/02/24 - Fort Madison police had no activity to report.

03/03/24 - 12:00 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Brady Ty Berryhill, 30, of Dallas City, in the 3400 block of Avenue L, on a charge of 2nd offense OWI.

03/03/24 - 10:30 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited William Paul Cochenour II, 31, of Fort Madison, in the 2800 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving while barred.

03/03/24 - 12:09 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

03/03/24 - 1:34 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue L.

03/03/24 - 3:39 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of 8th Street.

03/03/24 - 10:20 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Ethan Lee Smutzer, 22, of

Fort Madison, at the police station, on a charge of reckless use of a firearm - no injury/damage.

03/04/24 - 5:04 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue M.

Keokuk Police Report 02/29/24 - 6:18 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of Main Street.

02/29/24 - 8:03 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 300 block of Main Street.

02/29/24 - 9:53 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Alejandro Jose Bonilla, 29, of Colchester, in the 10 block of South 7th Street, on 2 warrants for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail. He was later released on bond.

03/01/24 - 11:21 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1000 block of Palean Street.

03/01/24 - 8:32 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Main Street.

03/01/24 - 11:21 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1000 block of Palean Street.

03/01/24 - 3:50 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a two-vehicle accident on S. 2nd Street. According to the report a vehicle driven by John Walter Henson, 50, of Keokuk struck a vehicle driven by Keith Patrick Gratz, 39, of Keokuk, while making a left turn out of River City Mall parking lot onto S. 2nd Street.

Henson was cited for failure to yield. Both vehicles were driven away and no vehicles were reported.

03/01/24 - 11:18 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Johnson Street Road.

03/12/24 - 12:34 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3800 block of Main Street.

03/02/24 - 5:33 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 500 block of Blondeau. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Heather Daniela Grossman, 35, of Keokuk made a left turn onto Blondeau and struck a vehi-

cle driven by Emma Marie Smith, 20, of Donnellson. Grossman was cited for failure to yield. No injuries were reported.

03/02/24 - 9:09 p.m. - Keokuk Police cited Casey Lynn Mason, 44, of Keokuk, in the 1700 block of Hilton Road on a charge of driving while barred.

03/03/24 - 10:39 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2400 block of McKinley Avenue. According to the report, a vehicle driven by David Wayne Bell, 43, of Keokuk, lost control of his vehicle struck a utility pole, and came to rest in the front yard of a home in the 2400 block of McKinley. Bell reported to police that he choked on food and blacked out coming to rest in the front yard.

03/03/24 - 3:01 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a one-vehicle accident. According to the report, a motorcycle driven by Bradley M. Thomure, 34, of St. Charles, Mo, pulled into the 400 block of 18th Street, swerved to miss a dog and crashed onto the pavement. Thomure was cited for no insurance, improper registration and no license. He refused medical treatment.

03/03/24 - 7:05 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Concert Street.

03/04/24 - 4:00 a.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Clyde David Shoemaker, 45, of Keokuk, in the 2700 block of Main Street on a charge of 2nd-degree burglary. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

03/04/24 - 10:11 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Franklin Street.

03/04/24 - 2:54 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1700 block of Franklin Street.

03/04/24 - 9:00 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested John Mitchell Donahue, 47, of Keokuk, in the 600 block of Blondeau Street, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

03/04/24 - 11:06 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1000 block of Fulton Street.

03/04/24 - 11:59 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a

report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of Main Street.

Lee County Sheriff Report 03/01/24 - 2:30 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Stone Fylyp Shoup, 28, of Ottumwa, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/01/24 - 3:42 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Thomas Christopher Dodge, 56, of Keokuk, in the 1300 block of Concert Street, Keokuk, on charges of failure to provide proof of financial liability, failure to obey steady red light, registration violation, and driving while barred. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on his own recognizance.

03/02/24 - 5:32 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies cited and released Billy Jack De-wein, 47, of Dallas City, in the 2500 block of 280th Street, Montrose, on a charge of 5th degree theft less than \$300.

03/02/24 - 9:00 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Colyn K. Cantrell, 27, of LaHarpe, on Hwy. 61, Fort Madison, on an arrest of affidavit. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/04/24 - 4:28 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident at 235th Street and Hillcrest Road. According to the report, a school bus driven by Patrick Allen Hollister, 62, of Fort Madison, was stopped on Hillcrest Road headed northbound discharging passengers when a vehicle driven by Eugene Marlin Englebrecht, 84, of Vinton, turned left onto 234th Street in front of the bus, striking the safety bar extended in front of the bus. No injuries were reported. Both vehicles sustained minor damages and were driven from the scene. Englebrecht was cited for no insurance and unlawful passing of a school bus. He was ordered to re-exam.

03/04/24 - 8:51 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested John Mitchell Donahue, 47, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

## Highway cameras proving speed issues

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

Hwy. 27 to Donnellson had 54 serious crashes in the same time frame involving 106 occupants, one fatality, and one serious injury. In 2023 alone, the stretch of Highway 27 and 218 from the Missouri border to the Henry County border had 90 accidents, five serious including two fatalities.

Weber said those numbers show the need to slow traffic down especially on one of two main 4-ways through the county. The county is also engaged in special traffic enforcement on Hwy 2 in the county.

"In everyone's mind, they think they can go over the speed limit and get away with it. This is 5,000 violations already and that's for 11 mph and over. We start at 11. You don't even get a ticket until it's 76.

Chief Deputy Will Conlee said the SiteStream representative told him based on current data trends, the department could be looking at up to 600 citations per day at its peak. He said data showed close to 500,000 cars passing the cameras in one week. He said pictures are taken of the back of vehicles after they pass the camera systems because some states don't require front plates. But with the signage warning motorists, coupled with the radar working after they pass the signs, the volume of citations is still high.

Conlee also said the equipment hasn't fully been functional for most of the time, and there were times when only half the cameras were working at any given time due to the volume of traffic.

Weber looked up a log of violations on his computer and had speeds regularly in excess of 80 mph. He said when they first started the cameras, he saw a bunch in the 80s and now he's starting to see that settle in at about 78.

"It's incredible," Weber said. "The cameras do what we can't do. They monitor everything 24/7 and they catch everybody that goes through there speeding. Many get caught on all three cameras but the system doesn't issue three tickets, just one.

"I get criticism from people about not spending more time on our county roads. This lets us do more of that. The signs are up, the cameras are up, and people are getting tickets. The people who live out on the highway are telling us it's different now."

He said people who have phone apps on are being warned by the apps, and the county is still seeing the volume it is. Weber said it's his hope that people start to realize the cameras are there and slow down.

The county gets 80% of the fines issued by SiteStream, LLC through the camera system and that has totaled close to \$55,000 to date.

Weber has been consistent about saying it isn't about the funding coming in.

"I'd like it to be 0," he said. "But we were saying that people were speeding through this county and this just shows that's what's happening."

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## Local News/From the Front



Courtesy Image

### Silver Steppers step for OSA music

FORT MADISON - Old Settlers Association President Jim Decker accepted a \$250 contribution from the Newberry Center Silver Steppers recently.

Members of the Silver Steppers took up a collection to become an official sponsor of OSA's "Music in the Park" summer concert series.

"In our 23 years I don't believe we have had a group donate out of their own pockets and "step up" to sponsor our summer concerts which are free to the public. We are so appreciative and look forward to the Silver Steppers dancing on our sidewalks again this summer" said Decker.

Concert sponsorships are now being solicited for Friday June 21 "LMNOP" Friday July 26- "Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50's" and Sunday August 18 "Amarillo". To sponsor please contact Sheryl Decker, Concert Chair by May 1 to be included in our publicity at 319-470-7813.

### City hoping grant will help attract developer to FM Block building

**CITY** - Continued from Page 1

helps us with the budget," Leigois said.

She said there are Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds that could be used to make the \$10,000 interest payment to the Trust and the rest would be paid back over the 10 years or earlier.

"I do know we have several things in the works working toward the next steps with the building. Now that we've secured this loan, we can get a contractor in to get the wall work done and hopefully have an update in the very near future about the developer or the next step," she said.

Leigois said she has been waiting to have additional talks with the IEDA about the project, but wanted to wait until these pieces were pulled together.

Krogmeier said the city may still come up a little short to engineer's estimates to fully shore up the wall. He also said the city may tent the roof to eliminate any future leaking that's currently occurring there. He said they didn't want to put money into the roof if a developer had different plans. Some temporary patching of the roof has already taken place, but some leaking is still occurring.

"We need to do something with it. We can't just let it sit. Go ahead and tent the roof or fix the roof, but hopefully we'll get a developer in quick."

He said the catalyst grant was earmarked for the wall and not the roof.

"We're just not that far yet," Krogmeier said.

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W-2319018



# Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 2/27/2024

The Fort Madison City Council held a Special Meeting – Budget Work Session at 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, 2/27/2024, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E.

Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Thele, Roller, Amandus, Gray, Yager, Andrews (arrived at 4:02 P.M.) and Rink attended via Zoom.

On motion, Council approved the agenda, as written.

City Manager Laura Liegois outlined the proposed FY 2024/2025 budget.

The Budget Work Session adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Justina M. Cullen, City Clerk

### PUBLIC NOTICE Minutes for the Lee County Conservation Board Meeting November 6, 2023 Lee County Conservation Center 2652 Hwy 61 Montrose, IA 52639

Called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll call: Alton\_X\_ Pollpeter\_X\_ Moore\_\_\_ Patrick\_X\_ Benjamin\_X\_ Staff Present: Huebner, Veihl, Oldfield, Risser, Davis, Steele

Supervisor: Holmes

1. Approval of Agenda

Item number 7 was removed from the agenda  
Motion by Alton to approve the meeting agenda  
2nd: Pollpeter  
Motion Carried

2. Approval of Minutes from October 10 & 19, 2023  
Motion by Benjamin to approve the minutes  
2nd: Alton  
Motion Carried

3. Public Input  
No public input

4. Approval of Bills  
Motion by Alton to approve of the bills  
2nd: Benjamin  
Motion Carried

5. Approval of Financial Report  
Motion by Pollpeter to approve the financial report  
2nd: Alton  
Motion Carried

6. Discuss and Take Action on Approving Truck for 24/25 Fiscal Year  
Huebner presented 4 truck bids for purchase in FY 25 – Ford F250 from Jim Baier Ford for \$54,890, Ford F250 from Shottenkirk Burlington for \$54,390, GMC Sierra from Deery Brothers Burlington, and Chevy Silverado from Shottenkirk Fort Madison for \$49,978.

Motion from Benjamin to accept the lowest bid from Shottenkirk Fort Madison for a Chevy Silverado at \$49,978  
2nd: Alton  
Motion Carried

7. Discuss and Take Action on Resolution for IDNR Fish Habitat Program Application

### RESOLUTION NO. 2023-1

AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FISH HABITAT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Lee County Conservation Board is interested in developing a new lake and fish habitat at Wilson Lake; and

WHEREAS, Fish Habitat program funds are required for the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Lee County Conservation Board does hereby make application for assistance, AND further agrees to abide by all the covenants of Section 483A.3A Code of Iowa 2001 and Chapter 35 (571), Iowa Administration Code.

APPROVED and AD- OPTED this 6th day of

November 2023  
Roll Call: Alton\_X\_ Pollpeter\_X\_ Patrick\_X\_ Benjamin\_X\_ Resolution Passed  
8. Discuss and Take Action on Concrete Campsite

Huebner stated that the concrete campsite project cost is below the price of needing multiple bids and presented a quote from Baker Concrete for \$9,985 for Site #10 at Pollmiller Park. Oldfield stated this a larger site than typical and sees a lot of interest.

Motion by Benjamin to accept the quote from Baker for \$9,985 for Site #10 at Pollmiller Park  
2nd: Alton  
Motion Carried

9. Discuss and Take Possible Action on Step Increase for Environmental Educator I

Motion by Alton to approve the 2 year step increase for Lia Risser  
2nd: Benjamin  
Motion Carried

10. Foundation Update  
Benjamin stated that the Foundation just had their Chicken Dinner Fundraiser and was still working on raising the rest of the funds for the Outdoor Classroom Project.

11. Staff and Director Reports  
Steele gave the education report, highlighting the end of field trip season and the beginning of in-school programming for the year.

Oldfield gave the parks report, highlighting 643 camping nights and 45 cabin nights.

Huebner gave the director report, highlighting all of October's public programs and presented the Board members with new organization binders.

12. Board Member Comments  
Pollpeter stated we should acquire a P.A. system for future events.

Alton brought up the water access grant through the DNR and stated LCC should apply for it.

13. Adjournment  
Motion by Benjamin to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

2nd: Alton  
Motion Carried

The Board met in a workshop following the meeting.

Richard Moore Caroline Veihl  
LCCB President LCCB Secretary

### PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES MT. PLEASANT STREETS COMMITTEE JANUARY 10, 2024 4:30 PM

Present: Kent White, Jeff Batey, Steve Engberg, Mayor Steve Brimhall, Brent Schleisman, Rick Mullin, Nate Lucas, Chief Lyle Murray, Shelbi Remick, Richard Detrick  
Absent: None

The Committee continued discussion on the request from Midwest Old Threshers to not allow parking on Threshers Road.

Chief Lyle Murray gave his opinion on the situation. The Committee decided that temporary no parking signs be placed for no parking only during the events and at the Police Chief's discretion.

Mr. Richard Dietrick requested no parking on both sides of the 200 block of South Marion.

Chief Lyle Murray reported that most vehicles that park along the west side of South Marion are closer to the intersection of Clay & Marion. The Committee voted to restrict parking on the west side of the street from Mr. Dietrick's property line to the stop light on Washington St.

The Committee reviewed the request for improvements to be made on South Jackson St. in front of St. Alphonsus Church. The Committee tabled the discussion and will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

The Committee reviewed a request from Michael Lipper, 401 W Courtland St concerning semi-traffic on the street & damage from trucks driving through his yard.

The Committee directed the Public Works Department to add more signage as requested by Chief Lyle Murray.

The Committee reviewed a request from Kurtis Roff regarding commercial vehicles being parked in public parking lots eliminating several parking spots for apartment residents around the square. The Committee took no action.

The Committee discussed the request for more streetlights down South Grand Ave. The Committee discussed cost and asked Mount Pleasant Utilities to look into the cost of adding additional lighting. The Committee tabled the

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Must be capable of performing duties inside the Lee County Correctional Facility Complex, working with and around inmates. Must hold a valid driver's license and be insurable on the County's insurance.

Starting salary will be \$21.74/ hour. Excellent benefit package including health, dental, vision, and life insurance and IPERS retirement.

Please call Lee County Deputy Auditor Sherri Yasenchok at 319-372-3705 with any questions or for more information. Application and full position description may be found online at [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org) Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed County application to:

Lee County Auditor's Office  
Attn: Sherri Yasenchok  
933 Avenue H, PO Box 190  
Fort Madison IA 52627  
Or email to  
[syasenchok@leecounty.org](mailto:syasenchok@leecounty.org)

Applications will be accepted through Monday, March 11, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Complete background check and post-offer physical required.

Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the County will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages both prospective and current employees to discuss accommodations with the employer.

## HELP WANTED



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  - \$10,000 Paramedic sign-on bonus
  - Lateral transfers for experienced firefighters
  - \$4,550 annual Paramedic cert pay
  - Pension with retirement at age 55
  - 24-hour shifts (48 hours off between shifts)
  - 15 days (7 weeks) paid time off
  - Newer apparatus and equipment
  - Coming soon – New Fire Station #3

- Application Process**
- Applications open January 1, 2024
  - Applications close March 29, 2024
  - Written exam April 4-5, 2024 (online)
  - Interviews April 11-12, 2024
  - Qualifications
  - High School Diploma or GED
  - Driver's License

Scan the QR code, click here, or go to <https://www.burlingtoniowa.org/2634/Recruitment> to apply online.



### LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKER II

Lee County is taking applications for a South Road Maintenance Worker II. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks used to perform road maintenance and construction projects, occasionally plowing snow, and the performance of manual labor as required. Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements. The starting wage range is \$23.47 to \$28.65.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, or disability.

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, [www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx](http://www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx), or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to [engineer@leecounty.org](mailto:engineer@leecounty.org) Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee County Engineer Office at (319) 372-2541 or email them at [engineer@leecounty.org](mailto:engineer@leecounty.org).





# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

discussion & will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

The Committee approved the Engineering Service Agreement for Pearl Street.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**DONNELLSON CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 12th, 2024**  
**7:30PM**  
**City Hall**

The regular meeting of the Donnellson City

Council was called to order by Mayor Dave Ellingboe, with Council Members Moeller, Marshall, Weber & Newton present. Wagner was absent. Also present was City Clerk Rebecca Schau, Police Chief Brad Roberts & Librarian Sunny Robbins.

Motion by Moeller, second by Newton to approve the agenda: all ayes.

Citizen comments – None

Motion by Marshall, second by Moeller to approve the minutes of

the January '24 meeting: all ayes.

Motion by Weber, second by Newton to approve the January '24 financial reports: all ayes.

Motion by Newton, second by Marshall to approve the January '24 disbursements and February '24 bills to be allowed: all ayes.

Motion by Weber, seconded by Moeller to approve Special Class C Retail Alcohol License for Lee County Fair: all ayes.

Motion by Moeller, second by Newton to

approve Class B Retail Alcohol License for Dollar General: all ayes.

Motion by Marshall, second by Weber to approve hosting Tunnel to Towers 5K Run/Walk July 4th and closure of street: all ayes.

Motion by Moeller, second by Marshall to set date to open bids for sealcoating of streets for March 11th 2024 @ 7:30pm: all ayes.

Police Report – There were 78 calls for service, 38 traffic stops. 45 building checks were done

during the day & nighttime hours.

Clerk Report – Proenneke Museum made a generous donation to the police department as well as the railroad depot. The police department will be replacing the outdated camera in the patrol truck. For the depot it will assist with getting the nomination put together to get the depot listed on the National Historical Register.

There being no other business to come before the Council, motion by Newton, second by Marshall, Mayor Ellingboe declared the meeting adjourned: all ayes.

Dave Ellingboe, Mayor  
 Attest: Rebecca Schau, City Clerk

Shovels..... 445.87  
 KIESLER'S POLICE SUPPLY, Ammo

..... 1,163.16  
 SEICCA, Dues..... 20.00  
 CITY OF WEST POINT, Chief Wages ..... 3,358.37  
 BRAD ROBERTS, Reimb Meal - Training..... 57.13  
 KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, Shipping/Supplies

..... 32.23  
 WEX BANK, Fuel

..... 1,650.17  
 VERIZON, Data.... 120.03  
 USPS, postage/PO Box

..... 299.40  
 MICROBAC LABORATORIES, Testing..... 17.50

ABRA AUTO BODY & GLASS, replace mirror

..... 440.47  
 IOWA ONE CALL, One Call

..... 30.60  
 IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, Sales & Use Tax

..... 260.47  
 IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, Water Service

Excise Tax ..... 1,078.51  
 RATHBUN REGIONAL WATER, Bulk Water

..... 5,996.80  
 USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT, Loan Payment

..... 3,632.00  
 KOHLMORGAN HAULING, Trash

..... 5,440.00  
 LYNCH DALLAS, P.C., Legal Fees..... 1,230.47

ABC FIRE EXTINGUISHER, Annual Inspection

..... 61.95  
 DEMCO, Supplies

..... 439.13  
 RSM US LLP, IT

..... 1,705.40  
 FOLLETT, Labels.. 313.50

IMMENSE IMPACT LLC, Website Renewal.. 665.00

ACCESS, Copies/Printer Contract

..... 1,390.54  
 VERTICAL COMMUNICATIONS, Phone ... 56.74

ION ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUT, Testing..... 930.00

COUNTRY LIVING, Magazine ..... 37.42

WOODCRAFT, Magazine

..... 21.39  
 PLAYAWAY PRODUCTS, wonderbooks

..... 863.40  
 EXCEL IT SERVICES, Cloud Services

..... 95.01  
 JSPARKS, Acrylic Class

..... 250.00  
 KROGMEIER HAULING, Hauling

..... 110.00  
 T-MOBILE, Chief Cellphone..... 120.10

BLUE TOP EXCAVATING LLC, Westview Trail

..... 17,904.05  
 LINDA BETSINGER MCCANN, Speaking at Library..... 170.00

DONALD CONSULTING GROUP, Security Cameras..... 22,175.94

PAYROLL CHECKS, TOTAL PAYROLL CHECKS

..... 14,662.71  
 CLAIMS TOTAL

..... 104,917.60

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Summary of All Receipts:  
 General \$44,246.86 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0  
 Road Use Tax \$10,360.34 Employee Benefit \$88.96  
 Local Option Sales Tax \$8,952.86 Debit Service \$171.69  
 Rathbun \$0 ARPA \$0 Water \$20,685.11  
 Water Sinking \$28,028.15 Sewer Sinking \$0.  
 Summary of All Disbursements: General \$31,015.56  
 Capital Equipment Reserve \$0 Road Use Tax \$2,907.54  
 Employee Benefit \$1,483.83 Local Option Sales Tax \$29,334.62  
 Debit Service \$0 Capital Project Fund \$0  
 Rathbun -\$0 ARPA \$0 Water \$16,030.06  
 Water Sinking \$1,816.00 Sewer Sinking \$23,835.34  
 Sewer Sinking \$0.

..... 5,996.80  
 USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT, Loan Payment

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Patrick Profeta  
 General Manager

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 MASTERCARD, Misc Supplies..... 2,102.72  
 WINDSTREAM, Internet ..... 278.69  
 ALLIANT ENERGY, Electric..... 5,536.27  
 GRRWA, Landfill... 953.00  
 MCFARLAND SUPPLY, Office Supplies ..... 176.25  
 FRENCH - RENEKER - ASSOCIATES, Engineer ..... 892.10  
 MID AMERICAN ENERGY, Gas ..... 419.93  
 EFTPS, FED/FICA TAXES ..... 4,000.85  
 IPERS, IPERS-REGULAR..... 2,587.60  
 TODD HERDRICH, Reimb Mileage/Cellphone ..... 151.84  
 DAILY DEMOCRAT, PROCEEDINGS .... 116.91  
 ARMSTRONG TRACTOR LLC, Belt..... 46.54  
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## Ag News

# USDA announces CRP land sign up underway

**CONSERVATION:** Program allows producers to allocate land to conservation efforts

DES MOINES - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin signing up for the general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) starting March 4 and running through March 29, 2024. This conservation opportunity gives producers tools to conserve wildlife habitat while achieving other conservation benefits, including sequestering carbon and improving water quality and soil health.

“The USDA has a long track record of fostering and supporting the vital relationship between agriculture and conservation, and the Conservation Reserve Program helps our producers be good stewards of their lands and boost wildlife populations at the same time,” said Matt Russell, FSA State Executive Director in Iowa. “These efforts demonstrate the power of USDA’s Farm Bill conservation programs to conserve wildlife habitat, protect clean water and address climate change in partnership with farmers, ranchers, forest owners and conservation organizations across the country.”

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-22), which extended the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through Sept. 30, 2024. This extension allows authorized programs, including CRP, to continue operating.

As one of the largest private lands conservation programs in the United States, CRP offers a range of conservation options to farmers, ranchers, and landowners. It has been an especially strong opportunity

for farmers with less productive or marginal cropland, helping them re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitat.

Producers and landowners enrolled about 926,000 acres in General CRP in 2023, bringing the total of enrolled acres in General CRP to 7.78 million. This, combined with all other acres in CRP through other enrollment opportunities, such as Grassland and Continuous CRP, bring the current total of enrolled acres to 24.8 million.

### General CRP

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Additionally, General CRP includes a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to help

### News Release

Farm Production and Conservation FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping producers and landowners establish trees and permanent grasses, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands.

General CRP is one of several ways agricultural producers and private landowners can participate in the program.

### Other CRP Options

This past January FSA began accepting applications for the Continuous CRP signup. Under this enrollment, producers and landowners can enroll in CRP throughout the year. Offers are automatically accepted provided the producer and land meet the eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

The USDA also offers financial assistance to producers and landowners enrolled in CRP to improve the health of their forests through the Forest Management

Incentive (FMI), which can help participants with forest management practices, such as brush management and prescribed burning.

FSA will announce the dates for Grassland CRP signup in the near future.

Producers with expiring CRP acres can use the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), which incentivizes producers who sell or enter a long-term lease with a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land.

### How to Sign Up

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program before their deadlines.

### More Information

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://usda.gov).



Blue/Gold Day--The Central Lee FFA sponsored “dress up” days to celebrate National FFA Week. Two of the days included blue/gold day and official dress day, and dress like your Advisor day. (Blue/Gold) front Sienna Riley, Allison Gruntmeir, Dusty Souter, Cloey Koch, Taylor Jones, Josie Mueller, Lily Smith, Layla Gonterman. 2nd row— Ivy Smith, Macie Doty, Destanie Rhoer, Jalyn Hawk, Shaye Barbee, Caden Crozier, Kaiden Humes, Parker Ellis, Colton Taft, Ward Fraise. (back) Dustin Newberry, Baylor Ferreira, Kenny McFadden, Gabe Young, Landon Rudd, Caden Weber, Andrew Underwood, Will Ferris, Sydnie Larson, Zach Estrada, Matthew Wenke-Frueh, Peter Seyb, Connor Bollin. #CTEworksforCL

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



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11am - 1pm

MONDAY, MARCH 4  
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Tuesday, March 5  
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Wednesday, March 6  
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Thursday, March 7  
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