

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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Wednesday, March 13, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 47



www.pencitycurrent.com

## SIREPA after CAC grant

**COUNTY, TOO:** Lee County wants funds to help restore 15th Street near Rodeo Park

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The Southeast Iowa Regional and Economic Port Authority is stepping up again for the Lee County Career Center.

SIREPA will be applying for a \$2.2 million appropriation from Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks' office as part of the annual Congressional Budget Appropriation.

The funding will be used to help remodel the Career Center in Montrose as well as adding a 34,000 square foot parking facility, south entrance including a ves-

tibule and windows, and then about \$670,000 in new equipment for industrial tech and health care training.

The interior remodel is estimated at \$894,000, while the exterior work carries a \$363,000 price tag. Engineering and administration is projected at \$190,000 with a 4% administration fee.

"We've interfaced with Rep. Miller-Meeks and her office has given us positive feedback about an application like this for build out and equipment," said Mike Norris, SIREPA's administrator.

"We did ask about acquisition and our current situa-

See SIREPA, page 8

### OPAL'S RETURN

## OFP curtain delayed by one day

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The open of Old Fort Players, "Opal Is A Diamond" has been delayed by a day to allow for the cast to recover from illnesses, according to a statement from the OFP's director.

"We regret to inform you that opening night, Friday March 15th for "Opal is A Diamond" has been canceled due to unforeseen circumstances. Unfortunately, several cast members have fallen ill, necessitating the cancellation of the event. We understand the inconvenience this may cause and sincerely apologize for any disappointment. We are expecting to have our opening night on Saturday, March 16th at 7:30 pm. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. Online tickets are available at www.purplepass.com/ofpfm.

Shows are still slated for Sunday, March 17, and the following weekend.

### IOWA NEWS

## Rural housing bill signed into law

DES MOINES — U.S. Representatives Zach Nunn (IA-03) today announced his bipartisan legislation to improve access to housing in rural communities was signed into law. The Promote Affordable Rural Housing Act, co-led by U.S. Representative Wiley Nickel (NC-13), was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 signed into law by President Joe Biden.

"Our country is suffering from an affordable housing crisis, especially in rural areas," said Rep. Nunn. "This is a growing challenge that must be addressed now to prevent it from getting any worse. I'm proud to announce that our bill to modernize USDA rural

See BILL, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier points to a spreadsheet outlining district finances Tuesday morning at Central Lee District offices during a regular board meeting.

## Central Lee to begin more construction projects

**BOARD:** Management fund will push levy about 50 cents next fiscal year

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON – The Central Lee Community School District is sticking

to its commitment of staying below a \$12 property tax levy, but residents will see a slight uptick this year.

At the district's regular meeting Tuesday morning Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier presented a property tax worksheet that has the proposed property tax levy at \$11.23 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

That number compares to previous fiscal year number of \$10.73. Crozier said the difference in the two is an

increase in the district's management fund which hasn't received funding since the district's general obligation bond was passed five years ago.

"The main reason for this increase is the management fund. The district has not levied anything from the management fund for five years. When we passed our GO bond, we told our stakeholders that we would zero out

See BUILDS, page 8

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### WEATHER

WED 13 Mar.....Partly sunny, 69° F/ 53° F  
THU 14 Mar.....Rainy, 69° F/ 42° F  
FRI 15 Mar.....Partly sunny, 53° F/ 34° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 03/11.....15 25 35 41 62, Powerball: 12  
LOTTO AMERICA 03/11.....12 15 16 32 46, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 2  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/11.....24 26 31 38 42, Lucky Ball: 17  
PICK 3 MIDDAY 03/11.....2 4 0  
PICK 3 EVENING 03/11.....3 4 7  
PICK 4 MIDDAY 03/11.....12 2 2  
PICK 4 EVENING 03/11.....8 5 8 5  
POWERBALL 03/11.....1 3 7 16 66, Powerball: 5 Power Play: 5

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### STANLEY R. ST. ORES

Stanley R. St. Ores, 81, of Colusa, Illinois, passed away at 9:05 p.m. Saturday, March 9, 2024 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

Stan was born in LaHarpe, Illinois, on Feb 2, 1943 the son of Fred and Dorothy (Hardisty) St.Ores. On December 28, 1960 he married his high school sweetheart, Jean Ann Williams, in Dallas City, Illinois. She preceded him in death December 4, 2020.



ST. ORES

Mr. St.Ores was a 1961 Dallas City High school graduate. Following high school he attended DeVry Institute of Technology in Chicago. He relocated his family to Phoenix, Arizona and worked for the Sperry Corporation in electronics for 5 years. They moved to Colorado in 1966 and he worked for Ball Aerospace and other companies also in electronics. He transitioned his career to become a building contractor and home builder for the rest of his working life. He and Jean spent their retirement in Colusa, Illinois.

Stan was a sports enthusiast and lover of Football and Big Ten Basketball. Survivors include three children: Todd (Kathy) St. Ores of Gulf Breeze, Florida, Cindy (Robert) Sederlin of Colusa and Lynnette (Scott) Romine of Lincoln, Nebraska; ten grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one sister: Pat (Ron) Briscoe of Dallas City.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. Thursday, March 21, 2024 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

The funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 22, 2024 at Banks & Beals in Dallas City with Rev. Lee Unger officiating. Burial will follow in Harris Cemetery, near Dallas City.

A memorial fund has been established for a charity of the donor's choice. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Stan's obituary at [banksandbeals.com](http://banksandbeals.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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**Lee County Soccer**  
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- programdirector@fortmadison.org
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**Registration Deadline: March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

FORT MADISON FAMILY YMCA

## OBITUARIES

### PATRICIA A. ORTON

Patricia A. Orton, 76, of Burlington, IA passed away on Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 3:24 PM at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center Hospice House.

She was born on August 23, 1947 in Ft. Madison to Al H. and Evelyn Williams Umthum. On July 3, 1971 Pat married William Ray Orton at the First Christian Church in Ft. Madison. Pat was a 1965 graduate of Ft. Madison High School. She was a credit manager at the former Sears Store and also worked at Stoermers Craft Store. Pat was an avid crafter and taught crocheting to many people. Pat and Bill loved to garden and enjoyed canning fruits and vegetables. She was a very giving person to many yet lived a simple life. One of her favorite past times was watching birds. Pat was a member of First Christian Church in Burlington and devoted time to mission programs. She enjoyed working for the less fortunate and also sponsored children through East LA Light & Life School. Pat wanted to thank her friends for their loyalty and friendship; including Tom & Linda Kottenstette, Tina Blint, Karen Stevens, Jenny McCartney and Linda Laymon. The family would like to thank the employees and volunteers at the Southeast Iowa Regional Home & Hospice.



ORTON

Survivors include her husband, Bill Orton of Burlington; her brother, Bernard (Shari) Umthum of Janesville, IA; her sister, Kay Lynn Watson of Long Grove, IA; her brother in law, Glenn (Debbie) Orton of Moncks Corner, SC and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; grandparents and an uncle.

The funeral service will be held on Friday, March 15, 2024 at 10:30 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. David Yonker officiating. The family will meet with friends from 9:30 AM until the time of the service at 10:30 AM. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for First Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Burlington, IA and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### GEORGE J. SUGARS

George J. Sugars, age 87 of Ft. Madison of passed away on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:45 AM at the Montrose Health Center.

He was born on November 19, 1936 in Ft. Madison to Roy and Ina Winch Sugars. On May 1, 1965 George married Rita Mettenburg and she passed away on March 14, 1998. George worked for Benner Tea Company, the Aldi's warehouse and retired from Merschman Seed Co. George was a member of Sacred Heart Church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and going to the casino.



SUGARS

Survivors include one son, Tim (Diane) Sugars of Montrose; two grandchildren, Tyler (Hayley Weber) and Abby Sugars; one great grandson, Torin and one on the way; one brother, Harlan (Judy) Sugars of Denmark; nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, sister, Mary Carlson and a brother, Bernard Sugars.

The funeral mass will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 10 AM at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Gary Beckman officiating. The family will meet with friends from 9 AM until the time of the service at the church. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for the Montrose Fire Department and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

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# Obituaries/From the Front

## OBITUARIES

### RONALD E. HALLAM

Ronald E. "Bud" Hallam, 82, of Dallas City, Illinois, passed away Saturday morning, March 9, 2024 at his home.



HALLAM

Bud was born September 4, 1941 in Streator, Illinois, the son of Raleigh I. and Alice "Louise" (Holt) Hallam. On November 18, 1961 he married Yvetta D. "Betty" Owens. She preceded him in death March 21, 2023.

He attended Woodlawn High School from where he graduated in 1960.

From there he gained employment at Anthony's. He then worked as a route truck driver for 7UP, Hostess Cakes, and Dolly Madison before going to work at the Iowa ammunitions plant as a sheet metal worker, from which he retired.

He was a member of the Lions Club, NRA and was faithful to the Church of the Nazarene in Montrose, Ia.

He enjoyed challenging mind games and puzzles. He was a great student of history and enjoyed reading and sharing trivia.

Though time and talent fail us to encapsulate with simple words the greatness of a warrior charading as a man among us, yet still it has fallen to mortals the task of writing a eulogy that heaven itself would struggle to pen – a eulogy for a man of whom the world was not worthy.

As a man of work, a most diligent example of tireless movement – at the age of twenty-four building a two-bedroom home for his family that continues to outlast its builder.

As a father, chiefest among a mighty multitude, a man of few words and unnumbered acts of selfless love – giving the dregs of his energy and the preciousness of sleep to provide for a group of children that numbered six. He loved them with a love that outlasted his mortal life and there were only two greater loves than them in his heart and they were his Savior, Jesus and his wife whom he mourned, from her passing until his own.

As a friend, most joyful and true, he appreciated greatly a clever jest – himself authoring a good many that held us in great humour. We often repeat them to one another in fond remembrance.

As a lover/poet, we speak carefully, but we have read the box of letters our mother kept and he was both.

He was a shining example of what it is possible to become if one cares to strive for excellence of character for eighty-two years.

As to things he loved, he loved his Lord, his family,

his work, all things history, a good laugh, words well arranged, function over form, peace in his home, excellence in work, diligence in learning – (himself a student till his last day).

His only pride and greatest joy, his family. His only failure, spelling. His greatest goal, to make heaven crowded with the faces of his family and friends.

He has fought the good fight, he has finished the race, he has kept the faith, he has attained, at last, his crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to him and not to him alone but to all who love the Lord's appearing.

He does not rest in peace; he worships with singing and dancing. He can breathe now, and he need never rest again.

Survivors include six children: Tammy Perkins of Carnegie, Oklahoma, Ronda (Bob) Norris of Warsaw, Illinois, Eric Hallam of Ft. Madison, Colleen (Duane) Taylor of Mexico, Missouri, Candi (Thomas) Kendall of Warsaw and Sarah (John) Whitaker of Dallas City; twenty-one grandchildren: Charlotte (Brian) McCalip, Randy (Niki) Perkins, Nathan (Brooke) Perkins, Jeremiah (Tanessa) Perkins, Samuel (Taylor) Perkins, Justin (Jackie) Norris, Chad (Shelly) Norris, Katlyn (Levi) Wilson, Daniel (Bethany) Taylor, Heidi (Kevin) Brewer, Martha Taylor, Suzannah (Nathaniel) Murray, Madeline Taylor, Dustin Taylor, Clareece Kendall, Cory (Isabella) Kendall, Clayton (Samantha) Kendall, Christopher Kendall, Curtis Kendall, Asa Whitaker, Ezra Whitaker and Rhema Whitaker and twenty-five great-grandchildren with two more on the way. Also surviving is one brother: Thomas (Diane) Hallam of Streator Illinois and one sister Glenda Piacenti of Porter, Texas.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters: Bonnie Holt, and Jean Iverson, one grandson: Devin Taylor and two sons-in-law: Chip Perkins and Steven Huffman.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 15, 2024 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

The funeral service for Bud will be at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, March 16, 2024 at the Montrose Church of the Nazarene, Montrose, Iowa with Pastor Preston Smith officiating. Burial will follow in Carman Cemetery, Carman, Illinois.

A memorial fund has been established for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Montrose Church of the Nazarene. To leave an online condolence please visit Bud's obituary at [banksandbeals.com](http://banksandbeals.com).

# New law has home loan provisions

**BILL** - Continued from Page 1

housing loans is now law."

Across the country, there is a shortage of 7.3 million affordable and available rental homes for low-income renters. In rural Iowa, 10.6 percent of the population lives in poverty, and the average household income is more than \$10,000 less than the national average. Nearly 40 percent of renters in Iowa spend nearly one third of their income on housing.

The USDA Section 524 loan program provides loans that can be used to purchase and develop housing sites for low-income and moderate-income families. Currently, the program only allows for a two-year loan term at below-market rate. The program offers loans to non-profits, municipalities, and tribal governments who have difficulty repaying the loan within a two-year period.

The bipartisan Promote Affordable Rural Housing Act extends the loan repayment window from two years to five years, increasing flexibility for borrowers. The law also allows these loans to be used to fund necessary development projects including surveys, architecture design, and engineering.

The bill, which was originally introduced on February 5, 2024, passed the House of Representatives on March 6, 2024 and the Senate on March 8, 2024 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024. The President signed the bill into law on Friday, March 8, 2024.

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# Sports

## CENTRAL LEE TRACK PREVIEW

# Myhre, Damico, Howard, and Cox to lead Hawks runners



**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON – Central Lee’s boys track team is looking to make big strides counting on a bevy of freshmen additions, while the girls are hoping strong numbers show improvement.



HOWARD

The Lady Hawks are returning Makayla Howard and Kamryn Cox. The girls have always had a strong shuttle hurdle squad and Cox will be a part of that team as well.



COX

“I believe we will have a good season with upcoming freshmen,” said Laure Lee Ellingboe, the girls head coach.



MYHRE

“We should have a pretty good shuttle hurdle relay team and Kamryn is determined to do well in the 400 hurdles. She’s aiming to make it to state and MaKayla is striving for a good season in her events.”



DAMICO

Newcomers this year include freshmen Macie Doty, Nora Lampe, Elania Barlow, Julia Fraise, Allison Gruntmeir, and senior Brooklyn Jones. Gabby Maynes will also be in the mix helping prop up the Lady Hawks relay teams.

For the boys, the Hawks will be relying on senior speedster Grant Myhre in sprints and to replace Tom Eschman in jumps. Kegan Damico, a junior will also

handle some sprints, hurdles and field jump events. Ostyn Moore will be on the pad throwing for the Hawks.

Head Coach Tyler Bryant said top new faces include Leo Thomas, a junior who will run distance events, while freshmen Brett Cook and Evan Fogerty will join the sprint events, and Austin Fogarty will run utility where needed.

“My expectations are always high, and this year I feel very confident I can raise those expectations a little more. Our program goal is always to send at least three events to the state track meet, but this year we added one more goal - to win at least one meet,” he said.

“We have excellent numbers that allow us to compete as a team. Grant Myhre has the potential to make the state meet in multiple events, leading the way as a senior. My junior group is a strong group who I have coached now for five years, and I have only seen growth and hunger for success.”

The Hawks’ few sophomores will take on fill-in roles.

Bryant said he has big hopes for the freshmen boys on the roster.

“I have big expectations for this freshmen group, I see many of them competing for top spots in sprints and long distance events. All of this has allowed us to focus on a competitive family culture. Our motto is “See it, Speak it, Believe it,” and I believe our kids hold fast to that mantra,” he said.

“My goal is to allow these kids the best opportunity for success, while having fun along the way, and by doing this, I can help these guys develop into excellent young men”

Bryant said West Burlington and WACO will be the teams to beat in the conference.

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Lunch Specials  
March 11 - 15  
11am - 1pm

Monday, March 11

Roast Beef Sandwich, Cheese Potatoes

Tuesday, March 12

Spaghetti, Garlic Toast, Applesauce

Wednesday, March 13

Beef Enchiladas, Spanish Rice

Thursday, March 14

Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, March 15

Fish & Shrimp Dinners

## Sports/Classifieds

# Hellige named 1st Team All-State in 1A

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - Holy Trinity junior Luke Hellige picked up a big honor on Tuesday as he was named to the Class 1A All-State first team by the Iowa Print Sports Writers Association.

Hellige scored 597 points this season, tying for seventh in the state overall and third in Class 1A. He averaged 23.9 points, which ranked third in Class 1A and 17th overall.

Hellige was a 53.7-percent shooter from the field, 42.6 percent in 3-pointers. He averaged 8.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists per game while helping lead Holy Trinity to a 19-6 record and a spot in a 1A substate final.

Hellige was joined on the first team by Winfield-Mount Union's Cam Buffington, along with Ty Pflughaupt of North Linn, Toryn Severson of Madrid, Lance Helmin of Lake Mills, Lance McShane of Maquoketa Valley, Mason Becher of North Linn and Collin Homan of Remsen St. Mary's.

Mason Watkins of West Burlington was a second-team pick in Class 2A. Brady Martin of West Burlington was a third-team selection.

Mount Pleasant's Payton Hagans was a second-team pick in Class 3A.

Jesse Van Kalsbeek of MOC-Floyd Valley was named Mr. Iowa Basketball.

# SHIIP seminars planned at GRHS

WEST BURLINGTON - The Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) will present the following Welcome to Medicare seminars at Great River Health locations. The seminars will cover:

- Medicare Parts A and B benefits
- Prescription drug benefits (Part D)
- Medicare Advantage plans
- Medicare supplement insurance
- Identifying Medicare fraud, errors and abuse

The seminars will be offered at these times and locations: Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Fort Madison

Wednesday, March 22, 2024 - Registration deadline: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 - 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Willard and Canella Conference Room(s) - 5445 Avenue O, Fort Madison (lower level-east side of building)

To make a reservation, call 319-768-3342.

Henry County Health Center, Mount Pleasant; Tuesday, April 2, 2024 - Registration deadline: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 - Registration deadline: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Health Education Center - 407 White Street, Mount Pleasant

To make a reservation, call 319-385-6774.

# Keokuk library, art center co-host festival

KEOKUK - The Keokuk Public Library and the Keokuk Art Center are hosting an art in the park festival on June 29th at the Keokuk Library Park. Activities for children and more will be part of the celebration that will begin at 10:00 A.M. and end at 4:00 P.M. If you are an arts or craft vendor or a food truck and would like

to participate, please contact Barb Edler at the Keokuk Art Center. Email: [keokukartcenter23@gmail.com](mailto:keokukartcenter23@gmail.com) or Phone: 319-524-8354. Children vendors are also welcome. We will be charging \$25.00 for a 10X10 space, and \$10.00 for children. Please register no later than May 10, 2024.

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# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BURLINGTON, IOWA CITY COUNCIL Meeting No. 4 February 20, 2024

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 Graham-Murray, Scott and Weiss present. Council Member Bailey participated via electronic communications.

### BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: John Carter of 12113 Flint Valley Drive requested that boxes be placed at the riverfront for the purple martins. Terry Schnack of 2617 Sunrise Lane spoke about budget concerns. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

To the Public:  
All matters listed under Item I., Consent Agenda, having been discussed were considered to be routine by the City Council 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: Weiss  
Seconded By: Graham-Murray

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. Council Member Scott requested the removal of the Resolution Approving Urban Revitalization Tax Exemptions Pursuant to Chapter 404 of the State Code of Iowa for discussion at the close of the meeting. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")

CARRIED

HEARINGS:

1. Statement: Consideration of Sale of Property Locally Known as 312 Barret Street, City of Burlington, Iowa, with Conditions

COMMENTS: Eric Tysland, Development and Parks Director reviewed the conditions of the sale with the City Council and viewing audience. He stated that one (1) \$1,500.00 bid has been received for the property. Mayor Billups led an auction for the Sale of Property Locally Known as 312 Barret Street, City of Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa, with Con-

ditions. Plowman Properties LLC of 2011 South 4th Street, Burlington, was the single high bidder at \$1,500.00. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Weiss  
Seconded By: Graham-Murray

Motion to Close CARRIED

Introduced By: Weiss  
Seconded By: Scott  
Motion to Amend Exhibit "C" of the Resolution Approving Sale of Property Locally Known as 312 Barret Street, City of Burlington, Iowa, with Conditions that the Property be Sold to Plowman Properties LLC in the amount of \$1,500.00

Introduced By: Weiss  
Seconded By: Scott

Resolution Approving Sale of Property Locally Known as 312 Barret Street, City of Burlington, Iowa, with Conditions

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

ADOPTED

2. Statement: Consideration of Sale of Property Locally Known as 1106 South 15th Street, City of Burlington, Iowa, with Conditions

COMMENTS: Tysland stated that the City acquired the property through the abandoned building program. He stated that the house was demolished and

is currently a vacant lot. He stated that two (2) \$500.00 bids have been received for the property. He stated that William and Beth Mennen of 12326 Little Flint Road, West Burlington, would like to purchase the lot to build a single family house. He stated that Nicole Willson of 1112 South 15th Street is an adjacent property owner that would like to combine the lot with her property. Tysland stated that if there is no interest in new construction the lot can be sold to an adjoining property owner to increase their lot size. He stated that the council should consider the bid

prices but also to take into account the long term best and highest taxable use of the property. Mayor Billups made a motion to sell the property to William and Beth Mennen for \$500.00 to build a house. Council Member Graham-Murray seconded the motion. Council Member Scott stated that he wanted to do what is best for the neighborhood and that he would like more time to make a decision. City Manager Bird stated that the lot is larger than what is required to build on and it meets all of the requirements for building without any needed variances. Michael Willson of 118 Prospect Place stated

that the street is very narrow and adding another house to the street will make parking more difficult. Nicole Willson of 1112 South 15th Street stated that the street gets crowded as most residents park on the street. Mayor Billups withdrew his motion to sell the property to William and Beth Mennen. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Scott  
Seconded By: Graham-Murray  
Motion to Continue Consideration of Sale of Property Locally Known as 1106 South 15th

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Street, City of Burlington, Iowa, with Conditions to the March 4, 2024 City Council Meeting

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

3. Statement: Consideration of Sale of Property Locally Known as 1202 Patterson Street, City of Burlington, Iowa, with

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### BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TECH

Lee County Facilities Department is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Building and Grounds Maintenance Tech. Applicants must have good mechanical skills and be willing to perform labor indoors and outdoors in all weather elements. Basic understanding and work experience in mechanical and electrical systems, HVAC, plumbing, painting, grounds keeping (including mowing and snow/ice removal), power equipment operation and maintenance, and best safety and construction practices.

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.leeconomy.org](http://www.leeconomy.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@leeconomy.org](mailto:syasenchok@leeconomy.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.

Conditions

COMMENTS: Tysland stated that the City acquired the vacant lot through tax certificate and has maintained through the nuisance program. He stated that one (1) \$500.00 bid has been received for the property. He stated that William and Beth Mennen would like to purchase the lot to construct a structure on the property. Mayor Billups led an auction for the Sale of Property Locally Known as 1202 Patterson Street, City of Burlington, Iowa, with Conditions. William and Beth Mennen of 12326 Little Flint Road, West Burlington, Iowa were the high bidders at \$500.00. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Weiss  
Seconded By: Scott  
Motion to Close CARRIED

Introduced By: Weiss  
Seconded By: Billups  
Motion to Amend Exhibit "C" of the Resolution Approving Sale of Property Locally Known as 1202 Patterson Street, City of Burlington, Iowa with Conditions that the Property be Sold to William L. & Beth M. Mennen of 12326 Little Flint Road, West Burlington, Iowa in the amount of \$500.00

Introduced By: Weiss  
Seconded By: Billups  
Resolution Approving Sale of Property Locally

### HELP WANTED

### Parks & Cemeteries Part-Time Laborer

Under direct supervision, performs manual work in grounds and building maintenance of public parks, cemeteries, and their facilities.

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- Must have a valid Iowa driver's license;
- Skill in operating some of the listed tools and equipment: hand, tractor & power mowers, backhoe, carpentry, and plumbing tools, etc.

Apply at City Hall,  
811 Avenue E,  
Fort Madison, IA 52627 or  
email applications to  
[knafziger@fortmadison-ia.com](mailto:knafziger@fortmadison-ia.com)  
by March 22, 2024.

Applications can be found online at [www.fortmadison-ia.com](http://www.fortmadison-ia.com).

Known as 1202 Patterson Street, City of Burlington, Iowa, with Conditions  
DISCUSSION: None.  
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")  
ADOPTED

4. Statement: Consideration of Plans and Specifications for the Agency Street Reconstruction Project from Melrose Court to Curran Street

COMMENTS: Jesse Howe, Deputy Public Works Director, stated that this project spans from Melrose Court to Curran Street. He stated that the existing two lanes in each direction will be replaced by one lane in each direction with a two-way center turn lane. He stated that all new and existing sidewalks through the area will be brought up to current ADA standards. He stated that upgrades to the storm-water collection along the project by replacing intake structures and select storm sewer lines in need of repair. He stated that construction should begin June 2024 and will be completed in Spring 2025. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Scott  
Seconded By: Graham-Murray  
Motion to Close CARRIED

Introduced By: Scott  
Seconded By: Billups  
Resolution Approving Plans and Specifications for the Agency Street Reconstruction Project from Melrose Court to Curran Street

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

5. Statement: Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 65 Nuisances and Animal Control Code of the City of Burlington Municipal Code

COMMENTS: The City Manager stated that the amendment to the code includes discontinuing the pet license/tag system and implementing a microchip process. He stated that the city proposes to partner with the Des Moines County Humane Society to facilitate the transfer to chip technology from the current tag system. He stated that the other amendment addresses the keeping of livestock, specifically chickens, and provides a prohibition of roosters. He stated that the update will include limiting the number of chickens to twelve (12) at a property address. He stated that the remainder of the section addresses fencing for livestock and

is less restrictive than the current code. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Scott  
Seconded By: Graham-Murray  
Motion to Close CARRIED

Introduced By: Scott  
Seconded By: Weiss  
Motion for Preliminary Adoption of the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 65 Nuisances and Animal Control Code of the City of Burlington Municipal Code

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

6. Statement: Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Section 128.02 License Required of Chapter 128 Tree Service Business of the City of Burlington Municipal Code

COMMENTS: Tysland stated that tree service businesses who remove or cut trees on public or private property are required to obtain a yearly license. He stated that the Parks and Recreation Department, Forestry Division conducts an annual meeting for tree service businesses that educates on the rules and requirements on safety, tree pruning and removal. He stated that the amendment to the ordinance would include adding language making attendance at the annual meeting mandatory and acknowledge of attendance of the annual meeting on their yearly application. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Scott  
Seconded By: Graham-Murray  
Motion to Close CARRIED

Introduced By: Scott  
Seconded By: Weiss  
Motion for Preliminary Adoption of the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 128.02 License Required of Chapter 128 Tree Service Business of the City of Burlington Municipal Code

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

7. Statement: Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 162 Fire Prevention Code of the City of Burlington Municipal Code

COMMENTS: Robert Berndt, Fire Marshal, stated that the amendment includes adoption of the 2021 Edition of the International Fire Code (IFC).

He stated that the last IFC that the City adopted was the 2015 International Fire Code. He stated that there is a new code every three years and the City is currently two code cycles behind. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Graham-Murray  
Seconded By: Scott  
Motion to Close CARRIED

Introduced By: Graham-Murray  
Seconded By: Scott  
Motion for Preliminary Adoption of the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 162 Fire Prevention Code of the City of Burlington Municipal Code

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

8. Statement: Consideration of Proposed Plans and Specifications, Form of Contract and Estimate Cost for the Wastewater Treatment Facility's Redundant Influent Line Project

COMMENTS: Matt Wildman with HR Green, Inc. stated that the Wastewater Treatment Facility experiences sanitary sewer overflows at headworks during high flow rate events that discharge directly to the Mississippi River. He stated that this project will help provide an additional route around the plant's mechanical screens and make use of available space in downstream treatment processes. He stated that the redundant line may also be used to divert wastewater around the plant's influent chamber and/or mechanical screens during planned maintenance on existing structures, piping and valves that would otherwise require bypassing of raw wastewater to the Mississippi River. He stated that with the redundant influent line, the Wastewater Treatment Facility will be capable of treating approximately 27 MGD during high flow rate events. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Graham-Murray  
Seconded By: Scott  
Motion to Close CARRIED

Introduced By: Graham-Murray  
Seconded By: Scott  
Resolution Approving Plans and Specifications for the Wastewater Treatment Facility's Redundant Influent Line Project

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

RESOLUTIONS:  
Introduced By: Graham-Murray  
Seconded By: Scott

1. Resolution Awarding Contract for the Wastewater Treatment Facility's Redundant Influent Line Project

DISCUSSION: Don Fitting, Wastewater Treatment Superintendent, stated that three (3) bids were received for the project on February 6, 2024. He stated that the lowest bidder was Central Excavating, Inc. of Bettendorf, Iowa. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")  
ADOPTED  
Introduced By: Graham-Murray  
Seconded By: Scott

2. Resolution Approving the Certified Local Government Annual Report for the City of Burlington

DISCUSSION: Tysland stated that the Historic Preservation Commission is responsible for submitting an annual report documenting the commission's preservation work and that they have met the requirements of the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program. He stated that this is an annual certification through the State Historical Preservation Office of Iowa. Hal Morton, Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Commission, stated that the Historic Preservation Commission met six (6) times in 2023 and approved five (5) certificates of appropriateness for work on homes in the Heritage Hill Historic District, conferred with owners on options and best practices, including design recommendations. He stated that this includes the first solar project in the district and prompted the commission to develop solar design recommendations for the Heritage Hill District Design Guidelines. He stated that the commission was successful in meeting their goals by offering one public outreach program for Preservation Month. He stated that this year the program captured Historic Burlington in coloring pages. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")  
ADOPTED  
Introduced By: Billups  
Seconded By: Scott

3. Resolution Approving Urban Revitalization Tax

## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

Exemptions Pursuant to Chapter 404 of the State Code of Iowa (Tax Abatements)

DISCUSSION: Council Member Scott stated that he had some concerns about the current tax abatement program. City Manager Bird stated that the tax abatement program impacts housing through improvements to existing homes and new construction city wide rather than just by districts. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")

ADOPTED

Adjournment: 7:21 p.m.  
Approved: March 4, 2024  
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.)

**CITY NAME:** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF WEST POINT - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX Levy CITY #. 56-536  
**WEST POINT** Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows:  
Meeting Date: 3/26/2024 Meeting Time: 6:30 PM Meeting Location: West Point Public Library 317 5th Street West Point, Iowa 52656  
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.

City Website (if available):  
cityofwestpoint.com

City Telephone Number:  
319-372-6312

Item Description (see list of Management)	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2023 - 2024	Budget Year Effective Property Tax 2024 - 2025	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax 2024 - 2025
Taxable Value for New Debt Service	34,065,352	37,484,500	37,189,533
Capitalization General Fund	778,358	275,928	294,018
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit	0	0	0
Aviation Authority	0	0	0
Utility Property & Self Insurance	0	0	63,794
Support of Capital Emergency Mgmt. Comm.	0	0	0
Unified Law Enforcement	0	0	0
Police & Fire Retirement	0	0	0
HOA & PIERS (Off an Unseal Fund Limit)	0	0	86,171
Other Employee Benefits	0	0	0
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)	0	0	0
Taxable Value for Debt Service	34,065,352	37,484,500	37,189,533
Utility Service	0	0	78,860
<b>CITY REGULAR ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX</b>	<b>275,928</b>	<b>275,928</b>	<b>322,852</b>
<b>CITY REGULAR TAX RATE</b>	<b>8.10606</b>	<b>7.37982</b>	<b>11.48769</b>
Taxable Value for City Ag Land	58,957	56,983	58,991
Ag Land	0	0	177
<b>CITY AG LAND TAX RATE</b>	<b>0.00000</b>	<b>0.00000</b>	<b>0.00300</b>
<b>Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed</b>			
Residential property with an Actual Assessed Value of \$100,000	Current Year Certified 2023/2024	Budget Year Proposed 2024/2025	Percent Change
City Regular Residential	8.11%	7.38%	-9.24%
Commercial property with an Actual Assessed Value of \$100,000	Current Year Certified 2023/2024	Budget Year Proposed 2024/2025	Percent Change
City Regular Commercial	4.13%	4.4%	6.52%

Note: Actual Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Millage Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Millage Rate and Uncertainty are based on the same Millage Percentage of \$100,000 Actual Assessed Valuation.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current: we are currently paying on \$1.5 million in loans and need to cover repairs on our infrastructure

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## From the Front

# SAVE funds to pay for Central Lee construction projects

**BUILDS** - Continued from Page 1

that fund for five years as a means of property tax relief," Crozier said.

He said the management fund pays the district's liability insurance so it's rare that school districts can go more than a year without levying dollars to pay those costs.

He told the board that there looks to be a small increase in state supplemental aid which will help pay for increases in staffing and other expenditures.

The property tax rate isn't finalized, but typically at this point the numbers are fairly close to what is submitted to the county and state.

Crozier also updated the board on some building projects that are moving forward.

The district is planning to renovate the biology and chemistry/physics classrooms to create a separate lab space and classroom space.

"Our science department has had phenomenal success over the past several years and this space will allow them to maximize their potential going forward," he said.

The total cost of that renovation was listed at \$521,000.

The district is also moving away from a 45-year old district office that was built in the 80s out of three mobile units that were being used as classrooms in Argyle.

"I can't confirm it but I think those buildings are more than 45 years old, and the lifespan of mobile classrooms is normally 25-30 years. We won't get 20 more years out of that building."

The new district office will be bigger

to allow additional staff in the building. Kris Brewer, Director of Technology and Angie Fransk, Director of Curriculum will move into the administration office. The new structure will provide separate office space for Sandy Meierotto, the school business official. The move also opens up one more classroom at the high school and two small rooms at the PreK. The project will cost \$1.4 million but will be paid for out the district's one-cent SAVE funds so no bonding will be required and the cost won't be reflected in debt service.

"The district is paying for both of these projects with its sales tax fund and will not be bonding for these projects. This is important because it doesn't add to our debt service nor does it hinder us from tackling other big projects in the future."

Crozier said the district is also committed to continuing planning for an expansion of the K-8 building and that work has begun.

"During Spring Break, Estes Construction will be on site to complete planning work. This work will be the foundation for the district to move conversations forward with staff and stakeholders about the best option for an expansion at the K-8," Crozier said.

"We are still evaluating the trend in enrollment in our K-8. If the trends continue of 100+ students per class over the next two years, we will have to consider an expansion. If trends revert to 95 students per class, then an addition may not be as high of a priority in the near future."

# Funding would help expand career center

**SIREPA** - Continued from Page 1

tion just does not fit what they are looking for from an administrative rules position through the appropriations committee.

The application is due by March 15.

The grant is the same grant that was awarded to Lee County this year for the new Health Department/EMS Ambulance facility. The county received a fully-funded \$2.1 million for that project. Fort Madison also was awarded a grant this year to help with costs of storm sewer separation projects under EPA mandates. The total cost of those separation mandates are born by the local governments.

The county is also applying for a project this year to resurface 15th Street north of Fort Madison that runs from Rodeo Park north.

Miller-Meeks typically carries about 15 projects from the 1st Congressional District to Washington D.C. Grant applicants fill out an online grant form through the Congresswoman's website. Those applications are reviewed and selected for final interviews with Miller-Meeks and her staff to be narrowed down to the final 15.

"So if all this done, basically we'll have a center that is ready to rock and roll," Norris said.

Lee County Economic Development Group President Dennis Fraise said the grant will allow the career center to become a regional educational and workforce support system.

The CAC recently lost a partnership with Central Lee and now is working with Keokuk, Fort Madison, and SCC. Fraise said the center can only work with public school systems.

Central Lee had hesitation joining the effort several years ago, but finally came on board. Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier notified the center earlier this year that they would be pulling from the partnership.

"They do a lot of great things out there and it's a good school, it's just not anything they are interested in at this time," Fraise said.

Fraise said there is another \$1 million grant out there specifically for career centers like this one, but it requires the schools to commit to 125 students total or there must be four public schools in the partnership.

"We pivoted a little and the conversations we're having with (current schools) are 'what are you doing right now that you're doing really well, but you don't have the capacity to do?'" Fraise said.

"What's next? What can we do out here that requires more expensive equipment? You could act as a feeder system for this. So you've already got programs you have a strong interest in and we're not trying to push a rock up a hill."

Fraise said the curriculum at the center is a high-school based curriculum system that leads to advanced training certificates through SCC or a direct pipeline into area industries.

"I know this is the right plan at this point," Fraise said.

A 501c3 corporation has been formed to run the center. Fraise said the IRS designation is in the works for the board so the LCEDG isn't running the center, the non-profit board would.

The rest of the facility is being used as an incubator for PV Pallet, a company that builds pallets for the solar energy field.

SIREPA Board President Mike Hickey said the center is a "shining" example of cooperation countywide.

"This is extremely important to keep this moving forward for a lot of reasons."

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