

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 67



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

# City wants bond for fire station

**FIRST STEP:** City needs voter authorization to back up state, federal grants

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A measure will be put on the ballot this November to allow the City of Fort Madison to borrow up to \$12 million to build a new fire department.

A group of firefighters joined Fort Madison Fire Chief Joe Herron in making a presentation in front of the Fort Madison City Council as a precursor to multiple presentations around the community scheduled prior to the election.

The building is planned to go in where the current public works buildings are located in the 2000 block of Avenue L. The

See **BOND**, page 8

Assessed Value	Fullback %	Taxable Value	Homestead Credit	Net Taxable Value	Tax Rate	Ann Adj	Monthly Advt Tax
\$0.00	0.46328	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2.77	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$3,900.00	0.46328	\$1,805.00	\$0.00	\$1,805.00	2.77	\$5.00	\$5.00
\$30,000.00	0.46328	\$13,905.00	\$0.00	\$13,905.00	2.77	\$38.49	\$38.49

**COMMENTARY**

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



# Area couple hits Ho Chi Minh City for vacation

Saigon, now officially known as Ho Chi Minh City, has a metropolitan population of 12 million people, with six-to-seven million motor bikes, and few-and-far-between traffic lights. You won't see policemen on the streets, and no homeless people. It reminds you of Times Square with lights, skyscrapers, and buses. It's a clean city, and you can walk around by yourself. You have to be a little careful of pickpockets, but that's about it. Vietnam is such a tourist attraction that it doesn't have enough tourist guides to handle the demand. It's the Year of the Dragon.

Ken and Patty Madden of Crawfordsville recently returned from a two week vacation in SE Asia. Ken served as an Intelligence Officer in Thailand next door to Vietnam, collecting intelligence on the Vietnam war. He left knowing that Saigon was about to fall, and that someday he would like to visit Vietnam on his own dime.

The government has three no-no's. (1) You cannot question the Communist Party of Vietnam or the government. (2) You cannot say anything bad about Ho Chi Minh. He is considered the father of the country or "Uncle Ho." (3) You cannot disparage China. The control is subtle, and people pretty much "go along to get along."

Ken and Patty were taken aback when Ken was purchasing a wallet from a street-side vendor. The lady said, "Thank

See **SWARM**, page 4



Photo courtesy of Lee County Stormspotter Chris Sorrentino

Some wicked clouds blow over northern Fort Madison looking east out of the city airport Tuesday at about 5:15 p.m. after severe storms, including at least one tornado that hit west of Houghton causing damage and staying on the ground for close to 30 minutes traveling northeast as far as Yarmouth.

**THE GOOD STUFF**

## Benny Womack hits up FM City Council on railfan-ing

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City Councils can pass budgets and talk about building fire stations, approve change orders, pass ordinances, set franchise fees and on and on. But every now and then

they get a chance to look into the future through the eyes of a child.

Benjamin Charles Womack, a 7-year-old rail enthusiast in Fort Madison stepped up to a podium that he couldn't even see over and told the council that the economics of the rail system is vitally important to the city, its past, and

its future.

Most adults can't step to a podium and talk to an authoritative board the way this young man, who was admittedly tired from a long day of home schooling and certainly some time at

See **RAIL**, page 3

**INDEX**

Business Directory.....P.5	JDRF.org.....P.3	Pothitakis Law Firm, P.C.....P.2
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.5-6	Lee County Health Department Hospice.....P.7	Public Notices.....Ps.5-6
Complete Rental.....P.3	LOCAL NEWS.....Ps.3-4,8	SCENE AROUND TOWN.....Ps.4,8
FOR THE RECORD.....P.2	OBITUARIES.....P.2	Sonny's Super Market.....P.8
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....P.4	• Katherine M. Howes, 96	Southeast Iowa Regional Airport.....P.2
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.3-4,8	OPINION.....P.4	Tony Wolfe Insurance Services.....P.8
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.3	Pen City Current.....Ps.4,6	WeSaySavelt.org.....P.8
James Healthcare & Associates, Inc.....P.4		

**WEATHER**

WED 17 Apr.....Cloudy & breezy, 66° F/ 48° F  
THU 18 Apr.....Showers, 61° F/ 40° F  
FRI 19 Apr.....Mostly sunny, 58° F/ 36° F

**IOWA LOTTERY**

DOUBLE PLAY 04/15.....3 25 52 60 64, Powerball: 17  
LOTTO AMERICA 04/15.....2 12 18 23 52, Star Ball: 4 All Star Bonus: 2  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/15.....11 24 25 44 46, Lucky Ball: 4  
PICK 3 MIDDAY 04/15.....6 6 4  
PICK 3 EVENING 04/15.....0 4 2  
PICK 4 MIDDAY 04/15.....0 3 8 2  
PICK 4 EVENING 04/15.....6 9 8 1  
POWERBALL 04/15.....7 16 41 56 61, Powerball: 23 Power Play: 3

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# Obituaries/For the Record

## OBITUARIES

### KATHERINE M. HOWES

Katherine M. Howes, 96, of Charlotte, North Carolina, formerly of Keokuk, Iowa, passed away on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at Mint Hill Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.



HOWES

Katherine was born on October 24, 1927, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of John J. and Nellie A. (Schamper) Ketterer. She was united in marriage to Delbert F. Howes on July 3, 1948 in Fort Madison, Iowa. Together they had 6 children. She was employed for 35 years at Sheller-Globe and retired in 1990, she continued to work part time at Hamilton Nursing Home until 2004. Katherine was a devout Catholic, enjoyed travelling, an avid reader, and loved to play Bingo.

Surviving family are her children: Catherine Howes Thordsen, Constance Howes Mann, David Howes, Cindy Howes Willets, Stephen Howes; her brother Tom Ketterer; 12 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Katherine was preceded in death by her husband Delbert, her parents John Ketterer and Nellie (Schamper) Ketterer, one son Michael F. Howes, one grandson David James Davis, and 2 brothers Jack Ketterer and Frank Ketterer.

Funeral services will be held at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at National Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Monday, April 22, 2024, from 2 to 7 pm, with family meeting friends from 5 to 7 pm at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to All Saints Catholic Church.

Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com).

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

#### 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.

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

04/15/24 - 12:48 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue H.

04/15/24 - 12:59 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Nathan Eric Washburne, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue I, in the North alley, on a charge of disorderly conduct - threat. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

04/15/24 - 4:30 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Harrison Mills Haynes, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 100 block of Formad Industrial Drive, on a charge of city: theft.

04/15/24 - 11:40 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Thomas Wayne Davis, Jr., 24, of Fort Madison, at 48th Street and Avenue O, on a Des Moines County fingerprint only warrant - 5th degree theft.

### Keokuk Police Report

04/12/24 - 9:29 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a burglary in the 700 block of North 13th Street.

04/12/24 - 2:51 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in the 1200 block of Main Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Charlie Mae Holland, 75, of Keokuk, was traveling westbound in the 1200 block of Main Street, attempted to make a lane change and struck the vehicle parallel to her that was being driven by Juston Christopher

Hauck, 43, of Fort Madison. No injuries were reported. Holland was cited for improper lane change. Her vehicle sustained minor damages and was driven from the scene. Hauck was cited for driving while license suspended and failure to prove financial responsibility - accident. His vehicle was undamaged.

04/12/24 - 2:51 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of Main Street.

04/12/24 - 3:08 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 10 block of South 12th Street.

04/13/24 - 3:29 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 100 block of South 2nd Street.

04/13/24 - 4:39 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Johnson Street.

04/13/24 - 8:21 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of vandalism in the 900 block of Concert Street.

04/14/24 - 3:38 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 300 block of North Park Drive.

04/14/24 - 10:29 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 900 block of Mississippi Drive.

04/15/24 - 11:09 a.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Mary Alice Walker, 61, of Keokuk, in the 300 block of North Park Drive, on a charge of 5th degree theft less than \$300.

04/15/24 - 8:27 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 400 block of Hwy. 61 bypass.

### Lee County Sheriff Report

04/12/24 - 8:31 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Devan Alexandra Batley, 29, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment entry/mitimus warrant. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released after weekend service.

04/12/24 - 7:05 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrest-

ed Taylor William Scott, 31, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment entry/mitimus warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released after weekend service.

04/13/24 - 12:18 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident at Johnson Street Road and Business Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle was eluding at a high rate of speed when it rolled. Two occupants were extricated from the vehicle - driver Kayden Chaney and owner Selyna Adamson - and taken to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center - Fort Madison. Keokuk Police Department handled charges for the two occupants.

04/13/24 - 7:01 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Melissa Marie Readshaw, 55, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment entry/mitimus warrant. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released after time served.

04/14/24 - 8:04 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Brian Lee Scott Ray, 34, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a temporary hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and transferred to another agency.

04/14/24 - 4:42 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident in the 2100 block of 290th Avenue. According to the report, a vehicle was negotiating a curve on 290th Avenue, lost control, and skidded to its final stop where it landed on its side. The vehicle was unoccupied and efforts are underway to contact the registered owner.

04/15/24 - 5:58 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Ashley Ann Caulkins, 38, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

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



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## ACCIDENT & INJURY LAW

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## From the Front

# Council leans in on 7 year old's talk

**RAIL** - Continued from Page 1

the depot, handled himself.

Chi Eastin, the director of the City's Tourism Board, introduced "Benny" to the council.

"I met him at the tracks when we were telling one conductor good-bye on his last day and this boy wanted to come out and say good-bye. He's a huge train fan," Eastin said after the meeting.

"He knows everything about trains and we want to get him more involved - as much as we can. He loves railfanning here in Fort Madison and he's been studying trains since he was three years old. He's at the depot all the time."

"It's the largest rail system in the United States and that runs through Fort Madison. It's very important," Womack said.

"You just need to remember that."

His words were short and poignant, beyond the vernacular of a normal 10-year-old, but this young man is clearly punching above his weight class. Nice job, Benny.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A young railfan, Benjamin Womack, takes a few minutes to talk to the Fort Madison City Council Tuesday night about the importance of the rail system through the city. Womack, who's home schooled, spends a lot of time down at the historic depot in Fort Madison.

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## Scene Around Town/From the Front



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Clouds carrying turbulent storms rolled over Fort Madison just north of Rodeo Park Tuesday afternoon. The storm system brought heavy rain, hail, and one confirmed tornado near Houghton that damaged Hawkeye Steel and Stukes Plastic including flipping a semi-trailer over.

# Vietnam one of most populous city in the world

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

you for saving our country.” Ken has grown used to being thanked back home for his service, although for years no thanks were given. But for thanks to be given by a civilian from a country the U.S. gave up on, well, he was sort of speechless. He would have to put some thought into the “why” of the statement.

But he didn't have too much time to think. Another person in the tour, recognizing the Hawkeye cap Ken was wearing, said, “Go Caitlin.”

Ho Chi Minh's body is in a mausoleum in the capital city. He only takes visitors three days a week, in the mornings. The timing wasn't right for Ken and Patty's tour group.

There's over 105 million people in Vietnam. It's one of the largest countries, population wise, in the world, even though it's the size of New Mexico. Ken tried to imagine 105 million people in New Mexico.

Just north of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) are the Cu Chi Tunnels--several hundred miles of tunnels that the Vietcong dug to hide and live in. Anytime the Americans tried an offensive, the Vietcong would evaporate. They had whole divisions in those tunnels. They came out of the tunnels to attack Saigon during the Tet Offensive. The tour guide asked if anyone could spot an opening to a tunnel. No one could. The guide walked over to a bush, and there it was. One of the smaller men in the tour crawled into a tunnel. Ken was too large.

In Hanoi, the tour visited the sight where John McCain was captured. There's a small stone carving of McCain on his knees in cuffs along the lake where he crashed. They don't want the U.S to forget the capture of a US Senator.

In Cambodia, the tour group visited Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest religious site in the world. It was built as a Hindu temple in the 12th Century and later changed to Buddhist. The temple sits on 400 acres inside a mote.

Patty Madden's favorite attraction was Ha Long Bay, known for thousands of towering limestone islands topped by rain forests. They rode sand pans, water buffalo carts and cruised the Mekong River Delta. A dragon that puffed smoked was a colorful sight.

With the reluctance of tourists to go to China, people are flocking to SE Asia. The food is great. Better get used to chopsticks.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com), or visit his website at [www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com](http://www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com).

# BACK PAIN?

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

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

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

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



Dr. Jason James, D.C.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

**MYTH #3: Your Back is “Out”!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MYTH #4: “It's Only a Muscle!”**

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

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



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

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

**WOULDN'T YOU RATHER:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Ashley Neuweg, ARNP  
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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
AGENDA  
FORT MADISON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Date: Thursday,  
April 18, 2024  
Time: 5:30 P.M.  
Place: Sheaffer Meeting  
Room and Online

Optional Electronic Meeting  
I. The option of attending the meeting electronically is being offered. You can participate in the meeting via telephone and can comment on an agenda item by joining the Zoom meeting. Using your telephone, dial (312)

626 6799 and enter the meeting ID (840 8932 7567) when prompted. If you have trouble connecting to the meeting, please call (319) 372-5721.  
II. Excused absences  
III. Approval of Agenda  
IV. Public Comments  
V. Approval of minutes  
a. Meeting March 21  
VI. Approval of the Bills –  
VII. Correspondence  
VIII. Director's Report –  
a. Financial  
b. Personnel  
c. Programming  
d. Collection Development  
e. Operations  
f. Facilities

g. Professional  
h. Reports to City Council  
IX. Unfinished Business  
a. Approve using trust funds to supplement the general fund due to budget reductions  
X. New Business  
a. Election of Officers  
b. Budget Amendments  
c. Approve 24/25 Budget  
d. Enrich Iowa Agreement  
XI. Trustee Education – Review Library Tier Standards  
Adjourn until May 16, 2024, 5:30 pm.  
Special work session immediately following

board meeting to discuss library budget in light of future potential reductions.

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
West Burlington  
Regular City Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday,  
April 3, 2024**

The West Burlington City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Mayor Ron Teater presiding.  
MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Teater, Ringo Covert, Andy Crowner, John Johnson, Therese Lees, and Melanie Young  
MEMBERS ABSENT:  
ALSO PRESENT:  
Police Chief Jesse Logan, Public Works Director Mike Brissey, City Clerk Kelly Fry, Finance Manager Angela Moore, and City Administrator Gregg Mandsager  
CALL TO ORDER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ROLL CALL  
PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve the agenda as

presented. Motion carried by the following votes:  
Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young  
CONSENT AGENDA  
• Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on March 20, 2024  
• Approve a Quote from Land & Water Vegetation for weed control - \$6,454  
• Approve a Quote for DENCO to Crack Filling City Streets - \$97,690  
• Approve Payment to J & M Displays - \$12,000  
• Pay Request #3 from Jones Contracting for work completed on Phase 2 of the Gear Ave

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

Trail Extension Project - \$91,616.26

- Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$153,532.90

Moved by Lees, seconded by Crowner, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

CITIZEN INQUIRIES

No inquiries.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Consider a Resolution setting a Public Hearing date of April 24th on the proposed budget for

**HELP WANTED**

#### LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKER II

Lee County is taking applications for a Road Maintenance Worker III to work at the Ambrosia Shop. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks 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 endorsements. The starting wage range is \$22.57 to \$27.55.

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](http://www.leecounty.org) 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 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 29, 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).



FY24-25

Moved by Lees, seconded by Crowner, to approve a Resolution setting a Public Hearing Date of April 24th at 6:00 p.m. on the proposed budget for FY24-25. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution setting a Public Hearing Date of May 1 to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Moved by Young, seconded by Johnson, to approve a Resolution setting a Public Hearing Date of May 1, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. on the proposed Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution approving and adopting a Revenue Purpose Statement for the use of Revenues from Electric and Natural Gas Franchise Fees

In accordance with Iowa Code Section 364.2 subsection (4)(f), Council considered adopting a Revenue Purpose Statement for the use of Electric and Natural Gas Franchise fees. Council established the following purposes allowed under

**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.

#### DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:

- Some experience in building and grounds maintenance;
- Must have a valid Iowa driver's license;
- Skill in operating some of the listed tools and equipment: hand, tractor & power mowers, 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)

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



Iowa Code for which franchise fee revenues from its electric and natural gas franchises may be used or expended:

a. Inspecting, supervising, and otherwise regulating each franchise approved by the City.

b. The construction, reconstruction, and repair, of public sanitary sewers and water mains, and specifically the West Lift Station Force Main Construction Project.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve a Resolution approving and adopting a Revenue Purpose Statement for the use of Revenues from Electric and Natural Gas Franchise Fees Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Nays: Crowner  
Consider the first reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 542 and granting Interstate Power and Light Company a non-exclusive twenty-five year franchise to supply Natural Gas to West Burlington and require Interstate Power and Light Company to pay a franchise fee to the City.

Council considered the first reading of an Ordinance granting Interstate Power and Light Company a twenty-five-year franchise to supply Natural Gas to West Burlington and requiring Interstate Power and Light Company to pay the city a 3% franchise fee. Johnson asked for clarification on changes that were made from the current Franchise Ordinance to the proposed one. Staff will provide a comparison between the two ordinances for the next meeting.

Moved by Young,

seconded by Lees, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 542 and granting Interstate Power and Light Company a non-exclusive twenty-five year franchise to supply Natural Gas to West Burlington and require Interstate Power and Light Company to pay a franchise fee to the City. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Abstained: Crowner  
Consider the first reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 541 and granting Interstate Power and Light Company a non-exclusive twenty-five year franchise to supply Electric Energy to West Burlington and require Interstate Power and Light Company to pay a franchise fee to the City.

Council considered the first reading of an Ordinance granting Interstate Power and Light Company a twenty-five-year franchise to supply Electric Energy to West Burlington and requiring Interstate Power and Light Company to pay the city a 3% franchise fee. Staff will provide a comparison between the two ordinances for the next meeting.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 541 and granting Interstate Power and Light Company a non-exclusive twenty-five year franchise to supply Electric Energy to West Burlington and require Interstate Power and Light Company to pay a franchise fee to the City. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Nays: Crowner  
Consider a Resolution setting salary for two Fire Department Battalion Chiefs

Chief Logan has taken on duties as Interim Fire Chief and requested council allow Battalion Chief Jason Shackelford and Battalion Chief Zachary Boyd to work on an hourly basis to assist Chief Logan with his additional duties at the Fire Department. Council considered a Resolution to set an hourly wage of \$15.00 per hour.

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Young, to approve a Resolution setting salary for two Fire Department Battalion Chiefs Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution hiring Nick Baker as a Police Reserve Officer

Moved by Covert, seconded by Crowner, to approve a Resolution hiring Nick Baker as a Police Reserve Officer. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Discuss Phase 2 of the Gear Ave Trail Project

The City Administrator explained to the Council that during the construction of the Gear Ave. Trail Extension Project, the contractor hit several unmarked traffic loops. Public Works Director Brissey explained that the loops were marked along the curb but not in the street. He said that is the typical way they mark loops. The engineer's drawing did include a notation that the traffic loops should be projected. The contractor argued that marking them

along the curb was not sufficient. The contractor was willing to contribute \$7,500 toward repairing the loops. Public Works Director Brissey was concerned that potentially the other loops would also be damaged and suggested that the Council consider eliminating the loops entirely and using the contractor's money to replace the loops with cameras. Overall this would cost approximately \$8,000 more, but would save the contractor trying to work around the other loops in the street.

The contract also ran into an issue with the depth of concrete they needed to remove on the bridge. The concrete was thicker than the IDOT plans indicated and there will be additional cost to grind down the additional thickness of the concrete.

To keep the project moving, the majority of the Council agreed to have the engineer prepare Change Orders to address the additional concrete removal, eliminate the traffic loops, and add cameras. Johnson wanted someone to determine who was at fault for damaging the loops and see if the IDOT would contribute to the cost of removing the additional concrete since their drawings provided inaccurate information.

CITIZEN INQUIRIES ADJOURN

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Approved  
Ron Teater, Mayor  
Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

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## Scene Around Town/From the Front



Courtesy photo

A final storm in a system that peppered Lee County all afternoon Tuesday left a power pole down in Victory Park and some damage to the fence at the park ballfield.

# Vote needed to trigger grant work

**BOND** - Continued from Page 1

building is designed at approximately 26,000 square foot with living spaces, training spaces, decontamination spaces, public entry space with restrooms, a workout area, 12 bays, a hose drying tower, bunker gear cleaning and drying spaces, and a messine for additional storage space.

Herron said the city is a couple years out on construction, but to apply for grants to help build the facility, the city would have to have permission from the voters to show the ways and means to cover whatever isn't ultimately covered by grants for the work.

"We're asking for the citizens to give us permission to move forward with it, and to start the grant process and gather up as much money as we can to get this paid for while not applying it to the mill levy for the citizens," Herron said.

The current fire station was built in 1959 and is the city's only firehouse at the current time.

Firefighters John Lange said the expansion of fire services to the community requires additional staff and equipment. The department has gone from basic fire suppression, to full hazard control, EMS, vehicle extraction, education, and community training.

He said health and safety of firefighters is also a key priority. Firefighters Justin Cain said firefighters are 100% more likely to get certain cancers and are at a much higher rate than the general public in most cancers.

Cain said the firefighters are subjected to highly toxic environments in house fires and there's little they can do to mitigate that in general terms, but he said they are also subjected to other toxins in

gear which gets contaminated on scenes, but also in diesel exhaust at the station.

The new facility would provide state of the art decontamination. Currently the gear is washed and just hung back in rooms where it can collect exhaust fumes while they are hanging.

The firefighters spend 30% of their lives in the station and are exposed to toxins a good portion of the time. The decontamination areas would be fully vented and separated from regular firefighter routines.

Although the language would allow the city to borrow up to \$12 million, they would only borrow what, if anything, was needed to finish the project. Herron said the city is already working with Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission to investigate state and federal grants.

The impact of a \$12 million bond in the current levy environment would impact a property owner with a \$100,000 home about \$9.57 per month or about \$115 a year. A \$200,000 home would be impacted about \$243 annually.

The current rollback by the state on assessed valuations is 46.3%.

Herron said community open houses have been scheduled for the public at the current firehouse at 2335 Avenue L on June 12 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Aug. 24 from noon to 4 p.m., and Oct. 17 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

There is also a Coffee with a Firefighters at Swed & Co on Oct. 26th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Early voting on the proposal starts Oct. 16. Absentee ballots can be requested prior to Oct. 16. Completed ballots must be received by the auditor by Nov. 5.

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### Lunch Specials

April 15-19  
11am - 1pm

<p><i>Monday, April 15</i></p> <p><i>Tater Tot Casserole, Blueberry Fluff</i></p>
<p><b>Tuesday, April 16</b></p> <p><b>Minit Steak, Loaded Potatoes, Beans</b></p>
<p>Wednesday, April 17</p> <p>Chicken &amp; Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Corn</p>
<p>THURSDAY, APRIL 18</p> <p>FRIED CHICKEN DINNERS</p>
<p>Friday, April 19</p> <p>Grilling on the Sidewalk</p>

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