

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, July 23, 2024 | 9 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 124



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

## County may sell senior center



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The building housing the Newberry Center in downtown Fort Madison is owned by the county, and is now part of the county's deep dive into its property holdings. The Board of Supervisors is looking at possibly selling the building on a recommendation from a building study committee.

### TOWN HALL: Supervisor Schulz to hold town-hall July 31 to discuss building

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – In another move to reduce the Lee County Supervisors' building inventory, Supervisors opened up a dialogue on possibly selling another county building, this time the Newberry Center in Fort Madison.

The center is currently home to the Fort Madison senior center and the UFCW Local 617. Lee County Recorder Nancy Booten, who sits on the county's Building Study Committee, tabulated that the county is spending more than \$34,500 a year on the building including insurance, while collecting \$4,800 in rent.

"Our study committee has suggested you may want to do a month-to-month lease with the union and look to off load that building," Booten said.

She said Milestones Area Agency on Aging, which shuttles meals to home-bound seniors out of the facility, could look for space at community church. Milestones doesn't cook the meals at the Fort Madison facility, but they coordinate the once-a-month local deliveries from there.

"Why are we in the rental business anyway? There are vacant properties there whose owners would love to have the union's business," said Supervisor Chuck Holmes.

See **NEWBERRY**, page 8

### FIREWORKS

## Partners to Light Up the Sky on Saturday in FM

FORT MADISON - The water has finally started to recede, so we are able to reschedule the 2024 Fort Madison Independence Day Fireworks display for this Saturday night July 27th with a launch time of approximately 9:30 pm.

The fireworks will be shot off from the far west end of Riverview Park,

allowing the community to enjoy a wonderful display right on the mighty Mississippi. Also, a portion of Ave H will be closed to vehicular traffic during the show for spectators to have a great view so please watch for signage.

This year's firework display was scheduled to take place on the 4th,

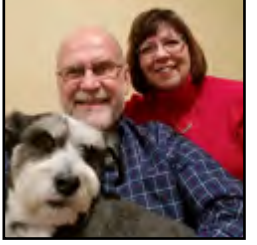
but due to high water was postponed at the suggestion of the technicians. There will be a rain date, should we need it, for July 28th. This year marks the 16th year that Fort Madison Partners has coordinated the event with the contributions and support of area businesses for the Light Up The Sky This 4th of July fireworks display.

See **SWARM**, page 7

### EDITORIAL

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



## Carol Remick has some Belted Galloways

You might know, Carol's husband, Joe, was gone, the temperatures outside were soaring, and Carol was home alone when her first three Belted Galloways (Belties) calved. She was excited, nervous and very unsure of her abilities in this situation. But she knew she had to assist them – somehow. Fortunately, her son Carson was available to help, and the calves arrived with no complications. Two new Beltie calves were born on July 9; and one on July 10. The first calf was a heifer. Carol named her Liberty Belle after the 4th of July. The bull calves are yet to be named. She prefers them to have strong names, like Independence, Revolution, or even Revere, after Paul Revere.

What are Belted Galloway cattle? The Belted Galloway is a traditional Scottish breed of beef cattle, originating from the Galloway region of Scotland. This smaller, stocky breed are most often black, like Carol's, but other colors, can occur. "Oreo Cows," as many call them, have a distinctive broad white belt around their mid-section. This makes them unique and somewhat of a novelty in our area. Belties are known for their lean beef, efficient grazing, and quiet temperament – except for when they calve! Belties have a very strong maternal instinct.

How did Carol Remick get involved with Belties? She and her husband

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### WEATHER

TUE 23 Jul..... Warm & sunny, slight chance of storms, 84° F/ 66° F  
 WED 24 Jul..... Warm & sunny, 83° F/ 63° F  
 THU 25 Jul..... Warm & sunny, 82° F/ 62° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 07/21.....2 5 20 36 39, Lucky Ball: 7  
 PICK 3 MIDDAY 07/21.....4 8 6  
 PICK 3 EVENING 07/21.....2 6 3  
 PICK 4 MIDDAY 07/21.....10 8 9  
 PICK 4 EVENING 07/21.....5 3 4 8

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# Obituaries/For the Record

## OBITUARIES

### FLOYD E. COWLES

Floyd E Cowles, 92 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 2:50 pm Saturday, July 20, 2024 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born May 1, 1932, a son of Hilbert Sr. and Mary (Marsh) Cowles. On July 31, 1960,



COWLES

he married Elizabeth "Betty" VanHynning at the Denmark Congregational United Church of Christ, Denmark, Iowa. They had two sons, Dirk and Jon.

Floyd was a 1950 graduate of Fort Madison High School. He was proud of his service in the Medical Corps of the United States Army, serving during the Korean War.



After the war he attended and graduated from the University of Iowa. He taught in Washington, Iowa and Pleasant Valley, Iowa, before returning to Fort Madison where he taught Spanish and English until his retirement in 1994.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Cowles; one son Jon Cowles of Fort Madison; a daughter-in-law Teri Cowles of St. Joseph, Missouri; three siblings: Hilbert "Gil" (Dotty) Cowles Jr of Fort Madison; and Darlene Kraus and Nancy (Jack) Hobbs, both of Iowa City, Iowa; two grandsons, Logan Cowles and Matthew (Melissa) Cowles; three great grandchildren: Emma, Atticus, and Caden; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, one son Dirk Cowles, three siblings: Clarence Cowles, Alice Jane Groene and Edith Smith.

Visitation will be held from 12:00 (noon) - 1:00 pm Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at the Barr Memorial Chapel. His funeral service will follow and begin at 1:00 pm at the funeral home, with Pastor Les Featheringill officiating. Burial with military rites will be at Denmark Cemetery, Denmark, Iowa. A memorial has been established for the Denmark Fire and Rescue or PAW Animal Shelter. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Cowles family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

### JOHN SMITH

John "Skillet" Smith, 71, of Hamilton, IL, died Thursday, July 18, 2024 at the Carthage Memorial Hospital in Carthage, IL.

He was born on September 19, 1952 in Keokuk, IA, the son of Frank and Monta (Crawford) Smith. John graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1971 and then attended Southeastern Community College in Keokuk.



SMITH

On December 19, 1987, John was united in marriage to Linda Ackley in Hamilton. She survives.

He is also survived by three daughters, Taran (Nick) Manciocchi of Las Vegas, NV, Whitney (Eric) Bemis and Gina (Ross) White all of Warsaw, IL, five grandchildren, David, Rozilynn, Lillian, Eva and

Christian, one brother, Tony (Donna) Smith of Warsaw, two sisters, Virginia Schabacker of Texas and Patty (Greg) Lefler of Keokuk.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

John had been employed as an electrician for BNSF Railroad for twenty-eight years, retiring in 2017. He was a member of the IBEW Union.

He was a skilled woodworker and could make anything. He loved piddling around in his workshop. John was a history buff, especially local history, and a trivia expert. He enjoyed reading the Daily Gate City newspaper, playing board games, and working on crossword puzzles. He also enjoyed his family pets.

John was devoted to his family and was a wonderful provider. He was very proud of his three daughters and his grandchildren were his pride and joy.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

07/19/24 - 7:44 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 5200 block of River Valley Road.

07/19/24 - 9:35 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of Avenue G.

07/19/24 - 4:39 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 200 block of Avenue G.

07/19/24 - 8:45 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 400 block of Avenue E.

07/20/24 - 5:16 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1700 block of Avenue H.

07/20/24 - 7:42 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of 33rd Street.

07/20/24 - 8:59 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3400 block of Avenue N.

07/20/24 - 10:11 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of 35th Street.

07/20/24 - 12:54 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1700 block of 35th Street.

07/20/24 - 2:33 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1000 block of Avenue F.

07/20/24 - 2:53 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3400 block of Avenue N.

07/20/24 - 4:49 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue L.

07/20/24 - 5:55 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of Avenue G.

07/21/24 - 12:15 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of 22nd Street.

#### Keokuk Police Report

no activity reported

#### Lee County Sheriff Report

07/19/24 - 4:33 p.m. - Brianna Raeann Bell, 18, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on 2 warrants for violation of probation.

She was taken to Lee County Jail.

07/20/24 - 10:12 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Michaela Elaine Land, 29, of Keokuk, in the 3600 block of 235th Avenue, Keokuk, on 2 warrants for violation of probation. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

07/20/24 - 7:00 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested James Edgar Frary, Jr., 37, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of 295th Avenue, Fort Madison, on a charge of violation of a domestic no-contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

07/21/24 - 12:57 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Dylan Wayne Mabeus, 28, of Wever, in the 1700 block of 330th Avenue, Fort Dodge, on a charge of 1st offense OWI. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

07/21/24 - 8:59 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jillian Elaine Smith, 38, of Donnellson, in Montpelier, on a charge of 5th degree theft less than \$300. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

The Green Bay Levee & Drainage District will hold a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 25, 2024, at Heartland Co-op, east of Wever.

### PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION CITY OF FORT MADISON, IOWA**  
**Wednesday, July 24, 2024**  
**3:00 P.M.**

**City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA 52627**

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes - April 22, 2024
3. Certify List of Entry-Level Police Officer Candidates
4. Entry-Level Firefighter Candidate Update
5. Police Chief Position
6. Adjournment

**PUBLIC NOTICE West Burlington Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 5, 2024**

The West Burlington City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

Dodge 2014 Grand Caravan SXT 3.6LVVT for sale. New tires, newer battery. Includes working dvd player for rear seats. AC. Asking \$7k OBO. Call 435-251-0052. Located in Keokuk.



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 Young, seconded by Lees, 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 May 15, 2024

• Minutes from Special City Council meeting on May 29, 2024

• Payment to Snyder & Associates for engineering related to Phase 2 of the Gear Ave Trail Project

• Payment #7 to Jones Contracting for Phase 2 of the Gear Ave. Trail Project - \$72,971.18

• Liquor License for Casey's, 1105 W. Agency Rd.

• Cigarette Permit for Casey's, 1105 W. Agency Rd.

• Approve Mike Brissey's resignation as Public Works Director

• Approve Andrew Prior's resignation from the Police Reserve Unit

• Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$1,776,440.77

Moved by Young, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried by the

following votes:

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

**COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**  
**PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Teater presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the West Burlington Lion's Club to thank them for their donation of new picnic tables for Pat Klein Park.

**CITIZEN INQUIRIES**  
 No inquiries.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Council held a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget Amendment #2 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Mayor Teater opened the Public Hearing at 6:63 p.m. Finance Manager Moore presented a budget amendment reflecting an amendment for \$983,030 for revenues and \$1,800,540 for expenditures, with capital projects (excluding water & sewer projects) accounting for over \$518,000. In the previous Fiscal Year, 2022-2023, the budget amendment revenues amounted to \$2,048,217, which is \$1,065,187 higher than the current fiscal year.

The budget amendment expenditures, including capital projects (excluding water & sewer capital projects), amounted to \$1,191,850 for expenditures, which is \$608,690 lower than the current fiscal year.

There were no public comments, and the Public Hearing was closed at 6:24 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Consider accepting the donation of a 2000 Freightliner Alexis Pumper Truck from the City of Burlington

Council discussed accepting the donation of a 2000 Freightliner Alexis Pumper Truck from the City of Burlington. This is a vehicle the Burlington Fire Department is no

longer using, so they are offering to donate it to West Burlington. Chief Logan reported that there are no repairs needed at this time and the only expense to the City would be insurance coverage. The station has room to store the vehicle and having a pumper truck in the fleet would benefit the areas in West Burlington that do not have hydrant access readily available. West Burlington would be responsible for any future repairs and maintenance going forward. If repairs and maintenance costs become too expensive, the City is under no obligation to keep the truck and may decide to dispose of it at any time. Johnson did not favor accepting the truck due to potential repairs and maintenance costs the City would be responsible for.

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Young, to accept the donation of a 2000 Freightliner Pumper Truck from the City of Burlington. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

**Nays:** Johnson

**NEW BUSINESS**  
 Consider a Resolution approving Budget Amendment #2 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Lees, to approve a Resolution approving Budget Amendment #2 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

**Ayes:** Covert, Crowner,

er, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a quote from Burlington Trailways to repair the Cab Lift Pump on Fire Department Rescue 1

Chief Logan reported that during maintenance on Fire Trucks Rescue 1, the cab would not rise. Burlington Trailways investigated the issue and determined that the Cab lift pump was bad and would need to be replaced. They provided a quote of \$2,489.49 for the repair.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Crowner, to approve a quote from Burlington Trailways to repair the Cab lift Pump on Fire Department Rescue 1 for \$2,489.49.

Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider a Resolution hiring Chase Williams as Interim Public Works Director

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve a Resolution appointing Chase Williams as Interim Public Works Director and setting his salary at \$2,796.74 bi-weekly plus \$60 per month for his certifications. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Discuss contracting with West Burlington School District to provide an officer to teach Public Safety Classes

Chief Logan asked

for direction on moving forward with a proposal to work with the West Burlington School District (WBSD) to provide a School Resource Officer. The WBSD and City have applied for \$125,000 COPS Grant that would cover 75% of an officer's wages and benefits over a five-year period. The School Resource Officer would spend 75% of their time at the school during the school year and the remainder of their time with the city. This officer would be available for training and would also be able to respond to public safety issues when necessary. If the grant is awarded, it would cover 75% of the officer's wage. The remaining 25% would be split between the City (25%) and the School (75%) on an annual basis. The City's cost for the first year of the grant would be approximately \$16,000, the school would contribute approximately \$48,000, and the grant would cover \$25,000. The School District also approached the City about contracting for a Public Safety Teacher for the WBSD. This would not fall under the COPS Grant, but would simply

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

be a contract for services. The city's officer would be trained at the school's expense for this next school year. The officer would be responsible for teaching the Public Safety Class for 3-4 hours per day and then would be available for regular duty with the city. The School District confirmed that they would be responsible for 75% of the officer's wages under this contract. The city would be responsible for the remaining 25% of the wages and benefits. Chief Logan feels we would have ample funds for overtime costs in order to cover shifts while the office is at the school. The council expressed an interest in contracting with the school and felt it was in the community's best interest to work toward having a police presence in the district. The council directed City Administrator Mandsager to continue working with the school and bring back a contractor for approval. If the COPS Grant were awarded, the SRO Officer would be responsible for teaching the Public Safety Class.

Consider a Resolution authorizing a partnership with the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities, a program of the University of Iowa

City Administrator Mandsager asked for the Council's support in mov-

ing forward with a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Iowa and the City of West Burlington to collaborate with the University on the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) program. This Agreement shall begin on or about June 01, 2024, and remain in effect through and including June 01, 2025, unless earlier terminated.

Each year, one or two Iowa communities are selected for "full partnerships" that include 10-15 projects across a variety of disciplines and topic areas. IISC Partnerships are built around the challenges and opportunities identified by the City. The University connects those local needs to University of Iowa faculty and students, who work throughout the school year to create feasible plans and recommendations aimed toward a more sustainable, livable, and resilient future. Students benefit from real-world experiences that enhance their learning and shape their future careers.

PARTNERSHIP YEAR EXAMPLE:

- 1 - Planning Project
- 1 - Public Policy Project
- 1 - Graphic Design Project
- 1 - Mural Installation
- 1 - Marketing Project
- 1 - Digital Archiving Project
- 1 - Law Project

- 2 - GIS Projects
- 2 - Film Projects
- 4 - Engineering Projects
- 15 Total Projects

During the year of collaboration, IISC contributes more than 10,000 hours of work from faculty, staff, and students to each partnership. These projects reflect professional-level work overseen by faculty members who have worked in their field, including city planners, attorneys, engineers, and marketers. City Administrator Mandsager has participated in this program in the past, and he feels it would bring significant value to the community and has the potential to offset costs, especially related to engineering.

The City's investment in the program is up to \$50,000. The initial project considerations include the following (some projects will overlap disciplines).

- Connectivity: (gaps and access to service, accessibility to essential services, the built environment, access to businesses (commercial), and work, etc.
- Arts/Culture/Wayfinding/Community Identity/Placemaking: The art component can sometimes take place the summer prior to the Fall semester and can include things like murals and
- Housing: Land trusts,

rehab/new construction (and SEIRPC), 657A, other topics TBD

• Shared services, quality of services, best practices, lessons learned.

• Engineering (TBD or finalized later): Agency trail, safe crossings across Gear Avenue and at Agency and Broadway.

These are initial projects to be fleshed out and additional projects added to the mix based on professor input, students involved, capabilities, interests, etc. The City of Burlington has also expressed an interest in the program and would be willing to contract with West Burlington for any projects that could be incorporated that would benefit the City of Burlington. If Burlington comes on board, they will contract with West Burlington for payment based on the number of projects or workload to offset a percentage of the work for any increase in costs.

At this time, City Administrator Mandsager is asking for Council support in the program and a financial commitment of up to \$50,000 for West Burlington projects. Moved by Young, seconded by Johnson, approve a Resolution authorizing a partnership with the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities, a program of the University of Iowa Motion carried by the

following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crown-er, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution amending the Master Fee Schedule to include a fee for Small Cell

Recently, communication companies have inquired about installing small cell wireless transmitters and receivers in the city right-of-way. This is a newer technology that does not fit into our current Master Fee rate structure. Iowa Code, Chapter 8C, has established fees for this type of technology. At this time, staff would recommend amending the City's Master Fee Schedule to include the fees as established in Chapter 8c of the Iowa Code. The current fee would be \$500 for a single up-front application that includes up to five (5) small cells. There would be an additional charge of no more than \$50 for each additional small cell placed in the right-of-way. After the initial fee, the annual recurring fee would be \$270 would be charged to the company while the equipment is in place.

Moved by Crouner, seconded by Young, to approve a Resolution amending the Master Fee Schedule to include a fee for the placement of Small Cell Wireless Transmitters and receivers in the

City's right-of-way. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crown-er, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider the second reading of an Ordinance amending the City Code to include a new zoning district titled "R-6 Recreational Vehicle Park District" and establishing regulations for said district

Moved by Lees, seconded by Johnson, to approve the second reading of an Ordinance amending the City Code to include a new zoning district titled "R-6 Recreational Vehicle Park District" and establishing regulations for said district. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crown-er, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider the second reading of an Ordinance amending the Official Zoning Map to establish the boundary lines for a new R-6 Residential Vehicle (RV) Park District

Moved by Crouner, seconded by Lees, to approve the second reading of an Ordinance amending the Official Zoning Map to establish the boundary lines for a new R-6 Residential Vehicle (RV) Park District. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Patrick Profeta  
General Manager

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# Lee County News/From the Front

## Mohrfeld lost on county's issue on 302nd Avenue

**LAWSUIT** - Continued from Page 4

force them to take over routine maintenance.”

Supervisor Matt Pflug said it sounded like the county needed to move forward.

Supervisor Tom Schulz said the county was told by the city there would be no further discussion.

Braden's office would be handling the case internally for the county, and he said the case would be substantially more expensive to the city.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said he can't remember ever when the county filed a suit against any city.

“I was hoping we wouldn't set a precedent here in filing a suit against the city. Now that we've had this meeting and this discussion maybe the city will take us more serious in that we do intend to sue. Maybe we give them til next week.”

Schulz said the county has put the city on notice and they have walked away from it.

“And in my opinion, pretty arrogantly,” Schulz said.

Schulz added that having the city take over maintenance of the roadway may not be a proper response because they are doing it now and it's causing continued problems for the homeowners in the area.

Braden said the county and city could still negotiate for a remedy despite the lawsuit being filed.

The case would have to be filed in North Lee County Courthouse.

Mohrfeld said he was at a loss as to why the county was pursuing the issue so heavily. The Mayor said the road isn't in any worse shape than it was five years ago.

“This is a beautiful path along a meandering street that is in the same condition it was five years ago. The county engineer had a chance to review and sign off on the plans, which he did,” Mohrfeld said. “I'm at a loss on this one. If you asked a supervisor five years ago they would be 50/50 on whether they knew they even owned that road.”

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## Fairfield farmers raise Galloways

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

Joe farm west of Salem, on the beltway (get it?) between Salem and Hillsboro. Their three children -Spenser, Morgan, and Carson - all went to Central College in Pella, so there were many trips in that direction.

As y'all may have observed, just east of Fairfield on Highway 34, there is a farm on the south side of the highway that has Belties. Carol always admired the cute black-and-white cattle as she sped by.

She happened to mention them to Joe. Well, that Christmas of 2018, Joe said he had a surprise for her. She weaseled the secret out of him. He had made plans to purchase Belties for her. They went to Bloomington, IL and bought four registered Belties, three were heifers, and one was bred. They had their first baby Beltie in 2019.

So, Carol was born a muck-boot farm girl, right? Nope. She's a tried-and-true city girl from Burlington who married a farmer 40 years ago. But she eats challenges for breakfast, after choring, of course. She also credits making an investment in herself by hiring a personal trainer. She does strength training twice a week, for what she calls “functional fitness,” enabling her to lift heavy gates, carry buckets of water, wrangle baby calves, and face down Marcee, aka “Salty Girl” (their most aggressive cow) when she gets vocal and rambunctious.

The Remick's now have six Beltie heifers. For their first breeding cycle, they used artificial insemination. On the second go-around, however, AI failed. What to do? Finding a registered Beltie

bull was the solution. But a Beltie bull that would fit into their herd was scarce as hens' teeth. Carol didn't want to go all the way to Texas, Colorado, or farther for a bull. Lo-and-behold, they were able to locate a one-year-old, Beltie bull at Sperry, Iowa. They brought registered Highland Oaks Farm King Hercules home, and he went right to work. He is now a proud father, passing on his wide white belt, thick black coat, and calm temperament. Carol claims his calves weigh 50 - 55 lbs when born; at least that's what her son Carson estimated as he carried one of the calves from the pasture to the barn. Hercules had been raised as a county fair show animal and had lots of attention. He is quite gentle, affectionate, and Carol loves him.

The heat and humidity have been hard on the baby Belties as well as the mamas. Joe and Carol set up a little child's pool outside the barn, and Carol has been hand bathing one of the weaker babies. They have also been bottle feeding it electrolytes. Will that child's pool still be used by the Remick's grandchildren? Not likely, but that's life on the beltway.

What is Carol's goal with her herd of Belted Galloways? As a “farmer,” she doesn't want to go in the hole feeding animals. For now, she plans to continue the breed with registered cattle, make a little cash selling the offspring, and enjoy the novelty and nature of her small herd on their beltway farm. And she wants to have fun. Check!

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## From the Front

# County wants public's input on FM's Newberry Center

**NEWBERRY** - Continued from Page 1

Booten said there were also liability issues if anyone else is doing repair work on the building.

Penny Logsdon, a representative of the union, said union members had done repair work on the upper floor at their own cost.

Supervisor Tom Schulz said the center is still a viable place for seniors to gather and play bingo, and for dance classes and crafts.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said the senior organization at the center has been dissolved.

"Maybe we need to look at the utilization numbers to see how much it is being used," Schulz said.

"Every time I'm there, there's always people in there. They're playing cards, playing pool, it's a get-together spot. They've got tables in there that they exchange stuff up on and do crafts."

He said at some point the county needs to take care of the people that don't have the resources to do it.

Holmes said there are other locations the seniors could gather.

Supervisor Matt Pflug said the county should be

looking after its seniors.

"At the Heritage Center in Keokuk, it's the same scenario. A lot of those people look forward to that every day. Getting together and, if we off load that property now, we sit with possibly an empty shell with nothing happening," Pflug said.

Booten said the \$34,500 didn't include what taxes the county would have to pay due to renting the facility out.

The county's current state auditor's report indicated the county is required to pay taxes on buildings it owns and rents to a private entity. The audit alert prompted a review of market conditions in downtown Fort Madison and information from area realtors showed the county should be charging \$1,000-\$1,200 a month. The county currently charges the local union \$400 per month and doesn't charge the senior center anything.

Lee County Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb said the conversation Monday about the rent is just what he wanted to kickstart some debate about what the county should be doing with properties and how the public can get involved in the discussions.

"I would love to hear the public's thoughts on how the building is being utilized. I think this serves as a good catalyst going forward as the building committee goes from building to building," Seyb said.

"I like this discussion. This is exactly what the county needs when it comes to discussing the buildings. What's it costing us... What's happening in the building... What are the financial liabilities of the county?"

Board member Tom Schulz, whose district includes the Newberry Center, said he would be holding a town hall at the senior center Wednesday, July 31 at 5:30 p.m.

"The people of the community can come talk to me about what they think should happen to that building, what the use of it is, and how valuable they think it is to the community," Schulz said.

"If we have people show up there, that will be an opportunity for them to voice their opinion."

Supervisor Ron Fedler suggested putting the building up for sale, but continue to rent to the union. Holmes said he would be in favor another one-year lease at \$700 a month.

"If we put it at \$400 a month, that would make the property more difficult to sell because that would not be a very alluring prospect for a potential buyer," he said.

Lee County Attorney Ross Braden said the board could accept sealed bids for the property or possibly donate it to a non-profit organization.



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