

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, December 2, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 196



www.pencitycurrent.com

CHRISTMAS WELCOME

COMMENTARY



Anxiety from tree lights has been resolved

Well, the turkey is smashed into storage plastic for leftovers, or in baggies for the freezer for turkey and noodles over potatoes. Black Friday is over for the most part, the lighted parade is past, Mistletoe on Main Street is in the books, and now the holiday celebration turns to holiday spending.

This year's prime selling period is shrunk by a few days due to the late date of Thanksgiving and, instead of browsing websites for post-Thanksgiving deals, I'm here on Microsoft Word trying to get my head around how this holiday season is already here.

I Christma'sed all day Friday with Taylor in town for a couple extra days. We put the tree up and some inside decorations while Elf, Christmas with the Kranks, and National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation played on the big screen.

I actually found all the Christmas ornaments this year. They're in, like, six tubs downstairs mixed in with lights, stockings, snow globes, yard displays, the Lindbergh baby, painter's tape, some socket plates, plumbing supplies, and an Easter cookbook.

Each year I get accused of losing an ornament that was inevitably created by one of the girls in second grade. I don't lose anything, I just frequently don't know where things are at that moment.

But this year it was all there. I got the thumbs up from Taylor after I uncovered one last small cardboard box sitting on a chair. It had many artsy ornaments created by the kids – probably in second grade.

We put the lights on first without much of a hassle. Typically I'm ready to sit down with a glass of Jameson before the first bundle of lights has been untangled. And how the heck do they get tangled? I mean I roll them up like an extension cord and lay them gently in the translucent tubs with red or green lids. After I lay each one gently in the tub, thinking that they will be easily manageable next year, I put some wreaths and greenery over the top

See LIGHTS, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Santa brought up the rear of the annual Lighted Parade in Fort Madison Friday night. A chilly night was met with residents along Avenue G bundled up, sipping hot chocolate to kick off the holiday season.

FMAAA gives members run of the gallery in December

BY LORI ILLNER-GREEN
FMAAA Director

FORT MADISON - Each year the artist members of the Fort Madison Area Arts Association hold a group show (and friendly competition) during the December Member Show at the FMAAA Art Center located at 825 Avenue G in Fort Madison.

This group show is a compilation of a variety of media and genres that talented local artists create. The FMAAA membership includes

almost 100 local and regional artists. While not all will participate, a great many do.

Visitors to the Main Gallery will see oil paintings to fine ceramics, fiber art, sculpture, photography, watercolors and more. The work presented annually for this show is typically among the best that graces the FMAAA Main Gallery and really emphasizes the exceptionally talented artists that are found throughout this region.

See ARTS, page 3

CITY NEWS

City of Fort Madison starts Blessing Box at library for those in need

FORT MADISON – In a heartwarming effort to support our community, the City of Fort Madison is proud to announce the grand opening of a Little Free Food Pantry located on the front lawn of the Fort Madison Public Library, near the book drop drive through lane.

This new initiative aims to provide a simple yet impactful way for people to access food and essential items when needed and to give back through donations.

The Little Free Food Pantry is designed to

be a place where individuals and families can freely take non-perishable food items and hygiene products, as well as leave donations for others in need. This community-driven effort encourages a sense of shared responsibility, with the goal of helping to alleviate food insecurity in the area. The pantry itself was built by Brad Wilson and painted and finished by Chloe Rempe and teen volunteers.

“We are excited to launch this pantry and

See PANTRY, page 8



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WEATHER

MON 02 Dec..... Cold with chance of flurries, 27° F/13° F
TUE 03 Dec..... Sunny and cold, 31° F/23° F
WED 04 Dec..... Mostly sunny and warmer, 44° F/16° F

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 11/30.....9 21 37 43 61, Powerball: 23
LOTTO AMERICA 11/30.....4 5 10 15 44, Star Ball: 5 All Star Bonus: 4
LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/30.....21 22 32 36 48, Lucky Ball: 5
MEGA MILLIONS 11/29.....3 29 34 37 38, Mega Ball: 17 Megaplier: 2
PICK 3 MIDDAY 11/28, 11/29, 11/30.....8 2 8, 6 9 6, 7 10
PICK 3 EVENING 11/28, 11/29, 11/30.....3 0 8, 6 9 1, 9 11
PICK 4 MIDDAY 11/28, 11/29, 11/30.....5 3 7 3, 1 3 0 9, 5 10 0
PICK 4 EVENING 11/28, 11/29, 11/30.....9 0 4 2, 4 1 5 1, 0 4 3 5
POWERBALL 11/30.....4 24 29 39 63, Powerball: 25 Power Play: 4

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

GUY F. EAVES

Guy F. Eaves, 91, of Fountain Green, Illinois, passed away at 10:55 p.m. Saturday, November 23, 2024 at his home.

He was born September 29, 1933 in Dallas City, Illinois, the son of Roy and Florence (Peeler) Eaves. On May 4, 1956 he married Donna Adams in Fort Madison, Iowa. She preceded him in death on April 8, 2020.



EAVES

Guy worked on the pipeline with his son, David, before returning to Fountain Green to work as a mechanic for many years. He enjoyed visiting with his son, Steven, and going on day road trips with his daughter, Jenny. One of his last projects was rebuilding a 1949 Ferguson TE-20. He would take it to local parades. Guy also enjoyed being outside, he loved mowing, sitting in his swing and watching a good boxing match or NASCAR. He was always willing to help someone out and always had a smile on his face.

Guy is survived by one daughter: Jeanette Poulson, two sons: David Eaves and Steven (Lana) Eaves all of Fountain Green; three grandchildren, Brittany (Kevin) Bartell of LaHarpe, Amber (Matt) Richbark of Sciota and Kenlee Eaves of Bowen, great-grandchildren: Lukas, Keegan, Maxwell and Shelby; one brother, Richard Eaves of Fort Madison, Iowa; one sister: Imogene Hodges of Jacksonville, Florida, along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

Besides his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by one great-grandson: John, one granddaughter, Ashley; seven brothers, Mike, Lester, Pat, Jack, Billy, Vernon and Gerry and four sisters, Linda Nuendorff, Betty Scott, Ruby Pickard and Helen Bowlyou.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. Friday, November 29, 2024 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in LaHarpe, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Cremation will be entrusted to Banks & Beals following the visitation.

A memorial fund has been established for the family. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Guy's obituary at 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.

OBITUARIES

DIANA L. CHAMBERLIN-JOHNSTON

Diana Lynn Chamberlin-Johnston, 58 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died peacefully Wednesday November 20, 2024 at her daughter's home in Fort Madison, Iowa. She was born August 20, 1966 in Alaska, a daughter of Arthur L and Lela J (Lowe) Chamberlin. She lived in Fort Madison for many years. Diana loved nursing and caring for people, and worked as a travel nurse for many years. She raced stockcars on a dirt track for years. She was an avid Seattle Seahawks fan, and enjoyed watching and feeding the birds.

She is survived by her nine children: Jaymie Johnston (Anthony Hall) of Bellingham, Washington; Jessica Chamberlin of Fort Madison, Iowa; Jeremy Chamberlin (Chantel Martinez-Chamberlin) of Fort Madison, Iowa; Justin Chamberlin-Johnston of Fort Madison, Iowa; Jennifer Chamberlin-Johnston of Nevada; JulieAnn Chamberlin-Johnston of Wapello, Iowa; Jacob Chamberlin-Johnston of Wapello, Iowa; Jordan Chamberlin-Johnston of Wapello, Iowa; and Joshua Chamberlin-Johnston of Wapello, Iowa; five siblings: Sherry, Dan, Darcy, Debra, and Dave; eight grandchildren: Anthony Jr, Jackson, Brayden, Kayden, Kolt, Arius, Braelynn, and Chayde; one aunt, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents and two infant grandchildren.

No formal services are planned. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Chamberlin-Johnston family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

CAROL A. MAPES

Carol A. Mapes, 78, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at her home on Friday, November 29, 2024. She was born on October 24, 1946 in Fort Madison, IA to Robert & Clema Skinner Mapes. She graduated from Fort Madison High School in 1964.

She was an accountant most of her life and enjoyed camping and going to the Fort Madison Art Center.



MAPES

Carol is survived by: 1-sister: Barb (Ron) Zumdom of Fort Madison, IA; 1-brother: Steve Mapes of Houston, TX and 4-nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, 1-sister: Sherry Beimer, 1-brother in infancy: Ronald Mapes & 1-nephew: Sean Mapes.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. No services are planned at this time. Online condolences to the Mapes family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Happy Holidays!

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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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

Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

REBECCA A. WADE

Rebecca Anne "Becky" Wade, 75 yrs., of Fort Madison, Iowa died peacefully at 5:00 pm Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at her home after a short battle with cancer. She was born January 22, 1949, in Swisher, Iowa, the daughter of Lloyd and Rosemary Maresh. On July 1, 1967, she married Robert (Bob) Wade in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Becky was a homemaker in her early years raising their children, then had her own home cleaning business for several years. In 2001, she moved to Fort Madison where she was co-owner and operator of Spring Lake Golf Club. She loved time with her family and playing cards.

She is survived by her three sons: Brad (Shelly) Wade, of Fort Madison, Iowa; Mark Wade, of Fort Madison, Iowa; Matthew (Sheryl) Wade, of Center Point, Iowa; five siblings: Larry (Sandra) Maresh both of Swisher, Ramona Maresh (Bob Verry) of Iowa City, Russell (Barb) Maresh of Ely, Ranelle Meyer of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Rhonda Hanson (Donn Johnson) of Spring Hill, Florida; nine grandchildren: Brianne, Kenneth, Taylor, Thomas, Tyler, Brady, Alyssa, Alex, and Addilyn; two great-grandchildren, aunts, uncles, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband Bob, her parents Lloyd and Rosemary, a brother David (Joyce) Maresh and a sister Reyne (Tom) Patterson.

The body of Mrs. Wade has been cremated. A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date to be determined. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Wade family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Reception set for Thursday at FMAAA

ARTS - Continued from Page 1

New this year, the Member minis Show in the Pop-up Gallery is an additional opportunity to highlight local artists, just on a smaller scale sized 8inches x 8inches or less. Artists Members are encouraged to submit two pieces of original art that have not been displayed at the FMAAA Art Center before to either or both shows, providing a visually fresh burst of creativity for gallery visitors. All submissions are judged early in the week with winners announced at the December Member Show Art Opening on Thursday, December 5, 2024, from 5pm to 7pm. Everyone is invited to attend the Opening Reception and meet the artists. Both exhibitions are on display throughout the month of December until Friday, January 3, 2025. The FMAAA

Art Center extends special thanks to Cambre House and Farm event facility for once again sponsoring this special exhibition.

December Member Show details

Artwork categories are:

2D - paintings

2D - works on paper

3D and sculpture

Fiber

Photography

PLUS overall Best of Show

Saturday, November 30- 5 pm deadline artwork drop-off Member Show - Member minis show

Thursday, December 5 - 5 pm to 7 pm December Member Show Opening Reception and category winners announced.

OBITUARIES

MARTIN J. SWINDERMAN

Martin "Marty" Jay Swinderman passed away on November 5, 2024, at his home in Benicia, California. He was born on August 17, 1957, in Keokuk, Iowa, the youngest of four boys to Jerry and Mary Margaret Swinderman.



SWINDERMAN

Martin spent his childhood in Iowa before moving with his parents and brothers to India for his father's job. In 1969, the family relocated to California, where Martin would live for the rest of his life.

Like his father, Jerry, Martin retired after a successful 36-year career with Chevron. He had a passion for travel, golf, water skiing, NASCAR, and good food. Martin is preceded in death by his parents, Jerry and Mary Margaret; his three older brothers, Mark, Michael, and Mitchell; and his sister-in-law, Adrienne. He is survived by his daughter, Natalie; son-in-law, John; grandchildren, Roman and Scarlett; sister-in-law, Kathy; nephews, Mark II, Jamie, and Jason; great-niece and great-nephews, Anissa and Bryan; lifelong friends Wendy and Mary Alice (mother of Natalie), whom he considered family; as well as many uncles, aunts, cousins, and other dear friends who will miss him dearly, all who he loved very much.

Martin will be remembered as a kind and generous man with a dry sense of humor, always ready to lend a helping hand to those he loved. He was a true animal lover, especially fond of his dogs, Rogue and Chopper.

His final resting place will be at Montrose Cemetery in Montrose, Iowa, alongside the family he missed so much. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. Online condolences to the Swinderman family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

THANK YOU



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IBEV @ Phill's Pub

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Herschler Winery @ Hair Etc.

Green Frog @ Sonny's Other Side

Thunder Creek Winery @ Turnbowl Lanes

Wooden Wheel Vineyards @ Harmeyer Insurance

Johnson Brother's Distributing @ American Legion (downstairs)

Mistletoe Margarita @ American Legion (upstairs)

Fireside/Ackerman Winery @ Menke & Company

OFF THE SQUARE

Ardon Creek Wines @ West Point Lumber

Golden Eagle Distributing @ Bentler Auto

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Signature Drink @ Duo Skin & Hydration

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Sports

HTC boys looking to build on 2024 substate run

HELLIGES: Coach and son trying to put together memorable season in final year together on court

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC Sports

FORT MADISON - Holy Trinity's boys basketball team got to within one step of the Class 1A state tournament last season.

The Crusaders won 19 games on their way to the substate final, where they lost to Winfield-Mount Union.

The Crusaders lost two starters from that team, but the roster is still deep enough where the team could make another deep postseason run.

But that, coach John Hellige said, is something his team isn't thinking about right now.

"Honestly, the way we're kind of viewing this season is just kind of one possession at a time, one quarter at a time, one half at a time, one game at a time, and just really trying to focus on maintaining our level and inching upwards with some new guys coming on," Hellige said.

Still, Hellige said, it was important for the Crusaders to make that run.

"Those kids work super hard," Hellige said. "They really kind of brought the program back to where it needed to be, and that was really through a lot of, you know, blood, sweat and tears. This senior class, they took some beatings in their freshman year, greatly improved the second half of their sophomore year, and then were rewarded for all the hard work in season and in the offseason with the nice, long, substate run, which was great."

This team is filled with experience with starters Luke Hellige, Layne Rung and Adam Sobczak returning.

"Any time you've got guys that have multiple years

of varsity experience on the court, it's nice," John Hellige said. "So Luke and Adam both are four-year starters. Layne is now a three-year starter. You've got that core group back that's played a lot and played a lot during the season and a lot in the offseason. So it's good to have that nucleus back.

"And for the first time in a long time, I've got three seniors, six juniors, so we're kind of a little bit top heavy on the upperclassmen versus kind of always being the younger guys."

Luke Hellige averaged 15.6 points last season and led the team with 72 3-pointers. Sobczak averaged 8.6 assists. Rung averaged 10.9 points and was second on the team with 56 3-pointers.

Senior Koby Jones and junior Nathan Box will move into the open starting positions in the frontcourt.

"Nathan is a power forward, a true '4,' and he's a weight-room junkie, just strong as an ox," Hellige said. "Koby has had some injuries in his career, but at 6-5, he's extremely strong. That gives us a lot of strength inside."

The Crusaders played 40 games during the summer and fall as part of their offseason work.

"It's a little too many, I'd say, but we really had fun," Hellige said. "I have them play till they say that's

enough, and then we back off from there. And they never said that. They really enjoyed playing together."

The SEI Superconference's South Division is also top-heavy with talent, and Hellige expects his team, which finished second in the division last year, to be among the contenders.

"The key to this group is just everyone kind of understanding what their roles are," Hellige said. "I think most of the kids are getting that. We've got some kids that are just big and strong, and if they can just really focus on keeping possessions alive, playing tough defense, rebounding, and scoring when the opportunity presents itself, we can be a really, really good team."

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
MONDAY
December 2, 2024
MEETING CONVENING
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
933 AVE H**

-----AGENDA-----

Lee County Board of Supervisors
Dec 2, 2024, 10:00-11:30 AM (America/Chicago)
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Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press *6, this will mute your phone.
Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Agenda Public Input
Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution Considering Award of Contract and Authorizing County Engineer to Execute Said Contract for HMA Widening on W62, Project #HSIP-SWAP-C056(119)-FJ-56
Consider Approval of Final Payment to Jones Contracting Corp for Project # FM-C056(115)-55-56
Consider Approval of Third and Final Reading of Alcohol Compliance Ordinance
Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution Updating Longevity Pay Under Personnel Policy
Discussion Concerning 302nd Avenue Consent Agenda
• Monday, November 25, 2024 Board Minutes
• Claims for Payment Personnel Actions
• Step Increase - Recorder's Office
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator
319-372-3705
County Website:
www.leecounty.org

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF
WEST BURLINGTON
Special City Council
Meeting
Wednesday, December 4, 2024 - 5:15 PM
West Burlington
City Hall
122 Broadway Street**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
CLOSED SESSION
1. Closed Session in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i) to go into Closed Session at 5:15 p.m. in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.
2. Consider action following Closed Session
ADJOURN

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF
WEST BURLINGTON
Regular City Council
Meeting
Wednesday, December 4, 2024 - 6:00 PM
West Burlington
City Hall**

**122 Broadway Street
TENTATIVE AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL
PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
CONSENT AGENDA
All items on the Consent Agenda are Action items that will be considered by a single vote. Council members may request that an item be pulled for discussion and held for a separate vote. Items on the Consent Agenda may include claims over the City Administrator's authorized spending limit, payments related to previously approved contracts, and non-controversial or routine expenses as defined by the City's Purchasing Policy.
1. Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on November 20, 2024
2. Minutes from Special City Council meeting on November 20, 2024
3. Payment to Snyder & Associates for engineering services related to the Spring Street Water Main Replacement Project - \$1,397.01
4. Payment to Four Seasons for a valve replacement and relocation of hydrant - \$5,800
5. Approve a quote from CDW-G to renew VMware

licensing - \$7,616.72
6. Approve appointment of Todd Brissey, Steve Klein, and Randy Fry to the Board of Adjustment
7. Approve a request for a Three-Year Right-of-Way Permit to allow Unite Private Networks, LLC dba Segra to install 9,032 linear ft of infrastructure in the City right-of-way
8. Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$200,918.62
COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS
• ADMINISTRATOR:
• PUBLIC WORKS:
• POLICE DEPARTMENT:
• FIRE/BUILDING DEPARTMENT:
• CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
• OTHER STAFF REPORTS:
• COUNCIL REPORTS:
• COMMUNITY REPORTS:
CITIZEN INQUIRIES
OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
1. Consider Professional Services Agreement with Snyder & Associates for Construction Engineering Services related to the Spring St. Water Main Replacement Project
2. Consider payment to Snyder & Associates for Supplemental engineering services related to Phase 2 of the Gear Ave. Trail Extension Project
3. Consider a Resolution setting wages for

swimming pool employees and authorize City Administrator to hire staff for the 2025 pool season
4. Consider setting January 8th and January 22nd as the official City Council meeting dates in January 2025
5. Consider the second reading of an Ordinance granting Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative a non-exclusive twenty-five year franchise to furnish and sell Electric Energy to the City of West Burlington and require Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative to pay a franchise fee to the City
CITIZEN INQUIRIES
ADJOURN

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL
Date: Tuesday,
December 3, 2024
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Place: City Council
Chambers, City Hall**

INVOCATION
ROLL CALL
VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS:
At this time persons may address Council on any matters not on the Council agenda. After identifying yourself by name and address, please briefly state your issue.
PLEASE NOTE: This is not an opportunity to discuss issues with Council or to get information. In accordance with Open

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

Meetings law, Council may not deliberate upon, nor take action on any complaint or suggestion or respond to any allegations which are not part of the published agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA
1. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of November 19, 2024;
- Liquor License Renewals: River Rocks Bar and Grill, 709 Avenue H, effective January 28, 2025 – Class C Retail;
- Claims dated November 26, 2024, Library Claims; and
- Payroll of November 15, 2024 and November 29, 2024.

COMMUNITY REPORTS: Baxter's Sports Complex

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

2. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving the following application for a Three-Year Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption:

- Kristine Roach, 1106 Avenue C (General Improvement)
- Matt Bentley, 2122 Avenue E (General Improvement)
- Toribio Estrada, 2331 Avenue J (General Improvement)

OTHER

3. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on an Engagement Agreement with Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. amending the Urban Renewal Plan for the Urban Renewal Area #3, in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 403.

4. (Blank) MOVED and (blank) SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on a Garbage Collection Agreement with Sycamore Court Mobile Home Court, LLC, allowing the City to continue providing garbage collection services to Sycamore Court located at 5836 Avenue O. (COUNCIL REPORT 2024-112, Boussetot)

CITY MANAGER/DEPARTMENT REPORT COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS/MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – The next City Council meeting will be held at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES MOUNT PLEASANT CITY COUNCIL MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

The Mount Pleasant

City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 307 East Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor and the roll being called there were present Steven K. Brimhall in the Chair and the following named Councilmembers.

Present: Engberg, Crull, McWilliams, White, Griffith, Glaha

Absent:

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember White that the Council approve the following consent agenda items with one roll call motion vote:

the minutes of the September 11, 2024, City Council meeting;

the minutes of the September 12, 2024 Special City Council meeting;

the payment of bills totaling \$190,982.58;

the renewal of a Class B Retail Alcohol License for Aldi Inc. at 1309 East Washington Street;

the renewal of a Class C Retail Alcohol License for Iris Bowling Center at 300 South Iris Street.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

Bronis Perteit, Shelby Ridenour and Jenny Daly were present and gave a summary of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program which serves Mt. Pleasant residents. The Mayor read a proclamation proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Glaha seconded that the Council approve the proclamation. Motion carried, 6-0.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember McWilliams seconded that the Council approve the agenda as printed.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Engberg and seconded by Councilmember McWilliams that the Council approve the retirement letter from Rick Mullin, Public Works Director.

Councilmember White moved and Councilmember Crull seconded that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-82:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA APPROVING THE PROMOTION OF DREW E. SCHUMACHER FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

Councilmember McWilliams moved and Councilmember Griffith seconded that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-83:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA APPROVING THE HIRING OF TYLER J. ROBERTSON FOR THE POSITION OF LEAD PARKS WORKER

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Crull and seconded by Councilmember Engberg that the Council approve the FYE2024 Road Use Tax Report. The City is required to submit an annual report to the state. Motion approved, 6-0.

Councilmember Glaha moved and Councilmember McWilliams seconded that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-84:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) TO RECEIVE A GRANT FROM THE IOWA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO CONSTRUCT TAXIWAY/APRONS FOR HANGAR

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

Councilmember White moved and Councilmember Griffith seconded that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-85:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) TO RECEIVE A GENERAL AVIATION VERTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (GAVI) GRANT FOR THE HANGAR STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember McWilliams that the Council approved the mayoral appointment of Lisa Oetken to the Community Development Committee to fill the three-year expired term of Unity Stevens. Motion approved, 6-0.

Councilmember Crull moved and Councilmem-

ber McWilliams seconded that the Council adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. to meet in regular session Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

Steven K Brimhall, Mayor

ATTEST: Lori Davis, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE IOWA DNR NEW CONSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice to Bidders Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Please note that the DNR Central Office has moved to 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines

Sealed bids will be received by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200., Des Moines, IA, 50321, or via email at construction-bids@dnr.iowa.gov until 11:00am, December 12, 2024 for the public improvement projects listed below, at which time they will be opened publicly. When emailing bid documents, the subject line of the email must state the following: Project Number, Project Name, and Bid Letting Date. Please ensure the first page of the emailed attachment, or first of multiple attachments, is the bid proposal. No bids shall be accepted via FAX.

After the bid opening, bid results may be obtained by visiting the Department's website at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/engreal/projectlist.asp>. In addition to attending the bid opening in person, interested parties may also call in to the following number to listen to the bid opening:

Conference call number: +1 (240) 623-0919
PIN: 683-750-293#
In order to improve

sound quality, please mute your phone by pressing *6. If you have questions, you can unmute your phone by pressing *6.

Project documents, including drawings, specifications, proposal forms, and addenda items for the project are available at Beeline and Blue, at 2507 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50312. Please visit www.beelineandblue.com or contact (515) 244-1611 for more information. Alternatively, Bid Documents can be viewed or printed online at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/engreal/projectlist.asp>.

The Department shall comply with all public improvement procurement laws, as outlined in the plans and specifications and including but not limited to: Iowa Code chapter 26 related to public construction bidding; Iowa Code chapter 73 related to preferences; Iowa Code chapter 573 related to labor and materials on public improvements; rules promulgated by the Department of Administrative Services – General Services Enterprise as they may apply; rules promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission, as they may apply; and any federal statutes, rules and/or executive orders that may be associated depending on funding sources. Bidders shall comply with these laws to be considered and are encouraged to be familiar with public improvement procurement requirements and the bidding documents before submitting a bid.

FREMONT COUNTY PROJECT NO. 22-04-36-01
Nishnabotna Wildlife Area
2019 Flood Damage

Repairs Phase 1 – Various Roads

Proposal Guarantee: \$6,250.00

Completion Date: 05/09/2025

Project Description: Removal of vegetation, blading and shaping to reclaim roads and parking lots. Place earth fill and aggregate on various roads and parking lots to repair flood damage in the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit.

FAYETTE COUNTY PROJECT NO. 23-03-33-01

Volga River Recreation Area

Hill Road Bridge Replacement

Proposal Guarantee: \$25,000.00

Completion Date: 09/15/2025

Project Description: Bridge replacement with a culvert on Hill Road in Volga River State Recreation Area.

HANCOCK COUNTY PROJECT NO. 25-02-41-02

East Twin Lake Lake Enhancement

Proposal Guarantee: \$25,000.00

Completion Date: 10/31/2025

Project Description: This project consists of modifying the upper and lower concrete stoplog structures. A fabricated steel walkway and handrail is to be added to the upper structure. Work on the lower structure consists of replacing the existing wood deck with a fabricated steel walkway and handrail, adding sheet piling and riprap to the east side of the structure, replace the interior concrete walls and structure floor, and construct a fabricated fish barrier. Both structures will have minor grading for the walkway approaches.

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From the Front

Stopping in for the Swed hot chocolate was well worth it

LIGHTS - Continued from Page 1

because you want the weight in the bottom and don't want to crush the greenery, right?

Every year I pull the wreaths and greenery out and the lights are in some pre-holiday anxiety litmus test stuck to the greenery and get pulled out in a mess.

Yes, I know there are other options, but the holidays are expensive enough. I'm a mature adult with a somewhat analytical mind. That should work.

Anyway, this year the lights, at least mostly, lit when we tested them. In my house, the white lights go on first and then the colored lights follow. It's never enough lights. One year we had so many lights on the tree, the stand couldn't support the weight, and it fell onto the carpet. It was like this tree had done something wrong and the girls wanted it hogtied.

I had to anchor the damn thing with bungee cords and wall hooks. We stopped short of waterboarding it and went about putting on the ornaments. I have a series of NBA players. Mom got all us boys a series. John got football players and, when I help him put up his tree after we eat Taylor's mayo, lemon, and herb coated

bird, I always try to hide the Cowboy players deep in the tree or on the back. Adrian Peterson appropriately goes to the top of the tree - near the star. I'm sure that's been moved by now.

So we hang all the ornaments, which takes more than an hour to do, and then we set up the Lionel electric train that runs around the tree and the Lemax Christmas Village. Taylor runs the train for a few minutes, blowing the horn as it comes out from the under the tree.

I hang some red bells above the archway in the living room and then we haul all the tubs and the green tree bag big enough to hide a body in, all the way down the stairs back into the basement.

We had just finished this year about 10 minutes before the downtown parade was to start and headed down 6th Street to Avenue G.

It was pretty brisk and Tay's face was frozen by the time we got down the three blocks. We moved to a packed Boozie Rae's as most people were smartly hanging out indoors to stay warm before the lighted floats moved west down the street. A few braved the cold. We got a couple holiday spirits and then headed down the street. We stopped and looked into what used to be Faeth's and were surprised when we only saw the bar still standing.

Then we headed back east as the floats were coming down the

street, stopped and talked to a few people along the way, and then headed into Swed Coffee and had hands down the best hot chocolate I've ever had. I loaded it with marshmallows, crushed peppermint and mini chocolate candies.

It was full and frothy and the flavors of the add-ons came in waves. First the marshmallow, then the peppermint and finally the chocolate candies were sucked through the small opening in the lid. Not sure what Chris is doing with his hot chocolate, but if you're down there and he's got it running - get it.

By the time we got back to 6th Street, Santa was coming down the street. Taylor said, "Merry Christmas Santa", and I said something like, "Shut up- Ralphie!"

I had to take Tay back to the airport early Sunday morning so the holidays will be just a little less sweet for awhile. She'll be back in a few weeks, but it will be the tree and me for now.

Happy Holidays to all of our readers, advertisers, and partners. We hope the next five weeks are filled with joy, love, great food, memories, and good health. We're happy we're here, but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at Charles.V@PenCityCurrent.com.

Little pantry a good way to give back

PANTRY - Continued from Page 1

serve as a resource in our community to take what you may need and leave what you can give," said Laura Liegois, Fort Madison City Manager.

"The Little Free Food Pantry was a cooperative effort by all city departments and is a way for the city to give back to the community. We hope that this initiative will inspire others to contribute, whether through donations or simply sharing the word."

How It Works:

- Take what you need: The pantry is stocked with non-perishable food items such as canned goods, pasta, and cereal. It's especially helpful if items do not require additional ingredients beyond water for preparation, and cans with pull-top lids are ideal for ease of access.

- Give what you can: If you are able, please consider donating food items or hygiene products to help stock the pantry for others in need. Hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, and feminine products are always appreciated. During the winter months, we ask that you only donate dry goods as canned goods, and items with water content can freeze in the cold.

- Accessible all the Time: The pantry is available 24/7 for both people who need to take items and those who want to donate.

We encourage everyone to share this initiative with their friends, family, and neighbors so that it can have the greatest impact possible.

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