City moves on with new garbage plans

Current solid waste fee would be scrapped in favor of monthly garbage cart fee

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - City officials approved a proposal to buy 4,300 trash cans that will be required as each city address in the coming months.

At Tuesday's regular city council meeting, councilmen, city officials, and residents talked for more than an hour about the new program that would mandate city residents to either purchase a 65-gallon or 95-gallon roll-away garbage cart at a cost not to exceed $267,000. The measure was approved 5-1 with Councilman Kevin Rink voting against the purchase.

Laura Liegios, a consultant with Municipal Connections, the company the city has contracted to help inform the public about the new program, said it will help keep the community cleaner.

Currently, city residents pay a $15 solid waste fee as part of their water/sew- er bill. That bill includes picking up a maximum of two 40lb cans. That fee and program would be eliminated in lieu of the pur- chase of at least one of the two new carts. The 65-gal- lon cart would still be at the $15/month cost, while the 95-gallon can would be $17.50 per month. The smaller one is projected to hold six to eight 13-gallon trash bags, and the larger can is projected to hold 10-12 13-gallon bags.

Residents will not have the option of declining the program and the city will own the carts. Public Works Director Larry Driscoll said the program will go a long way in helping reduce the oc- currences of trash just be- ing thrown behind prop- erties. Building Director Doug Krogmeier showed the group about 12 slides where trash was piled up behind homes and hidden in overreaching weeds and tall grass.

"If we're going with these containers and they have it in a certain location, we put it back at the location," Driscoll said. "We just won't leave it in the alley. If it's next to the garage it will be returned to the garage." Varley said he's been part of complete transitions to automated collection in other cities and said the elderly were surprised how easy it was to move the carts. But he said if there are special occasions, the city will try to make things as customer friendly as possible.

City Councilman Robert Morawitz said he was concerned about terraced homes in his district and residents who would have to roll the carts all the way down to the street. Varley said the issue would really be similar to what they are doing now, but the city could look at neighbor- hood protocols that may allow the carts to be left on the curbline of the street. Morawitz also said he was concerned with purchasing the carts before the logis- tics had been worked out.

"The biggest issue I have with this is that we haven't taken care of the logistical issues before we do the purchase. I think we're doing it backwards. We should figure out how to take care of these issues before we do the purchase." See TRASH, page 6}

LCHD staff gets certifications

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - On February 23, 2018, four Lee County Health Department's HOPES/Healthy Families America program staff received a National Family Support Professional Certification award from the Institute for Advancement of Family Support Professionals. This award certifies these staff members have satisfactorily proven mastery of the National Core Competencies for Family Support Professionals. Three of LCHD's Family Support Workers and the HOPES/HFA Program Manager had to take a competency skills test based on their role and pass the certification test by a score of 80 or higher.

Staff who were awarded the certification and pictured at left include Amy Cook, Family Support Worker with LCHD since 2012, Laura DeFord, Family Support Worker with LCHD since 2013, Laurie Mullins, Family Support Worker with LCHD since 2012, and Jason Wayne Pohren, Family Support Worker with LCHD since 2013. Four LCHD staffers were recently honored with a National Family Support Professional certification.

See STAFF, page 6

FM man nabbed after car chase

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - An early morning high speed chase through Fort Madison and north Lee County led to an arrest of a 29-year-old Fort Madi- son man.

Fort Madison police tried to execute a stop on a broken headlight at about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday morning on a vehicle allegedly driven by Adam James Huss, Huss fled in the vehicle through Fort Madison's east end hitting speeds exceeding 75 mph down Avenue E toward Highway 61.

The chase turned north with two Fort Madison Police vehicles and a Lee County Sheriff's deputy in pursuit. Law en- forcement pursued Huss on Hwy 61 hitting speeds of more than 90 mph. Huss turned onto the Hwy 61 bypass north of Fort Madison and led law enforcement north to Waver.

Several attempts were made to slow the vehi- cle on 61 including Lee County Sheriff's deputies pulling in front of Huss.

See CHASE, page 3

OPINION:

Former school board member says new school is right thing for Fort Madison.

See page 3
Jason Wayne Pohren, 39, of Hamilton, IL, went to be with the Lord on March 19, 2018.

He was born on September 28, 1978 in Burlington, IA, the son of Gary Wayne and Norma Jean Church Pohren. Jason graduated from Keokuk Senior High School. He graduated with highest honors, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement Administration he was selected to enter the pipefitter apprenticeship program. He successfully completed the four-year program and attained journeyman status as a pipefitter and welder. Jason then entered Western Illinois University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration.

He later attended Southern Illinois University Law School in Carbondale, IL where he graduated with highest honors, Magna Cum Laude. He was awarded the academic excellence award and the Illinois Legislative Scholarship by the late Representative Richard F. Myers. During his law school career, he served as a judicial intern of Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier. Jason also served as a law clerk for the SIU Ombudsman’s Office where he authored criminal appeals for college students.

After graduation from WIU he accepted employment with the Hamilton, IL Police Department and was named “Top Cop” by the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists in 2002, 2003 and 2004. He was also awarded the Life Saving Medal and the Investigation Commendation Medal.

After graduation from law school, he began employment with the Milwaukee, WI based personal injury law firm of Hausmann-McNally, S.C. He was employed with the firm for six years and practiced law in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Federal District Court of the Northern District of Illinois. As an attorney with Hausmann-McNally, he successfully tried over one hundred cases before jury trial, arbitration and mediation. Jason managed the firm’s Rockford, IL office and was responsible for representing the firm in Freedom of Information Act litigation in the State of Illinois. In addition, he served as an Arbitrator and Arbitration Chairperson for the 17th Judicial District. He also attended Northwestern University where he received training in Divorce and Civil Mediation. While employed with Hausmann-McNally, Jason maintained his law enforcement certifications and served as a patrolman and field training officer on a part-time basis for the Hamilton and Nauvoo Police Departments. Jason was elected to be the Hancock County State’s Attorney in 2014 and was currently serving in that office. He had recently been nominated to the office of President of the Hancock County Bar Association for 2018. Most recently he started Midwest Family Mediation which provided professional family mediation services for the 9th Judicial Circuit of Illinois and the 8th Judicial Circuit of Iowa.

He was a member of the Golden Point Christian Church in Hamilton, IL, the Hancock County Republican Central Committee, the Hancock County Teen Court Board, the Illinois Bar Association and the Hancock County Bar Association. Jason was a gifted woodworker and one of his special projects was crafting a quilt cabinet for his mother. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting and being involved in community activities. Jason especially enjoyed spending time with his son, Juris and helping him with his athletic and academic endeavors. They enjoyed playing video games together and watching baseball games. Jason and Juris made a special trip to the East coast for a major league baseball game tour.

His is survived by his son, Juris Pohren, his fiancé, Phoebe Wilson of Carthage, IL, one sister, Kimberly Taylor (Brett) of Cedar Rapids, IA, one brother, Michael Wayne Pohren of Burlington, IA, one uncle & aunt, Steve & Paula Pohren of Farmington, IA, four nephews, Colton Pohren of Burlington, IA, Clayton Pohren of Middletown, IA, Jadon Taylor and Wesley Taylor both of Cedar Rapids, IA, one great-nephew, Jensen Adams of Lewistown, MO, cousins, Chris and Terra Pohren of Farmington, IA, great-aunt and uncle, Jo & Terry Havel of Lone Tree, IA, several great aunts, his future mother-in-law, Lois Wilson of Carthage IL, future sister-in-law Debbie Boyles and husband Tony and their children, Holly, Johnathan and Cole, his best friends, Jason Zenk and Nick Jamerson, and many other friends and co-workers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother in infancy, Gary Pohren, Jr., his maternal and paternal grandparents, one aunt, Deborah Chevonic and one cousin, Laura Pohren. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday at the First Christian Church, 3476 Main Street in Keokuk with Pastor Larry Menschel officiating. Burial will be in the Harmony Cemetery in rural Carthage, IL. Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Friday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 5 – 8 p.m. A memorial of the family’s choosing will be established. On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.com.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Let’s Do The Right Thing

Dear Editor;

I know when people go to read this letter the comment may be that this is just a retired former teacher and former school board member wanting a new school. I am not going to give you the educational information on why we need a new school since you have heard it many times in the past two years. That information has not changed, so I will not restate it again. I am retired and living on a fixed income as many of you are. But, I know that if we are going to have new schools, roads, and many things completed in our community, it must be done with taxes. No one wants to pay more taxes, but if we want to continue to grow and prosper we need to step forward and get things done.

I read about the many questions that people pose about the new school and why it is needed. Before you vote and make a decision, I ask you to go and get answers to your questions. Ask the people of the FMCSD? Ask the school administration, teachers, principals, parents, students about your concerns with a new school. Take the time to set up a tour of Richardson and Lincoln. Check out the classroom sizes, the wiring, pipes running through the buildings, tour the boiler room, check out the warning signs, and see what is taking place throughout the buildings. You may be surprised! If you want to find out about all the myths about the new Middle School, do the same and go check the school out and ask questions. Again, you may be surprised. The school district has done a fantastic job keeping the new elementaries running and safe for our students and teachers this past 100 years. You will also see many smiling and happy faces on our students and teachers working and doing a fantastic job. While you are at it, check out the student achievement scores and activities in our district and the state report cards on our district. You might be surprised on how well we are doing and how much our students and teachers are accomplishing.

When I talk with others it seems to be the consensus that new schools bring businesses and industry, and people to our community. For Fort Madison and surrounding communities to grow and prosper, this might be the kick start to get that going. It is time to think about the future of our communities and what we can do to make them better and grow. This can and will be the first step in that direction.

I ask you to think about the future and vote YES on April 3.

Timm Lamb
Retired Teacher and Former School Board Member
Marketing Director
We are in search of a candidate for a possible opening as Marketing Director for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools. This is a part-time position with full benefits, which may become full-time. Duties include all marketing for the school system including advertising, press releases, public relations, etc. Successful candidate will be responsible for social media, event planning, and helping with recruitment and retention. Facilitating the current International Student program is also part of the position.

Marketing Degree or several years of marketing experience is a plus. Necessary qualifications include excellent written, verbal, social media and interpersonal communication skills.

Send resume to: Michael Sheremata 2600 Ave A Fort Madison, IA 52627

FULL-TIME DAYCARE ASSOCIATE
Holy Trinity Early Childhood Center has a full-time daycare associate position available immediately. This is a year-round, benefits eligible position. Candidates must be able to complete DHS required trainings and pass a background check.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at stefanie.drollinger@holytrinityschools.org or 319-372-6428 for application information.

Drivers Wanted!!
We are looking for safe, dependable drivers to join our fleet of regional freight haulers. We Require: A Class A CDL and a minimum age of 23 years.

We Offer: A $1500 sign on bonus, bi-annual safety bonuses, health insurance, vacation time (up to 4 weeks), a Christmas Club, a Simple IRA retirement plan with company match and very competitive wages.

We Operate: Late model equipment. 100% dry van freight. 99% no touch freight. We value home time as well! Our drivers are through Fort Madison a couple times per week and off on weekends! Call or E-Mail us today!

Installation & Service Technician
Looking for highly motivated individual to join our team to provide installation and maintenance on plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems. Full-time opening with benefits.

Skills and qualifications:
• Great customer service with high integrity
• Valid driver’s license with clear driving record and criminal history
• Experience working in HVAC or plumbing field a plus
• Apprenticeship program available
• Necessary tools provided
• Weekends, Overtime & Evenings as needed

Benefits:
• Competitive pay with year round full-time employment
• Paid holidays and vacation
• Health insurance
• Retirement plan with company match
• Company match and very competitive wages
• Great customer service

We Require:
• A Class A CDL
• Necessary tools provided
• Great customer service

Watch our video for additional information.

WANTED!!!
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City staff to hold meetings on new program

about elderly people, and people on terraced areas with no alleys and how we're going to pick it up. We're buying this stuff and how are we going to use it now," Morawitz said.

Varley said the city could try to address those issues in neighborhoods and then would have a good idea of how to head off some issues prior to rolling out the carts.

Councilman Mark Lair asked at what point would the city charge extra if people came by and put their trash in someone else's cart.

“We can “if” this thing to death,” Varley said. “But if something like what you said happens we’ll put it on the list and if it goes in we’re gonna take it.”

Councilman Travis Sieidel said you can’t wax your car til you buy it.

“The are just things that are going to have be tweaked. As usual, we can’t please everyone, but we’re just going to have iron out the wrinkles as we go,” he said.

Liegois said part of her contract is to be in Fort Madison through the delivery of the carts and to make sure communication services are being handled during the roll-out. She said three public meetings will be held prior to rolling out the program, plus a post card campaign outlining the program will also be conducted. The post card program will come out at least three weeks prior to delivery. Residents will be able to go online and pick which cart they would prefer, with the 65-gallon cart being the default if none were chosen.

Beau Sullivan of Rehrig Pacific Co., who will be supplying the trash carts, said the carts have a 10-year lid-to-wheel warranty and the city would be responsible for picking up the cart for repair and replacing.

Liegois said there will be a social media campaign to keep residents informed. She said there will also be an information piece included with delivery that will talk about the city’s recycling program.

“I think it will be an easy painless process,” Driscoll said. “It’s a good investment for the city and it will help keep the community cleaner.”

Councilman Rusty Andrews said the debate was good and he was happy to see all the public comments and the discussion, but he said the city has issues now that have to be managed and this program can be managed as well. In other action, the council

• voted 5-1 to approve a resolution ratifying a settlement agreement with the Teamsters Local 238, Water Dept. Morawitz voted against the resolution saying he didn’t like that there were permissables left out of the contract.
• voted 6-0 to adopt a resolution authorizing a loan agreement for $1.7 million on water revenue capital loan notes for the city water tower rehabilitation.

HOPES staff certified

with LCHD since 1998, and Missy Park, Program Manager who has been with LCHD since 2001.

Lee County Health Department has been providing HOPES/Healthy Families America home visiting services to families with children ages 0-5 in Lee County since 1996 using the Healthy Families America evidenced-based model. LCHD’s HOPES/HFA program is a HFA Nationally Accredited program funded by grants received from the Iowa Department of Public Health, Early Childhood Iowa Children First, and with local county support.

For more information about LCHD’s home visiting program services please contact Missy Park, Program Manager at 319-372-5225.

The new roll-away garbage carts the city has purchased are shown here with the 95-gallon can on the far right. The 65-gallon can is to its left compared to other current containers being used in the city.