Fireworks code change gets 2nd read

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - An ordinance that basically reverses the city's position on the use of commercial grade fireworks within city limits, is back in front of the city council on Tuesday.

A motion to approve a first reading that bans the use of first or second class fireworks within city limits passed unanimously on Nov. 5. However, Fort Madison mayor Brad Randolph was not in attendance at the meeting. Randolph had suggested after hearing complaints from city residents, that the city revisit current code, which followed a two-year state law that allowed commercial use of fireworks for about 60 days each year.

Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig and Fire Chief Joey Herren put together a new ordinance that reduced the use of the higher grade fireworks down to six days total around the Fourth of July holidays and the New Year.

That proposal was put in front of the council last week and Councilman Bob Morawitz made a motion to not allow any first or second class fireworks without a city permit. Low grade fireworks like sparklers, smoke bombs, and snakes are still allowed.

That motion was seconded by Matt Mohrfeld and passed unanimously to the appreciation of residents in attendance to hear the discussion.

The move needs three approved readings before it becomes part of city code. However, according to state law, the third reading can be waived with a majority vote.

Wine... and cheese!

Participants of the annual Fort Madison Main Street Wine Walk get cheesy at a packed Under the Sun Friday night at part of the annual holiday Wine Walk in downtown Fort Madison. More than 20 businesses sponsored wineries, distilleries, and microbrews for three hours in the Main Street District. The Elks Lodge, below left, held a soup supper during the festivities.
CURRENT-LEE

FORT MADISON - The following is full list of events happening in the north Lee County area as submitted to Pen City Current.

Fort Madison Lighted Parade
The annual Fort Madison downtown lighted parade will take place on Nov. 23 beginning at 6:30 p.m. along Avenue G.

Enchanted Forest
The forest is back and will feature locally created Christmas trees sponsored by area businesses. The forest will be held at the old Lee County Bank building on Avenue G on Nov. 23 following the parade, Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Santa on hand from 10 a.m. to noon. and Dec. 1, 8, 25 and 22nd from 1 to 4 p.m.

Mistletoe on Main Street
The annual holiday downtown celebration will be held on Nov. 24 in downtown Fort Madison.

Community Blood Drives
The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will be holding a blood drive on Dec. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m at Holy Trinity Catholic’s Shottenkirk Gymnasium.

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington
Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2:00 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

Community Thanksgiving
The annual Community Thanksgiving meal in Fort Madison will be held beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Madison High School on Thursday, Nov. 22 at FMHS. Volunteers and donations are needed. Email the chamber at chamber@fortmadison.com for details.

Caregivers Connection at The Kensington
The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington’s private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.

Coats for Hope 5K
The annual Coats for Hope 5K Fun Run will take place at the St. Paul Shelter House 2020 Locust St. on Dec. 1 beginning at 9 a.m. rain or shine. $20 entry fee or donating a children’s coat in good shape. Click here for registration and additional details https://www.pencitycurrent.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Coats-4-Hope-2018.pdf

Lee County Conservation art program
Lee County Conservation is hosting a drawing program on Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Conservation Center at Heron Bend with art instructor Heidi Merrick from the Burlington Art Center. Pre-registration required by Nov. 28 by calling 319-463-7673. $5 per participant.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<tr>
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<td>6:20 pm</td>
<td>9:26 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
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<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>Lotto America™</td>
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<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
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<td>9:40 pm</td>
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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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Our Hospice Services Include:
- 24/7 on-call nursing staff
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  - Digital Inspection Reports
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Did you know that November is National Diaper Drive Month and 1,200 infants to toddlers 3 years of age in Lee County are in need of diapers. 1 in 3 American families don’t have enough diapers to keep their babies (and toddlers) clean, dry, and healthy? That is a staggering number of struggling families. With your help and the help of our community, we can make a difference for our Lee County families today!

RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL $10 OFF any service at Griffins when you donate a package of diapers during the month of November!

Mention this coupon at time of service!

$25 OFF
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$75 OFF
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Excludes tires and batteries. Cannot combine with any other offers. One time use only. Valid for a limited time only!

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$10 OFF OIL CHANGE
Includes FREE Seasonal Check Up:
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- Suspension
- All Fluid Levels
- Radiator & Coolant
- Tires Lights
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$50 OFF
Any Repair or Maintenance
Order $500 or More

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Order $750 or More

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Green Bay levee plans could back up water to the north

Levee is already higher than authorized; district wants to add another foot to protection

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

WEVER - A proposal from the Green Bay drainage district to increase the height of the district’s levy has many in the area concerned about the resulting impact to other area land.

The Green Bay Levee & Drainage District No. 2 put in a request with Rock Island District Corps of Engineers at a minimum keep the current height which currently exceeds authorized limits.

The current earthen levee elevation is authorized to reach the 100-year flood plain level plus one foot according to the request. However in 2008, Green Bay raised the elevation to two feet higher than federal authorization. According to the report, it currently sits above the 100-year plus 3 feet elevation.

A new proposed increase would set the levee another foot higher at a 100-year plus 4 feet elevation.

The district cited flood risk management and reduced flood operations and costs as reasons to build up the levee.

The area has seen floods go over the 500-year flood plain twice in the past 25 years, including 1993 and 2008.

The district contends it protects 73 adults, 233 full-time jobs and $3.3 billion in fixed assets within the district, including a grain cooperative and the Iowa Fertilizer Co.

The request is currently in a month-long comment period where anyone with concerns can contact the corps until Nov. 30 via email at MV408@usace.army.mil.

Lee County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator Steve Cirrinna said he has some questions about the proposal and its impact to other area communities.

The report shows water surface impacts that would affect 16 towns along the Mississippi River at Pool 19, including among others, Burlington, Fort Madison, Keokuk, Montrose, Niota, Dallas City, and Pontoon.

Software projections for Fort Madison didn’t show additional flooding due to the Green Bay proposed change.

Software projections another year flood event would put most of the impact east and north of the drainage district with Dallas City, Lomax, Carman, Gulfport, and Burlington suffering additional flooding. Burlington is currently working to install flood gates in places downtown to help mitigate flooding issues.

Cirrinna said he’s concerned with the impact of the flooding north of the district. But he said he hasn’t had an opportunity to speak with the corps or Green Bay district chairman Mike Walker.

Several requests to reach Walker and other Green Bay District board members, including Ron Mueller and Rick Kuntz, for comment were unsuccessful.

“I have a lot of questions on this report,” Cirrinna said. “These projections are computer-generated and I think you need to go back and look at what actually happened in 1993.”

He said at some point the corps is going to have to say no to all these mitigation because it creates more pressure on other areas the water will go.

“Are they going to do something to protect those places behind the district?” I just don’t know. Are we setting a precedent where we are going to flood downtown Burlington but because you don’t have as many people they don’t allow it? There are just a lot of questions with this proposal,” Cirrinna said.

He said there are going to be additional flooding issues in those 500-year years but most seem to be across from the district and north.

“It’s gonna flood all kinds of places up in Burlington. Green Bay is doing their protection which is all well and good and Burlington does their protection. Everybody along the river is doing what they can to protect, but what you’ll have is this progressive backup,” Jack Curfman, Illinois Emergency Management Agency coordinator for Hancock County, declined to comment on the matter saying he didn’t have enough information to comment at the time.

The public comment period runs through Nov. 26.

 Empty Nest is re-enactment of author’s youth

ARE YOU THE 1?

1 in 3 American adults has prediabetes. That’s more than 84 million people!

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Happy Thanksgiving!

We wish you a very warm & wonderful Thanksgiving.

From our *PCC* family to yours

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, November 22 through Sunday, November 25. We’ll resume publication on Monday, November 26. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

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Local News/From the Front

Now is the Time to Start Preparing Our World for a Better Future

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Create an indoor space for all your recyclables. Recycling bins available at our Fort Madison & Keokuk facilities.

Go Paperless
Decrease your need for paper products. Choose paperless statements, use digital shopping lists & other documents.

Reuse
Instill new life into items you would normally throw away.

Compost
Build or purchase a composting bin for food & yard waste. Use your composted goods to build a healthy garden in the spring.

Go Waste Free
Make a conscious effort to stop using your waste bin. Recycle or compost any items that have an end-of-life solution.

Buy Recyclables
Only purchase what’s made to be recycled. Look for the recycling symbol on the packaging.

Backyard composting improves soil quality & makes for healthier plants!

City puts P.O.R.T. trail TAP grant on agenda

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

vote of the council.

Also on Tuesday’s agenda is an approval to apply for an Iowa Department of Transportation Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for funding to help pay for another section of the P.O.R.T. city recreational trail.

The funding would be used for a section of the trail beginning at the intersection of 48th Street and a vacant portion of Avenue L, running north approximately 2,000 feet to the intersection of River Valley Road and 48th Street.

Phase 3 of the P.O.R.T. trail was to run from 48th Street to the pond at Fort Madison Community Hospital. The new section would provide a safer running area along 48th Street as no sidewalk exists south of the Bluff Road on 48th Street until south of the Fort Madison Middle School entry drive on the east side only.

At last month’s Boo-Athlon, P.O.R.T. committee Chairman Rachel Benda, indicated Phase 3 may be a two-part phase where another loop could be created that runs close to the Sunnybrook Assisted Living Center along River Valley Road and back south to FMCH, but she said those plans were only in the discussion stages.

The meeting begins Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Harvestville Farm Christmas Season
Nov. 17 - Dec. 23
Mondays - Saturdays 9am - 5pm
Sundays 1 1am - 4pm

The Pitchfork Café
Mondays - Saturdays 11am - 2pm
beginning Nov. 26

Pictures with Santa
Saturday, Dec. 15 from 10am - 2pm

Harvestville Farm
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May your holidays be merry and bright.

KDME plans event for 15th year on the air

Fort Madison’s Catholic Radio Station is planning an event to mark 15 years on the air. The public is invited to celebrate with them at a Pasta Dinner. The event will be held on Saturday, December 1st after 4 pm Mass (approximately 5pm) at Roling Hall, across the street from Sacred Heart Church. After dinner, the group will play games and listen to a speaker. There will also be drawings for door prizes.

KDME is an affiliate of EWTN and members recently attended the November Radio conference in Birmingham, Alabama. The conference was held at the EWTN Studios where KDME was recognized for their 15th Anniversary.

KDME can be found at 98.3 FM in Fort Madison and at 97.7 in West Point.

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Matt Hellige said the team will still feature good outside shooters, but the difference will be the experience under their belts and the added height. The junior post player averaged right at a dozen points and five boards per game in his sophomore season.

“We have a lot of good shooters here. I think what’s different from last year, everyone grew about .5 to 2 inches and everyone seems a lot taller. We’re stronger and we’re not as young,” he said.

“Last year we only really had one senior and this year we have three seniors and then a bunch of juniors. I think everyone’s a lot more mature with the added experience. I think we’ll surprise some people this year.”

Seniors Brant Holtkamp and Adam Rauenbuehler will help provide leadership and ball handling for the Crusaders this year. The two combined for 52 assists last year with Rauenbuehler only playing in 13 games last year.

“I think we have a lot of young talent. We’ll probably have a smaller rotation than most and our juniors will make up the bulk of our lineup,” Holtkamp said.

“I think we can surprise some people hopefully. Our entire team is intact so we won’t change things a whole lot. Hopefully. Our entire team is intact so we won’t change things a whole lot. Hopefully. Our entire team is intact so we won’t change things a whole lot.”

Rauenbuehler, who’ll most likely handle the No. 1 or point guard position, said the team should be able to move inside and out this year and the team should move up the conference ladder.

“I think it will be pretty balanced outside and inside, but we’ll try to run more and get into fast breaks. I think New London will be up there again towards the top this year because they didn’t lose many players this year, but we’ll finish higher than we did last year.”

Schneider was 7th in conference in rebounding his sophomore year and we’ll look to build on that presence around the rim this year.

“I think we’re going to be a lot better this year. We were younger last year and we’ve improved a lot. We know everyone in the conference and how they play. Our weakness is that we’re not that tall, but we’re going to try and out hustle the other teams. You have Brant, Adam, and Reed on the outside with me and Matt in the post and we did pretty well with that lineup in the second half last year.”

Fehseke said Schneider may be the most improved player on the team.

“I think the team definitely has gotten bigger and stronger. Last year was a confidence builder. The whole season was like a trial for us to get ready for this year,” Fehseke said. “I think toward the end of the season we started getting confidence. Everyone in general has gotten a lot better. Quentin has really improved this year and he can shoot so much better this year. He’s really strong and can bulldoze through the middle.”

Fehseke finished the season at just under 13 points per game. He was second in the Southeast Iowa Super conference with 60.3 percent of his attempts beyond the arc, but also accounted for 103 turnovers in 22 games for almost five per outing. He said he’ll move around on the perimeter.

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Light Snow
High – 33.0º F | Low – 26.3º F

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SCHNEIDER
Hellige
FEHSEKE

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – HTC boys head basketball coach John Hellige must have put something in the water bottles at Holy Trinity Catholic last year as his Crusaders have seen a marked increase in the height of this year’s team.

The Crusaders are coming off a 5-18 campaign in a very talented Southeast Iowa Superconference South division last year. The Holy Trinity boys battled in the district post season play with an Iowa Mennonite squad in hostile territory that finished the year 21-4 and just missed going to state in Class 1A. HTC led several times including a 26-25 halftime lead, but a soft third quarter kept them from an upset win.

Hellige said this year’s squad is a good two inches taller on average and even though the Crusaders will still be one of the smaller squads, they will have an increase in size and experience.

“We’ve got everyone back other than Collin Thornton and Jason Reece. Collin was huge leader for us, but he was injured for more than half the season. We also have Adam Rauenbuehler back who missed a lot of the second half last year after a fall,” Hellige said. “When we measured everybody a couple weeks ago, we’ve increased in height. We don’t have a treetopper but we have a ton of growth.”

HTC is will also have the services of senior Kyle Bredemeyer who’s returning for his senior year after sitting out his junior year. Hellige said the senior will bring some muscle and some senior experience to the team.

Holy Trinity is banking on a 2017-18 sophomore squad that featured Matt Hellige, Reed Fehseke, and Quentin Schneider who accounted for about 75 percent of the team’s offense, for their junior year. Junior Blake Schneider is will also have the services of senior Kyle Bredemeyer who’s returning for his senior year after sitting out his junior year. Hellige said the senior will bring some muscle and some senior experience to the team.

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