City mulling options to fix downtown sidewalks, curbs

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Downtown business owners may still get new sidewalks and curbing despite the sinking of a project that would have infused $1.5 million into Avenue G’s deteriorating paving.

At Tuesday’s regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, a representative from HR Green and Associates told the city council that the city would be able to get one full block done and a portion of another with the money available.

HR Green are the engineers that told the city they could get initially four blocks done for the $1.5 million grant, which is money the city is paying in interest on loans secured for improvements at the waste water treatment plant.

Under the program the money can only be used for storm water improvement projects within the city. Regular city improvements like regular street and sidewalk rehabilitations or other standing city projects are not eligible for the funding unless they target better stormwater stewardship.

Now city officials are looking at possible reconstruction of all curbs and sidewalks without the pavers, planters, and subsurface that was being planned to better handle storm water runoff.

Property Works Director Larry Driscoll said the project would carry a cost of about $300,000 with the city paying $150,000 to $200,000 and property owners being assessed $1,500 over 10 years for their share of the costs.

Driscoll also suggested a franchise fee that would help with some of the costs.

Mayor Brad Randolph said the city needed to do more investigation of the funding to get the work done to make sure the city’s portion of the funding can be allocated.

Councilman Chris Greenwald said he’d heard many of the downtown businesses were relieved that the project was on thin ice.

"Another spin to this is that 50% of the business owners downtown were relieved when this project went away. They were scared to death of the construction interrupting business," said Councilman Chris Greenwald.

Gabbard to visit Fort Madison’s Sub Arena today

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Congresswoman, and 2020 Presidential hopeful U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), will be stumping in southeast Iowa on Wednesday afternoon.

Gabbard, a Democrat who was first elected to Congress in 2012, will be at a meet-and-greet and Sub Arena beginning at approximately 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The stop is part of an eight-city swing through Iowa this week including stops in Iowa City and Muscatine today. She spent time in the Des Moines metro area on Monday.

Gabbard has served on the Homeland Security and Foreign Affairs committees in Congress and currently serves on the House Armed Services and Financial Services committees.

She is a 16-year veteran of the Army National Guard and is one of the first female combat veterans ever elected to Congress. She is currently a major in the Army National Guard.

Gabbard was also the vice-chair of the Democratic National Committee from 2013 to 2016.

Gabbard is also scheduled to be in Mt. Pleasant at 1 p.m. and Burlington at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
LOIS M. CAVANAUGH

Lois M. Cavanaugh, 93, of Fort Madison, Iowa passed away Saturday, April 13, 2019 at The Madison. She was born on June 7, 1925 in Chicago, Illinois, to Ziska and Sarah Argast. She married Thomas Cavanaugh in 1948, and he preceded her in death in 1960. Lois lived most of her life in Nauvoo, and was a graduate of Nauvoo High School and Gem City Business College. She worked at Sheaffer Pen Company for 35 years, and was a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Nauvoo. She especially enjoyed traveling to all 50 states and Canada, and on several cruises. She is survived by her daughter, Suzette Cavanaugh Singer of Seaside, California. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

LARRY LEE DEMING

Larry Lee Deming, 76 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 2:57 am Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. He was born June 26, 1942 in Oregon, the son of Dora Frieda (Gilbert) Deming. On October 21, 2000, he married Christine Alice “Tina” (Thomas) Ahlen in Nevada. Larry was a Navy Seal and served during the Vietnam War. He was a Residential Advisor with Sierra Nevada Job Corp. He is survived by his wife, Christine Alice “Tina” Deming of Fort Madison; one daughter, Mary (Lance) Kehn of Ottumwa, Iowa; John (Tami) Ahlen of Fort Madison; Don (Teresa) Ahlen of Fort Madison; and Mark Ahlen of Iowa; nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law and mother-in-law. No formal services are planned. Private burial will be at Nauvoo Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Christ Lutheran Church, and contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Deming Family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Lois lived most of her life in Nauvoo, and was a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Nauvoo. She especially enjoyed traveling to all 50 states and Canada, and on several cruises. She is survived by her daughter, Suzette Cavanaugh Singer of Seaside, California. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

No services are planned. Private burial will be at Nauvoo Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Christ Lutheran Church, and contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Cavanaugh Family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.
LEE COUNTY – Last year Live Healthy Lee County (LHLC) started the Senior Produce Box Project. The goal of the project was to provide fresh produce donations at senior living and meal sites. The other goal was to have at least two participating sites. The project ended with seven sites, and over 4,400 pieces of donated produce. In 2019, LHLC hopes to see the success grow.

"All of the sites from last year have signed on again to participate, and we have a couple more we are working on getting signed on," said Emily Biddenstadt, Lee County Health Department Community Health Program Manager and LHLC coalition facilitator. "Our biggest challenge is receiving donations. We work with several producers, but the average gardener can donate as well."

The yellow and green produce donation boxes will be located at Donnellson Housing, Heritage Center (Keokuk), Hillview Village (Fort Madison), Mississippi Terrace (Keokuk), Newberry Center (Fort Madison), Park View Apartments (West Point), and River Terrace (Keokuk). Denmark Star Park will also have a community table. Anyone interested in donating fresh produce to the project can leave the donations in the produce boxes that are located in the community rooms.

"Since we are still receiving grant funds for the project we are needing to track as much donated produce as possible," Biddenstadt said.

At each site is a binder with a tracking form. No personal information is needed, just the type of produce being donated along with the amount. If someone is unable to drop-off their donation they can call the Lee County Health Department. Lee County Health Department received funding from the Iowa Department of Public Health and SNAP-Ed to plan and coordinate the sourcing and distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables. The project is NOT to take away from producers who accept Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program, but to get fresh produce in the hands of those who are unable to attend a market.

"We do receive donations from some farmer’s market vendors, however we do not receive them every week. We highly encourage seniors to take advantage of the Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program. That way, if they are able, they can attend a market to pick their own produce, while helping a local producer," she said.

Last year also saw the start-up of the LHLC Garden at the Lee County Conservation site. That project has also grown this year with the addition of a garden bed. The ISU Extension & Outreach plans on continuing their summer Youth Garden Camp where they teach kids about gardening, when produce is ready to be picked, and how delicious fresh produce can taste.

The biggest challenge of these projects is the need of volunteers. If anyone is interested in donating their time to helping deliver produce, assisting at the LHLC Garden or at the garden camp they can contact Biddenstadt at (319)372-5225.

Submitted article

MONES - Gov. Kim Reynolds released the following statement after the Iowa Senate voted in a strong bipartisan manner to pass HF 690, legislation to create a statewide children’s mental health system:

"Today we moved closer to establishing a first of its kind statewide children’s mental health system, one of my top priorities for this year. Iowans understand this crucial effort has the potential to improve and even save lives. I commend the Iowa Legislature on their bipartisan approach to get this done and look forward to signing this bill once it reaches my desk."

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Fairfield girls too much for Fort Madison

Trojans bring two of state’s best in Gaskell, Charoenkul as Lady Hounds fall 8-1

BY ETHAN LILLARD
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – For Fairfield senior Anatta Charoenkul, Tuesday’s matchup with Fort Madison appeared to be much like any other. For Fort Madison’s Lanie Kuntz, Tuesday was going to be the one of the toughest matches she would play all season.

With Charoenkul and No. 2 singles player Yana Gaskell, probably the best one-two punch in the state, in tow, the Trojans handed Fort Madison an 8-1 loss in Fort Madison.

Kuntz battled back multiple times during her match with two-time state champion Charoenkul, but the three-peat hopeful came away with an 8-0 victory. The Bloodhounds No. 2, Larissa Ferrill, may not have been playing a past state champion, but she was paired up with one of the best underclassmen she will see this year in Yana Gaskell. Much like Kuntz, Ferrill played her best possible match, but Gaskell proved to be too much, coming away with another 8-0 sweep.

Zoe Ramatowski nearly gave Fort Madison a tally in the win column, but fell short 9-7 against Fairfield’s No. 3, Nellie Higdon. The Bloodhounds No. 4, Kirklynn Nafziger, was the lone singles competitor to record a win for Fort Madison Tuesday, as Lily Cadwallader dropped her set 8-4 against Tess Paton. Alyse Schmidt pushed Fairfield’s Destiny Gridley to an 8-8 tie, but Gridley shut out Schmidt in the tiebreaker 7-0 for the win.

Doubles were more successful for the Hounds in terms of total points scored, but not in terms of wins. Kunts and Ferrill teamed up in an attempt to take down Charoenkul and Abby Schaefer, but fell just short 9-7. Ramatowski and Nafziger paired together to face the combo of Gaskell and Higdon, but the underclassman was too much, helping Fairfield come away with the 8-2 win. Cadwallader and Schmidt were the final pair of Hounds in doubles, dropping their set 8-5 to Paton and Gridley, giving Fairfield the 8-1 win.

“The final score does not show it, but we put up a good fight tonight, ” Fort Madison Head Coach Jeremy Swink said. “It’s no secret how tough Yana and Anatta are. There is no doubt they are the two best players in the state, props to Larissa and Lanie for being up for the challenge to take them on.

“Those two aside, our three through six matches in singles were competitive, our girls fought and didn’t give up. We still have a few things we need to work on, but I am proud of our girls tonight for not giving up.”

Fort Madison will have another crack on their home court Thursday as they take on Mount Pleasant in a makeup game from March 26.
Hounds win CL boys invite

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

DONELSON — Personal records continue to fall as the boys on the Fort Madison track team brought home another first-place finish in what was supposed to be a rebuilding year with two new co-coaches.

Fort Madison’s Ethan Deacon brought home his first top finish of the year setting a new personal best for him in the shot put with a heave of 41’-4”. Deacon also took 2nd in the discus with a spin of 121’-4”.

Other top finishers for the Hounds, who won the meet overall with 129 points, included Matt Hellige in the mile run. Hellige continues to drop his mile run times in the distance runs setting a new personal best for him in the shot put with a heave of 41’-4”, Deacon also took 2nd in the discus with a spin of 121’-4”.

Several other Hounds had personal bests at the meet including senior Alec Craft through his season best 57.89 to earn 10 points for Fort Madison. The 4x400 relay team of Brock Califf, Garrett Hannum, Andrew Schaefer and Schneider was another first-place finish for the Hounds with a time of 3:37.10.

Fort Madison got another second-place finish in the 800-sprint medley with Schaefer, Michael Mosena, Califf and Hannum running a time of 1:44.72.

Califf took third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 56.04, while the 1600-meter medley of Gavin Wiseam, Romeo Maestro, Mikey DiPrima and Rhoer came in third with a time of 4:15.29. Hannum had the other top three finishes for the Hounds with a 2:12.74 mark.

Several other Hounds had personal bests at the meet including senior Levi Sissel 6-2, 6-0.

Junior Quentin Schnei der was tops in the 400-meter hurdles with a season best 57.89 to earn 10 points for Fort Madison. The 4x400 relay team of Brock Califf, Garrett Hannum, Andrew Schaefer and Schneider was another first-place finish for the Hounds with a time of 3:37.10.

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Fort Madison takes down Fairfield on the road

FAIRFIELD – The Fort Madison Bloodhound boys tennis team continues to plow through opponents with a 7-2 win Tuesday night in Fairfield.

The Bloodhounds top five players have not lost in singles or doubles action all year.

At No. 1 singles, senior Sam Aver dispatched AJ Greiner with 6-0, 6-0 shutout. Jason Thurman, playing at No. 2 singles downed the Trojans’ Noel Peterson 6-4, 6-1 and Vasin Thurman downed Will Sheppard 6-2, 6-3 in the No. 3 spot.

At No. 4, junior Reed Feheke knocked off Blake Holden 6-4, 6-3. Feheke is in his first year of high school tennis and has not lost a match in singles or doubles play.

The Trojans got their two wins at Nos. 5 and 6 singles, when Brian Parcel defeated Bryce Workman 6-4, 6-3 and then Michael Holt downed Fort Madison’s Levi Sissel 6-2, 6-0.

Fort Madison then swept the doubles action with the Thurman brothers playing Greiner and Sheppard to a 6-1, 6-0 loss. Avery and Feheke knocked off Petterson and Holden by the same 6-3, 6-3 scores.

Workman and Sissel teamed up to down Fairfield’s Dylan Barras and Sam Matton 6-3, 6-4.

Fort Madison will test their undefeated season when the Hounds travel to Burlington to take on the Grayhounds at Dankwardt Park on Thursday afternoon.
HELP WANTED

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTOR

Lee County Health Department seeks a full-time Environmental Health Inspector to perform field work with professional responsibilities relating to enforcement of laws, regulations and standards including, food establishment inspections, food safety, hotel/motel licensure and inspections, private water wells, water quality, private sewage disposal systems, public swimming pools & SPA, tattoo, tanning inspections, lead inspections, public health nuisance and general sanitation.

Qualifications include: Bachelor’s degree in the natural or physical sciences or related field; OR an equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. One (1) year of experience in public health or related field preferred.

COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED

RSVP: United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator

Do you like to garden and work outdoors? Do you like to plan, plant and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual this Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2006 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less…Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call – Tammy Wilson at 319-372-8043.

Administrative Assistant for Homecare, Hospice, and Environmental Programs

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant for Homecare, Hospice, and Environmental Programs. This position will be responsible for scheduling, data entry into various computer programs, and other general office duties. The applicant must have knowledge/experience in Microsoft office programs and general office procedures. Must have organizational and communication skills and an ability to work efficiently in a team environment. If interested send resume to Tammy Wilson at twilson@leecountyhd.org by April 26, 2019. Lee County Health Department is an EOE.

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 Classifieds

the classifieds
City may take storm water funding to parking lots

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

“It would be interesting to get that organized and get their input, especially if we’re talking about special assessments.”

The project garnered just one bidder at $3.4 million coming in $1.9 million over HR Green's projected estimate of $1.5 million to redo Avenue G's curbs and sidewalks from 6th to 10th Street. With the city not having the funds to make up the difference, the city is moving to redoing two city-owned parking lots with storm water improvements at an estimated cost of $850,000.

The two lots would be the parking lot directly behind city hall and the city lot on the southeast corner of Avenue F and 8th Street.

Greenwald asked Driscoll if he thought parking lots were the best use of the money.

“I do now,” Driscoll said.

Councilman Matt Mohrfeld asked if the $850,000 was a legitimate estimate.

“All with due respect, is that going to come in at $2.5 million?” Mohrfeld asked.

Driscoll said the first step would be to do soil borings to see what was under the lots and, if it didn’t make sense, they could pull back before spending too much money.

Salute to Small Business Breakfast

The Fort Madison Chamber will be holding it's annual Community Clean up on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to noon. with registration at Central Park. Free lunch will follow in the park. Call the Chamber at 372-5471 to register and for details.

Holy Family Parish breakfast

Roling Hall will be the site for a Easter Sunday, April 21, pancake breakfast beginning at 9:30 a.m. A free-will donation will help defray costs of the HFP youth attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis.

FM Partners Paint-A-Thon

Volunteers are need for the annual Paint-A-Thon taking place April 22-27 in Fort Madison. Contact Fort Madison Partners at 372-5471 to volunteer.

BSC Auction, Social Tour

The 2nd annual event will be held on April 27, 2019 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Baxter Sports Complex with transportation by SEIBUS. Dinner will follow by Fat Jimmy’s Smokehouse and the auction begins at 7 p.m.

Soroptimist Princess Tea Party

The annual Princess Tea Party is set for Saturday, May 11th at Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison. Ages 3-5 will attend from 10 a.m. to noon, while 6 and up will attend from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Registration deadline is April 5. For more information email Dr. Lauri Wondra at laurisorop@gmail.com.

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