City to upgrade water treatment plant ops

SCADA system first on the list to replace at 9-year-old plant

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City officials stopped just short Tuesday of approving a quarter-million dollar automation system for the city’s water treatment plant. At Tuesday’s regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, public works director Larry Driscoll told the council the SCADA system, which stands for Supervisor Control and Data Acquisition, is needed to improve efficiency at the water treatment plant.

The current SCADA system online at the plant was installed when the plant was built in 2010. Driscoll approached the council several months ago with expansion plans including providing water service to Scott’s Miracle Gro.

Plans included three upgrades, the first of which is the SCADA system, which is all the control operations to run the plant. The second was to add a sand filter, and the third would be a sixth well for water production.

"With or without Scotts, the SCADA system needs to be completed and so does the sand filter so those are the two items I want to move forward with," he said.

The SCADA system carried a cost of $377,000, but Driscoll said that included a camera system that he has since removed from the upgrade, cutting the cost to $266,000.

Councilman Matt Mohrfeld asked if it would be big issue to table the purchase since he received the report about eight hours before the council meeting.

"As I read that report, it’s one that merits re-reading. Not that I don’t trust you by any means, everything..." See COUNCIL, page 4

Artists take over Central Park Sunday

BY BRIAN RIGGS
Fort Madison Area Arts Association Director

FORT MADISON – Ft. Madison’s Art-in-Central Park has well over a decade of family fun Sundays under their belt since FMAAA brought the event back to town. Over twenty visual artists will be displayed under the shade trees of Central Park this Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., showing you a variety of mediums. Musical performances will crank out the tunes in the gazebo in the afternoon. The Kid’s Art Fun Zone will be in flow from 12:30-2:30 p.m. by the playground. A Microbrew BBQ awaits visitors in the shelter house featuring The Lost Duck Brewery’s pulled pork sandwiches. Axalta Coating Systems is the Event sponsor for this cultural arena at Central Park on Sunday. This event fills the park and has something for everyone in the family.

The Kid’s Art Fun Zone will run from 12:30-2:30 p.m. around the playground. Popular Sweet Mimi the Balloon Clown is back in action. Susan Buehler will man the Halloween figurine ceramics painting booth. Pumpkins for Painting will again be available as has proven to be a winner in the past. Kid’s Art Fun Zone is sponsored by Seither & Cherry Inc.

Music in the gazebo kicks off at noon with one-man-band veteran Beethoven Wayne, sponsored by Jim Baier Inc. Bocephus sings and plays guitar, man-band veteran Bocephus Wayne, sponsored by Jim Baier Inc. Bocephus sings and plays guitar, snaredrum, and harmonica all at the same time. Artist will take over Central Park again this Sunday for the annual Art in Central Park put on by the Fort Madison Area Arts Association.

The Hillsiders bluegrass style will start pickin-and-grinnin around 1 p.m., sponsored by MidWestOne

See FMAAA, page 8

Fall citywide clean-up, hydrant flushing set

City sets three days aside for clean up

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The City of Fort Madison will be conducting City Wide Fall Clean Up October 10-12. Fort Madison residents may bring their refuse to the central location at the City lot at 15th Street & Avenue I between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Oct 10 & Oct 11) and 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Oct 12).

Residents must provide a valid form of identification and City Water Bill in order to place refuse items in dumpsters. Please call 372-7700 x 201 for more information or check the City Website at http://www.fortmadison-ia.com/.

There are many residents within the City of Fort Madison who cannot bring or do not have the capability to bring their items to the central location site at 15th Street.

See CITY, page 8

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Kenneth A. “Kenny” Grant, 73, of Keokuk, IA passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, February 24th, 2019. He was born to Fred and Veronica Ronnenberg Grant on October 8th, 1945 in Winona, Minnesota.

Kenny is survived by his siblings Richard (Pat) Grant, Ruth-Jeanne Aikin, Don (Kate) Grant, Carol Grant, Nancy Zetes, Fred (Liz) Grant, Dorie (Mark) Ettrim, Mike Grant, and Sharon (Bryan) Simonson as well as many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews and best friend Mike Rooney “Roon-dawg”.

Kenny proudly served in the United States Army.

Kenny lived and worked in Quincy, IL for several years before he moved to Keokuk. He had been employed as a mechanic, for the City of Keokuk, for twenty-one years, until his retirement in 2009.

Kenny was an active member of the American Legion Post #41, VFW, and Southside Boat Club all in Keokuk.

A graveside service with military rites will be held at 2:30 p.m., Friday in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Family and friends will meet at the American Legion Post #41 in Keokuk, immediately following the service.

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

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.
HTC seniors named to National Merit program

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – Jason Woodley, principal of Holy Trinity Catholic High School announced today that Wyatt Hellman and Samantha Pothitakis have been named Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, has been presented by the principal to these scholastically talented seniors. Wyatt Hellman and Samantha Pothitakis both received Commended Students letters from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for performances on the PSAT and NMSQT tests earlier this year. Photo Courtesy of Holy Trinity Catholic High School

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2020 competition for National Merit Scholarship Awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

"Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC.

"These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

Wyatt Hellman and Samantha Pothitakis both received Commended Students letters from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for performances on the PSAT and NMSQT tests earlier this year.

No Plastic Bags in the recycling bins

When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please DO NOT put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.

For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!

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Lee County News/From the Front

Task Force makes three area felony meth arrests
BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force has arrested three individuals on unrelated felony and misdemeanor drug charges between September 7th and September 12th.

Warren Bullard, 43, of Ft. Madison, Iowa was arrested on September 7th, 2019 in the 2200 block Ave L, Ft. Madison, IA for an outstanding warrant along with felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Bullard is charged with Possession with the Intent to Deliver More Than Five Grams of Methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a school a class B felony with enhancements, Possession of Marijuana a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia a simple misdemeanor.

Laura Nelligan, 23, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 9th, 2019, in the 500 Block of Johnson Street in Keokuk, for Delivery of Less than Five Grams of Methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a public park a class B felony with enhancements.

Mike Smith, 29, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 9th, 2019 in the 2200 block of South 7th St. in Keokuk, IA for Possession of More than Five Grams of Methamphetamine with the Intent to Deliver while in Possession of a Firearm a class B felony with enhancements, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon a class D felony, Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd or subsequent offense a class D Felony, Possession of Marijuana a class B Misdemeanor, assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

Plans for the water treatment plant top $2M
COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

on the surface looked good, but typically on a $266,000 investment, I wouldn’t mind looking through the details of the report,” Mohrfeld.

Driscoll said the filter will cost the department $500,000 and the new well will cost the department $1.4 million over estimated cost. He said, in answer to Councilman Rusty Andrews question, the cost will fit in the budget and the new system would reduce the need for manpower at the plant, but Driscoll said he wouldn’t recommend cutting anymore staff from the plant.

“This would give us the option, especially on weekends, to operate without it being manned,” Driscoll said. “This also prepares the city for the lack of operators that we don’t get. In order to be at the plant you have to be a grade 2 operator, otherwise you can’t operate out there by yourself.”

The purchase will likely be back in front of the council at its next regular meeting Oct. 1.

In other action, the council:

• set a public hearing in two weeks to consider a $2.83 million bid to build a platform at the former Amtrak depot, where city officials hope to move the depot in the near future. The $2.83 million bid is $1.4 million over estimated cost from Klinger’s Associates.

• approved filing an application for federal funds to help offset costs of Phase IV of the PORT trail, which is a 10 foot sidewalk from Avenue L, north on 48th Street to River Valley Road.

• appointed Mike Benda to the Civil Service Commission and reappointed Zach Peper to the Airport Commission.
The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Bloodhound Booster Events
The Fort Madison Bloodhound Booster Club is hosting a BINGO night on Sept. 21, at the LULAC in Fort Madison. Also the Booster Club is having organizations in the area sponsor the Bark and Bite at home football games this year. Wilson BBQ is sponsoring this Friday with pulled pork sandwiches and baked beans.

Art in Central Park
The annual Fort Madison Area Arts Association’s Art in Central Park is Sunday, Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Central Park in Fort Madison. The day will be filled with art, music and fun and games for adults and children alike. The park is located at 9th Street and Avenue E.

North Lee County Relay for Life
The annual Relay for Life takes place this year on September 27th from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will feature Maddie Poppe in Concert. This year’s theme is “Idols of Strength.”

Weekly Book Sale
Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. on Thursdays at the Public Library.

Volunteer Fair
The United Way and Fort Madison Public Library will be holding a volunteer fair Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library’s Sheaffer Memorial Meeting Room Refreshments will be provided and attendees will have a chance to explore volunteer opportunities in the area.

Special Olympics Fundraiser
The Fort Madison Eagles Club will be hosting a fundraiser for area Special Olympics kids. The event will feature a Diving for Dollars from Bobby Reid and Bob Chesnut. Reid will skydive onto a field and the number he lands on will win $500 if present and $250 if not present. An $8 meal will served after the drop at the Eagles with half the proceeds going to area Special Olympics athletes.

Fort Madison Farmer’s Market
The farmer’s market continues through Sept. 30 on Mondays on the east side of Central Park in Fort Madison from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Every second Monday is Kid’s Day at the market.

CURRENT-LEE

BY PCC STAFF
FORT MADISON – Fort Madison’s junior high football teams stayed perfect on the season with 7th and 8th grade wins over West Burlington on Tuesday night.

Teague Smith had two touchdown runs in Fort Madison’s 20-6 win over the Falcons. Smith’s scores came on runs of 54 and 20 yards as part of 135 yards on 11 carries. Henry Wiseman added 52 yards and a score on nine attempts.

Smith had eight tackles, while Aiden Benda and Isaac Thacher each recorded seven and Jayden Bowen had six. Thacher also had a fumble recovery.

The Hounds take on Burlington at home next Tuesday beginning at 4:30 p.m.

In the 7th grade came, Brody Cashman had two touchdowns and Caden Barnes added a score in Fort Madison’s 22-6 win. Logan Pennock was recognized for his defensive effort and Hunter Cook, Alex Helman, Eran Warner, Chase Allen, and Tristan Marshall performed very well on the offensive line.

The 7th graders (2-0) travel to Edward Stone Middle School on Tuesday.
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Music, crafts and more at Art-in-Central Park

FMAAA - Continued from Page 1

Bank. The Hilliders formed as a house band for The Hillside with the goal of keeping music in that establishment flowing. Stephanie White and Brad Kurtz do just that with their well-timed harmonizing. Clay Hinson finishes the music at 3 p.m., sponsored by Sunnybrook of Ft. Madison. His loop machine is an interesting nuance to his performance. Clay is one of the two instructors that FMAAA works with from Musicians Pro Shop of Burlington. Guitar Tuesdays at FMAAA provide half-hour lessons. If your hankering to learn we can get you going at 825 Avenue G.

Visual artists at Art-in-Central Park include work in the mediums of wood, copper, jewelry, photography, pastel, and drawing. Artist vendor maps will be in the park describing name, medium, and booth numbers. More than 20 artist vendors await your attention under the shade trees of Central Park. Regional favorites such as silver-smith Erika Wolfe and pastel maestro David Garrison are on board as well as many new artist vendors.

They will vie for $250 Fort Madison Area Arts Association purchase award, $200 Friends of FMAAA purchase award, and $150 Fort Madison Rotary Club purchase award. FMAAA Booth Awards will be determined as well for three artists rockin’ the best booth display. Enjoy an entertaining weekend slate of culture in your neck of the woods as FMAAA is Always Moving for Ft. Madison.

There’s something for kids and adults alike this Sunday at Art in Central Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fort Madison put on by the Fort Madison Area Arts Association. The park is located at 9th Street and Avenue E.

Classifieds/From the Front

FMAAA - Continued from Page 1

& Avenue I during City Wide Fall Clean Up. If you are interested in being a Good Samaritan by helping these folks out please call City Hall at (319) 372-7700 x 201 and leave your name and phone number so that we may call upon you to assist those in need.

City staff has also announced semi annual hydrant flushing take place on Monday, September 23, 2019 beginning at 7:00 a.m. The hydrant flushing will continue through Friday, September 27, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Motorists are advised to use caution when they encounter water department crews flushing hydrants. Customers may experience discoloration of the water and reduced pressure. Conditions should return to normal in a short period.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 19 Sep
Moderate Rain
High – 83.9º F | Low – 69.6º F

FRI 20 Sep
Light Rain
High – 81.1º F | Low – 71.0º F

SAT 21 Sep
Heavy Rain
High – 72.6º F | Low – 69.6º F

SUN 22 Sep
Heavy Rain
High – 73.3º F | Low – 65.0º F

MON 23 Sep
Clear Skies
High – 77.0º F | Low – 64.9º F

OpenWeatherMap