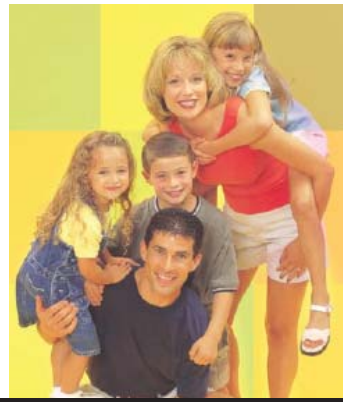


The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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August 13, 2014

Local News

Remembering Laurens Boys Of Summer -- 55 Years Later

By: Rick Davis

Looking back nostalgically after all these years, summertime in Laurens during the 1950s is remembered by some of us as a special time -- especially if you were a teenager .

Three months of carefree, lazy days because there was no school. Yet somehow there were things to do.

We remember that decade as a simpler time and a different era -- before the youth of America was to become bombarded by video games and cell phones and 300-channel cable TV packages.

So, without such sources of instant gratification, how did we -- the kids of Laurens of the '50s -- somehow avoid boredom?

What we settled for was basic stuff that was repetitive, yes, but only slightly boring. Hang out at Mosbach's Dairy Bar, George's Drugstore, Trenary's Cafe or the swimming pool. There also were

part-time summer jobs back then, helping the farmers bale hay and cut corn out of the beans. Somehow, summer's days and nights floated by.

For Laurens guys back in those good old days, there was one other activity that was immensely popular -- baseball. Sponsored and funded by the Lions Club, the town's summer baseball program for boys/youths from ages 9 through 15 grew steadily

in participation throughout the '50s.

The Lions' program was approaching its peak years when an estimated 250 players participated in the summer of 1959 -- which ultimately produced a magical season for the town's Midgets team. That squad of 13-to-15 year-olds put

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PICTURED ARE the 1959 Laurens Midgets who carry a 13-game winning streak into the...

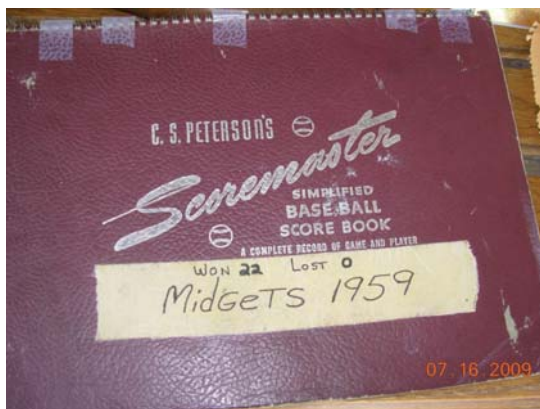
The 1959 Laurens Midgets baseball team (from left): Bottom row: Don Ziegler, Louis Ball, Denny Wright, Bob Fuchs, Larry Perkins, Keith Hoffman, Bob Ziegler. Top row: Coach Joe Hermesen, Ed Workman, Willie Grice, Bob Haynes, Dick Mosbach, Bill Kemp, Rick Davis.

...continued from page 1...

together a perfect season, capping a 22-0 campaign with a 2-0 victory over Cherokee on Aug. 10, 1959 -- which is almost exactly 55 years ago.

"I put that baseball season among my top three sports memories as a Laurens athlete," said Ed Workman, the center fielder on that Midgets team and a 1963 Laurens High graduate whose athletic versatility earned him 14 varsity letters. "The other two were running in the Drake Relays and playing for the '62 boys state basketball championship. It's hard to choose one of them over the other two," added Workman, who now lives in Billings, Mont. "In general, Laurens sports added to my growth and development as a youth. I owe immense gratitude to the Laurens coaches who made that possible."

The Lions program that spawned the '59 Midgets and other solid Laurens summer baseball teams through the years was launched in 1949. The program's driving force



The team's scorebook chronicled the 1959 Laurens Midgets summer-long sojourn to perfection – 22 wins and no losses.

and orchestrator through the years was Joe Hermsen who joined the Laurens School faculty as a teacher and coach in 1955. Hermsen, who passed away in his early 50s after a tough battle with cancer, coached the '59 Midgets and is remembered with a special reverence by team members.

"Coach Hermsen was 'the rock' of Laurens youth baseball," said Keith Hoffman, a lifelong Laurens native who played in the infield and pitched for the '59 club. "Fundamentally, we were well-coached so the game seemed natural to us. Our whole team was close-knit. On the field, we talked constantly and every play was backed up. The coach made sure of that. The image of Joe I remember is him with his scorebook on that clipboard, debating with an umpire. Coach Hermsen hated bad calls with a passion."

Workman said he benefited from lessons-learned from Hermsen when he coached his two sons in Little League 25 years after that '59 season.

"Joe had a selfless dedication to a game he loved so much," said Workman. "His coaching and leadership were something I drew from years later."

The '59 Laurens Midgets outscored opponents by a staggering 151 runs (171-20) and had a .289 team batting average. Four players batted over .300, led by Bob Ziegler (.486), followed by Rick Davis (.362), Bob Haynes (.353) and Hoffman (.307).

Ziegler also was the team's pitching ace with a 10-0 record with 141 strikeouts in 59 innings (averaging

2.4 strikeouts per inning). Willie Grice had a 9-0 pitching record with 65 strikeouts in 50 2/3 innings.

Other regulars on the team were Billy Kemp, Dick Mosbach and Don Ziegler. Reserves were Bob Fuchs, Larry Perkins, Denny Wright and Louis Ball.

"That team included a core group of players who must have played 200 games together from Little League through high school," said Mosbach, who played first base for the '59 Midgets and now is a retired Air Force colonel living in Colorado Springs, Colo. "My baseball skills were limited and my real focus was on basketball (Mosbach, Grice and the Ziegler brothers were starters on Laurens' '62 state high school basketball tournament runner-up team). "But my summers in Laurens growing up were filled with baseball. I credit my experiences on Northwest Iowa baseball diamonds with helping me grow as a person. And those friendships with those teammates are among my most treasured."

Mosbach noted that perfect season of 55 years ago never would have transpired without the existence of the annual Lions summer program.

"Back then, the Lions Club must have picked up the tab for everything from game balls, bats and uniforms to umpires and Coach Hermsen's salary," said Mosbach. "I'm sure at the time, I didn't appreciate all they

...continued to page 3...

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did for Laurens youth baseball. They deserve a lot of credit.”

It seems an appropriate way to remember that perfect baseball summer for a Laurens team of 55 years ago.

It brings to mind a quote from American poet and essayist Walt Whitman, who long ago wrote in his noted work “Leaves of Grass”:

“I see great things in baseball. It's our game, the American game. It will repair our losses and be a blessing to us.”

(A Laurens native who now lives in San Antonio, Texas, Rick Davis is an occasional contributor to The Paper. He was the left fielder on the 1959 Laurens Midgets. Rickdavis31945@gmail.com)

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We are currently accepting applications for a Quality Assurance Manager. This individual is responsible for all aspects of the Quality Assurance program at Fisher Hydraulics. A Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering, Quality Management or related technical field is preferred. Three or more years of direct proven quality performance is required. A full job description is available upon request for the Quality Assurance Manager's position. You may either send resume to above address or email resume to dharrison@fisherhydraulics.com.

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We are seeking dependable and motivated applicants for machinists. Experience is preferred. We are willing to train the right applicants. Come and work in a team oriented and friendly atmosphere with state of the art equipment.

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You may call 712-845-2634 ext. 113, during the hours of 7:00 am-4:30 pm, Mon.-Thur. and speak with Diane.

Laurens Care Center Employee Receives Honor

Amanda Biddle, MDS coordinator at Laurens Care Center in Laurens, has been named as an Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA) Foundation scholarship recipient. IHCA ICAL Director of Workforce Development Julie Adair presented Biddle with the Foundation's \$1,000 John R. Grubb Scholarship for her outstanding commitment to long term care and the residents she serves at Laurens Care Center.

Biddle has worked in long term care for 16 years, originally

as a certified nursing assistant then as a licensed practical nurse. She is going back to school to become a registered nurse.

"It is very important to me that the resident and their family are comfortable and know my door is always open," said Biddle in her nomination essay. "I look at each of them individually as a grandparent and treat them with the respect and dignity that they deserve."

"She truly takes ownership of her areas of responsibility and understands the needs of our residents," said Gail Olsen, administrator of Laurens Care Center. "I have seen a great improvement in our residents."

Biddle's long term career goals are to stay in long term care and

expand her roll at her facility. She hopes to one day finish her bachelor's degree.

The Iowa Health Care Association Foundation is supported by the 807 members of the Iowa Health Care Association and the Iowa

Center for Assisted Living, which includes Iowa's nursing facilities, assisted living communities, residential care facilities, home health agencies and long term care associated businesses.

For more information about the scholarship program, contact Claire Seely, director of communications, Iowa Health Care Association, at 515.978.2204.

For information about the programs and services offered at Laurens Care Center, contact Gail Olsen at 712.845.4915.



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Come & Go Bridal Shower

Come and Go Bridal Shower for Lindsey Siepker will be Saturday, August 23, 9:30-11 am at West Iowa Bank meeting room in Laurens.

Thanks!

Thank you to the Laurens Public Library for the zoo ticket that I won! I LOVE my library & librarians!

Trinity Brazel

Thank You!

Thank you to Laurens Power & Communications for the prizes that I won-the light bulbs, hat and t-shirt. They are appreciated.

Mike Brazel



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**TAKE YOUR PET
SWIMMING DAY!
PETS LIKE TO HAVE
FUN TOO!**

When: Saturday, August 16th

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Cost: No Charge

**Donations are appreciated
and will be added to the new
swimming pool fund.**

**This is the last day the
swimming pool will be open
for the 2014 season.**

www.laurens-ia.com

At the Library with Glenda Mulder August 13, 2014

August 20th Julie Wurr will talk about the national Retail Summit she attended at our Nation's Capitol. Retailers from across the country flew to Washington, D.C., the end of July to discuss several key issues, but it was all for one goal: To let their lawmakers know what happens on Capitol Hill impacts their businesses back at home. There was a lot of action that took place over the course of two days, and Julie is ready to fill us in on the details!

The Laurens Class of 1964 held a Class Reunion recently. They decided they would like to purchase library books in memory of their classmates who have passed away. They sent me a list of names, along with a bit about each person. So, this is what we came up with: For Connie Virgil Johnson: "*The Long Way Home*" by Louise Penny, which comes out in August and "*Hounded*" by David Rosenfelt because she loved a mystery. For Charles Michael Johnson we ordered "*The Aviators: Eddie Rickenbacker, Jimmy Doolittle, Charles Lindbergh, and the Epic Age of Flight*" and "*Disney Pixar: Planes: Look and Find*" (children's book) because of his love of flight and airplanes. Because Art Steinkamp loved to travel, we got "*Travels with Casey*" and "*Carsick*." Classmate Larry Younggreen enjoyed construction so we got "*Renovation 4th Edition: Completely Revised and*

Updated". Other recent additions to our Library collection include: *Novels No Safe House* by Linwood Barclay, *Lost Island* by Douglas Preston. Nonfiction *Flight 232: a story of disaster and survival* by Lauren Gonzales has just received a rave review from the first patron to read it. New DVDs are *Divergent* and *God's not Dead*.

We have a couple more programs coming up. August 27th an aide from Senator Grassley's office will have a Town Meeting to hear your concerns. Wednesday, September 3rd the Laurens Youth Group will tell us about "Next Step Ministries" Mission Trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. More about these as they get closer, but for now get these dates on your calendar and plan to join us!

Our August Book Club choice is the "*Devil in the White City; Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America*" by Erik Larson. This book tells the true story of the 1893 World's Fair and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death. This is another selection that's been on my "To Read" list for quite some time and I am looking forward to reading it! Join our discussion Monday, August 25th at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Programs

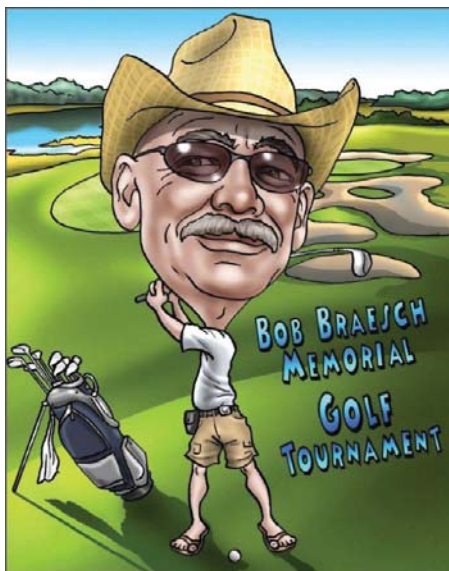
Wednesday, August 20, 7 p.m.
National Retail Federation Trip to Washington DC - Julie Wurr

Wednesday, August 27 4:30 p.m.
Town Meeting- Grassley's aide

Wednesday, September 3 7:00 p.m.
Laurens Youth Group Mission Trip Presentation

Reminder of Monthly Events

- Toddler Play Group to the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month at 10 a.m.
- Book Club is 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
- Writers Free for All is the 3rd Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
- LegoMania one last Thursday – then school starts!



Sunday, August 17th
9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
2-Person Best Shot
18-Hole Tournament
Laurens Golf & Country Club
Prizes Awarded
\$25 per player
includes meal
Open to the Public
To sign up call the
Clubhouse 841-2287 or
Positech 841-4548
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Albert City Public Library News for August

August means school will be starting soon! We hope you are enjoying the last days of summer vacation. The Albert City Threshermen and Collectors Show is here already!

The feature was John Deere, there was a sea of Green and Yellow. We hope you had a fun time on an old time farm!

Some new movies to relax with are: *Rio 2*, *Heaven is for Real*, *The Other Woman* and *Noah*. Some oldies but goodies just in are: *The Muppet Movie*, *E.T.*, *Babe*, *Big*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Annie*, and *The Princess Bride*.

Millie Fierce and *Millie Fierce Sleeps Out* are two new great books for kids for August. The illustrations are just wonderful! *The Loopy Coop Hens* and a sequel, *Pip's Trip*, are hilarious and will be great as read aloud books for your pre-schooler. The ever popular Llama Llama books take a new twist with *Llama Llama and the Bully Goat*, addressing bullying on the playground at school. Duck and Goose try a new scene appropriate to end the summer with *Duck and Goose go to the Beach*.

Great teen reads for August are: *Gayle Forman's If I Stay* and the sequel *Where She Went*, *The Unwritten Rule* by Elizabeth Scott, *My Life Undecided* by Jessica Brody, and *Ivy in the Shadows* by Chris Woodworth.

Just a few adult fiction picks for August include: *The Beekeeper's Ball* by Susan Wiggs, *The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout, *The City* by Dean Koontz, *Cop Town* by Karin Slaughter, *Fast Track* by Julie Garwood, *The One and Only* by Emily Giffin, and *Save the Date* by Mary Kay Andrews.

When Jill Smolowe buried her husband and three other loved ones within the space of seventeen months, she expected to fall apart, but she didn't. Here for the first time, an intimate look at what holds a grieving person together in her new book, *Four Funerals and a Wedding*. News anchor, Brett Baier, tells the story of his child's struggle with a serious heart ailment in *Special Heart- a journey of faith, hope, courage and love*.

We have the new *Neil Armstrong: a Life of Flight* written by Jay Barbree, a look at America's modern hero of space travel. Marina Keegan's star was on the rise when she graduated magna cum laude from Yale in May of 2012. Tragically five days after graduation, Marina died in a car crash. *The Opposite of Loneliness* is a posthumous collection of essays and stories, released by her parents, from the talented young graduate whose title essay captured the world's attention and turned her into an icon for her generation. Don't miss out on these special nonfiction offerings!



Announcements

LAURENS-MARATHON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2014-2015
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

L-M PRESCHOOL

- (1) Pair of Velcro Shoes for gym
 - (2)(1) Baggle Girl Hair Ties
 - (1) Book Bag
 - (1) Extra set of clothing (shirt, pants, underwear & socks)
- PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME
(CLOTHING ALSO)

KINDERGARTEN

- (1) Pair of P.E. Tennis Shoes
 - (3) Boxes of Kleenex (200 count)
 - (2) Fine point dry erase markers
 - (1) Highlighter
 - (1) Bottle of glue
 - (1) Box of Crayons (No more than 24 count)
 - (1) Pencil box
 - Book Bag
- PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME
(CLOTHING ALSO)

FIRST GRADE

- Pencil Box (No bigger than about 6" x 9")
 - (3) Double-Pocket Folders (with NO fasteners and NO plastic folders)
 - (20) #2 Pencils (NO mechanical pencils)
 - (6) Large Erasers
 - (3) Large Boxes of Kleenex (200 Count)
 - (2) Glue Sticks
 - (2) - 8 oz. Bottles School White Glue
 - (1) - 7.5" x 10" Canvass Zipper Bag with Clear Front
 - (1) Pair of Tennis Shoes for P.E.
 - (4) Dry erase markers
 - (1) Box Sandwich size Ziploc bag
 - Crayons (any size)
 - Markers
 - Book Bag
 - Scissors
- PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME
(CLOTHING ALSO)

SECOND GRADE

- (2) - 7.5" x 10" Canvass Zipper Bag with Clear Front
 - (20) #2 Pencils (no mechanical pencils)
 - (2) Large Erasers
 - (5) Pencil Tip Erasers
 - (2) Bottles of White Glue
 - (3) Glue Sticks
 - (4) Dry Erase markers & 1 SOCK (To use as an eraser and store the dry
 - (5) Double Pocket Folders (with NO fasteners)
 - (3) Large Boxes Kleenex
 - (1) Pair of Tennis Shoes for P.E.
 - (2) Individual gallon-sized Ziploc bags labeled with student's name
 - (3)(2) Wide-Lined Spiral Notebooks
 - Supply Box (No bigger than about 6"x9")
 - Crayons (24 Count)
 - Scissors
 - Markers "Basic/Normal Colors"
 - Book Bag (Bring Daily)
- *No Trapper Keepers, we don't have room in our desks.
PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS WITH CHILD'S NAME
(CLOTHING ALSO)

THIRD GRADE

- (2) individual gallon-sized Zip-loc baggies
 - (2) Large erasers
 - (1) Ruler
 - (20) #2 pencils with erasers (No mechanical pencils)
 - (4) Wide-lined spiral notebooks
 - (1) Red correcting pens
 - (2) Bottles of school glue
 - (1) scissors
 - (4) Double-pocket folders
 - (2) Large boxes of tissues (200 count)
 - (1) Zippered bag for pencils
 - (1) Box crayons (24 count or less)
 - (1) Pair of tennis shoes for P.E.
 - (1) Box markers (optional)
 - (4) Dry-erase markers
- *No Trapper Keepers.
PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)

FOURTH GRADE

- (20) #2 Pencils (not mechanical)
 - (1) Large Eraser
 - (1) Red Correcting Pen
 - (4) Dry erase markers & 1 SOCK (To use as an eraser)
 - Zipper Case for Pencils
 - Canvas Zipper Case (for spelling words)
 - Box of Colors (24 count)
 - (4) Spiral Notebooks (wide-lined)
 - (1) Composition Notebook (paper does not tear out)
 - (6) Double-Pocket Folders (no fasteners)
or 1 Expandable Folder and (2) Pocket Folders
 - (1) Bottle Glue or (2) Glue Sticks
 - (3) Large Boxes of Kleenex
 - (2) gallon-sized Ziploc bags (NOT boxes)
 - (1) Pair of Tennis Shoes for P.E.
 - Scissors
 - Markers (optional)
 - Colored Pencils (optional)
 - Assignment Notebook (\$2.00 Purchased at Registration) Students must have this one!
 - **No Trapper Keepers
- PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)
- ## FIFTH GRADE
- (1) 3-Ring Binder for Iowa History (1.5 inches)
 - (25) Plastic sleeves to put inside an Iowa History binder
 - (2) Composition Notebooks
 - (3) Spiral Notebooks
 - (1) Highlighter
 - (4) Dry erase markers & 1 SOCK (To use as an eraser and to store the dry erase markers
 - (3) Large Box of Kleenex
 - (1) 1 box of sandwich Zip-loc baggies
 - (4) Double-Pocket Folders
 - (1) Bottle of White Glue or Glue Stick
 - (1) 12" Ruler
 - (1) Correcting Pen (any color)
 - (1) Box of Crayons (no larger than 24 count)
 - (1) Set of Markers
 - Colored Pencils (optional)
 - Scissors
 - #2 Pencils (no mechanical pencils)
 - Zipper Case for Pencils
 - Large Eraser
 - (1) Pair of Tennis Shoes for P.E.
 - Assignment Notebook (\$2.00 - Purchased at Registration) Students must have this one!
 - **No Trapper Keepers
- PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)

**Special for Thursday, August 14 will be
potato bar with all the fixings.**

**Special for Friday, August 15 will be spaghetti
with tossed salad and garlic toast**



95th Birthday!

Oneta Forsythe, of Sanborn, Iowa, and formerly of Laurens, will be celebrating her 95th birthday on August 21st.

Her family is honoring her with a card shower. Congratulatory birthday wishes may be sent to: Oneta Forsythe, 1002 Sunrise Ave. #117, Sanborn, Iowa 51248.



APPLIANCES FOR SALE

The Housing Corp. of NW IA is accepting sealed bids on 4 new stainless steel appliances still in boxes. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, and dishwasher.

To view appliances, please call 712-841-4526 or 515-574-9944. Bids will be accepted until 1 p.m. on Sept. 3.

The Housing Corp of NW IA has the right to refuse any and all bids.

90th Birthday!!

Darrel (Odie) Oleson will be celebrating his 90th birthday on Wednesday, August 20th. Birthday wishes can be sent to Odie at: Darrel Oleson, 5857 East Butte St., Mesa, AZ 85205

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6:00 - 10:00

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 FAX: (712) 225-6404

RIALTO

Tickets: \$4-adults \$2- children 12 and under
 7:00 p.m. ~ 2:00 p.m. Sunday Matinee
 324 North Main St. Pocahontas 712-335-3434

August 15 - August 21
Jersey Boys
Rated R

Showtime: 7:00 nightly - 2:00 Sunday Matinee
 Free Popcorn w/Paid Admission Thursday
 \$2.00 Admission for ALL Monday Evening
Coming Aug 22: Transformers: AoE

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Sacred Heart Church Laurens

Pastor ~ Father Francis Makwinja
Weekday Mass : Friday, 8:00 AM
Weekend Mass: Sunday, 8:30 AM (July-October)

Cluster Parishes

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Sioux Rapids
Weekday Mass: Monday&Wednesday, 8 AM
Weekend Mass: Saturday, 5:00 PM

St. Louis Catholic Church, Royal

Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday, 8 AM
Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10:30 AM



This Week at First Christian Church

Wednesday, August 13
1:00 p.m. - Willing Workers

Thursday, August 14
7:00 p.m. - AA Meeting

Sunday, August 17
9:30 a.m. - Worship followed by coffee and fellowship



This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Saturday, August 16, 2014
10 AM - 4 PM - Council Retreat at Zion Lutheran Church in Ruthven

Sunday, August 17, 2014
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
9 AM - Worship w/Communion
10 AM - Coffee Fellowship
2 PM - Afternoon of Music

Tuesday, August 19, 2014
10 AM - Coffee w/Pastor
7 PM - Hand Bell Rehearsal

Wednesday, August 20, 2014
5 PM - Christian Ed/Youth Mtg.
6 PM - 125th Steering Committee Mtg.
7 PM - Council Mtg.



This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Wed., Aug. 13th:
Christian Ed./Sunday school teachers meeting @ 7 P.M. in Fellowship Hall

Fri., Aug. 15th:
Men's Bible Study @ 7 a.m.

Sat., Aug. 16th:
Baby Shower in honor of Samantha Cole from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. in the Wesley Room
Baby Shower in honor of Emily Martens @ 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Sun., Aug. 10th:
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Coffee @ 10:30 a.m.
Pocahontas County Ministerial Association
CROP Walk recruiting meeting @ 2 p.m. in Pocahontas

SERVSAFE

We live in a time when food hazards and risks are prevalent. We are all more aware today about food safety and foodborne illnesses than we were a decade ago. It's your right as a consumer to receive safe food, and if you're a food service provider, it's your job to ensure that the food you serve is safe. To help food service professionals maintain their safe food standards, Pocahontas County Extension & Outreach is sponsoring a food safety training seminar for food service professionals on September 4, 2014 starting at 9:00 am at the Pocahontas County Extension Office, 305 North Main Street in Pocahontas. It is based on the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's ServSafe certification program and the Iowa Food Code. The cost of the 8-hour course is \$150 which includes a manual and the national certification exam. The course is required by some companies and state licensing which may be restaurants, hospitals, schools, long-term care and assisted living facilities. For more information about the program, contact the Pocahontas County Extension Office at 712-335-3103.

“Preserve the Taste of Summer” – Home Food Preservation Class 101

Are you growing a garden and want to preserve the bounty of you harvest? Do you want to learn how to preserve food but don't know where to begin?

Bring in your dial gauge pressure canner lid for testing and stay for the program and join Holly VanHeel, ISU Extension Nutrition and Health Specialist, to learn about the latest updates to various methods and practices of safe food preservation on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 2:00 pm OR 6:00 pm. at Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach Office.

Pre-registration is required no later than Thursday, August 21st by calling 712-335-3103! Don't miss out on this researched based learning opportunity!

ISU Extension Announces Master Gardener Program

Master Gardeners are members of the local community who take an active interest in growing flowers, vegetables, fruits, shrubs, trees, and lawns.

Master Gardeners trainees attend 40 hours of Web-based broadcasting, and face-to-face instruction by Iowa State University Extension staff, specialists, and on ISU campus ranging in many different aspects of gardening.

In exchange for training, participants must complete a one-year Master Gardener internship, consisting of 40 hours of volunteer service. Additional volunteer hours and on-going training are required in subsequent years to maintain the Master Gardener status.

If interested in becoming a Master Gardener, contact the Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach Office at 712-335-3103.

Retirement Planning Important for Child Care Professionals

Child care professionals often have difficulty envisioning a comfortable retirement because of self-employment, low wages or both. However it's vital they include retirement planning in their financial planning, says Cindy Thompson, a family life and family finance program specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

"The average wages of teachers and caregivers in Iowa child care fell below the federal poverty guidelines for a family of four," Thompson said. "Income level is important, because it significantly impacts retirement savings. Researchers have noticed a particular drop in retirement savings the last few years in households below \$35,000."

About 46 percent of child care center teachers and 33 percent of assistant teachers have retirement accounts, while less than 15 percent of registered family child

care providers have retirement accounts.

"The child care professional community is predominately women, who often live longer than men, typically earn less and, on average, have higher medical bills, which makes retirement planning even more important," Thompson said.

"People who want to save for retirement need to start by living within their current means, spending less than they earn and keeping debt at a minimum," Thompson said. ISU Extension and Outreach has a free, self-paced online consumer class called "Take Control of Your Money" that can help individuals learn more about reducing spending and managing finances.

"When thinking about how much money you will need for retirement, ask yourself two important questions. First, where do you want to live in retirement? Is there a family home that you'll need to maintain, or will you move to either a warmer climate or closer to family? If you're thinking about moving, you also need to consider affordable recreation and health care options," Thompson said.

"Another important question to ask yourself is how you want to spend your time in retirement,"

Thompson continued.

"Volunteering, new hobbies, part-time work, travel and time with family or friends are all activities retirees enjoy, yet the cost of each can vary greatly. Knowing where you want to live and what you want to do in retirement will provide valuable insights into how much you need to save and what you need to do to reach your goal."

For child care professionals looking for more information on retirement planning, ISU Extension and Outreach offers a four-hour class called "Planning Your Financial Future," which explores money management concepts through a retirement planning lens. The series introduces participants to basic retirement concepts such as risk management and types of investments, and provides resources for additional information. For help finding a "Planning Your Financial Future" series, check the Iowa DHS Training Registry or contact any county ISU Extension and Outreach office to get in touch with a family finance program specialist.

City Council Minutes

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 pm, August 4, 2014. Mayor, Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Rich Newgard, Jean Swanson, Sid Enockson, Julie Potter, and Gary Heuton; Police Chief, Chris Toner; City Manager, Barbara Smith; Public Works Director, Julian Johnsen, and City Attorney, Ann Beneke.

Newgard motioned to accept the consent agenda consisting of the agenda, minutes from the July 21 meeting, the list of claims, and the renewal of Laurens Lounge and Lanes liquor license; seconded by Heuton. Ayes all; motion carried.

Newgard motioned to approve the second reading of Ordinance 06-14, Property Maintenance Code and to waive the third reading of the Ordinance; seconded by Heuton. Roll call vote; ayes all, motion carried.

Newgard motioned to approve the second reading of Ordinance 07-14; Nuisance Abatement Procedures and to waive the third reading of the code; seconded by Heuton. Roll call vote; ayes all, motion carried.

Smith briefly explained the Resolution 27-14, Street Finance Report. Heuton motioned to approve Resolution 27-14, Street Finance Report; seconded by Swanson. Roll call vote; ayes all, motion carried.

Heuton motioned to approve Resolution 28-14, a resolution accepting the East Street and Veteran's Road project; seconded by Potter. Roll call vote; ayes all, motion carried.

Heuton motioned to approve Resolution 29-14, a resolution showing support for the Prairie Park Trail, seconded by Potter. Roll call vote; ayes all, motion carried.

Smith presented the Council with the City's debt levels from fiscal year 2005 through the proposed GO bond sale for West Main Street and Bissell Street for fiscal year 2016.

Potter motioned to approve the purchase of 100-18 gallon recycle totes for new residents and 25 larger recycle totes for the City's smaller commercial businesses; seconded by Heuton. Ayes all; motion carried.

Newgard motioned to move into closed session pursuant to Chapter 21.5(j) to discuss the purchase of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property, seconded by Swanson. The City Council entered into closed session at 5:23 pm.

At 5:41 pm, the City Council convened in general session. Potter motioned to allow an authorized representative of the City to negotiate on the City's behalf on the property of interest at a price not to exceed \$5,200. The offer should be set to expire at 5 pm on August 11.

During City Staff reports, Julian reported that they had installed a new roof on the building at the cemetery, a concrete sidewalk was being installed that will lead to the tables outside the library, and mentioned that three box outs around the manholes on Veteran's Road were moving when a vehicle drives over them. He will contact Bolten and Menk to see if they can encourage Carstensen's to repair these soon. Smith reported that the County received the federal disaster declaration on July 25 for the torrential rains from June 14-23. It will cost approximately \$43,000 to televise the entire sewer system in town. Smith also reported that the Housing Corporation of NW Iowa is considering an offer made on the Lake Street House.

During citizen's opportunity for comment, Alice Pomeroy talked to the council about allowing a swim with your pet day on the last day the pool was open for approximately the last two hours of the day. The council decided to take this up at a special meeting to be held on August 6, 2014 at noon; and Randy Hopkins spoke about concerns pertaining to various areas of the City.

CLAIMS	8/04/14		
ACCO		CHEMICALS	4,357.08
ALLIANT ENERGY		UTILITIES	3,697.98
B & K EMBROIDERY		POOL T-SHIRTS	108.00
BARB SMITH		MILEAGE	256.26
BROWN SUPPLY		SUPPLIES	469.90
CASEY'S GENERAL STORE		FUEL	62.47
CORSON'S CEMETERY		RESTORATION	1,248.00
FARNER-BOCKEN		CONCESSIONS	41.85
HAWK-I PLUMBING		NEW TOILETS	1,182.33
HEIMAN		FD AIR CYLINDERS	140.00
IRS		TAXES	6,693.44
IOWA CODIFICATION		ORDINANCE UPDATES	1,011.00
IDNR		DUES	210.00
IPERS		IPERS	4,487.00
IPERS/PD		PROTECTED IPERS	1,754.12
JAMES LITWILLER		SUPPLIES	31.02
JCL SOLUTIONS		SUPPLIES	107.69
KRIZ-DAVIS		LIGHTS FOR PARK	1,664.67
LAURENS EQUIPMENT		SUPPLIES	12.12
LMPC		COMMUNICATIONS	344.81
LMU		UTILITIES	6,303.23
LAW ENFORCEMENT		SUPPLIES	217.00
MET		ANALYSIS	223.00
MARTIN MARIETTA		ROCK	331.69
MENARD'S		SUPPLIES	58.47
METHODIST MEN		MEALS FOR WINERIES	54.00
POC CO CLERK OF CT		COURT COSTS	60.00
POC COMMUNITY HOSP		DUES	2,000.00
POCAHONTAS EQUIP		SUPPLIES	67.60
PRIME BENEFITS		INSURANCE	87.50
PRINCIPAL LIFE		INSURANCE	729.72
PROFESSIONAL COMP		IT SUPPORT	1,150.00
R B LUMBER		SUPPLIES	844.87
RJ THOMAS		SUPPLIES	248.00
SENTRY GROUP		KEYS	15.00
SIMMERING CORY		CDBG FEES	1,900.00

City Council Minutes

TREASURER STATE OF IA	TAXES	4,710.00
		<u>46,879.82</u>
	7/21/14 PAYROLL	
001	GENERAL	10,285.33
110	ROAD USE TAX	1,248.80
600	WATER	1,594.05
610	SEWER	1,210.76
670	GARBAGE	1,430.66
		<u>15,769.60</u>
	8/1/14 PAYROLL	
001	GENERAL	4,658.70
	TOTAL CLAIMS	<u>67,308.12</u>
BY FUND		
001	GENERAL	36,383.01
110	ROAD USE TAX	3,818.45
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	318.29
170	CEMETERY	1,248.00
171	SISTER CITY	54.00
174	POOL T-SHIRTS	108.00
176	HOMETOWN PRIDE	1,664.67
313	EAST VET - WATER	1,900.00
600	WATER	13,028.09
610	SEWER	4,679.43
670	GARBAGE	3,903.98
745	STORM WATER	202.20
		<u>67,308.12</u>

Newgard motioned to adjourn at 6:06, seconded by Potter. Ayes all; motion carried.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

Barbara Smith, City Clerk

The Laurens City Council met in special session at the Municipal Building at 12:00 pm on August 6, 2014. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were council members Julie Potter, Gary Heuton, Rich Newgard, and Jean Swanson; and City Manager, Barb Smith. Sid Enockson was absent.

Heuton motioned to approve the Capital Campaign Committee to hold a pet day at the swimming pool on August 16 from 7 to 9 pm, seconded by Swanson. Ayes all; motion carried.

Potter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 pm, seconded by Heuton. Ayes all; motion carried.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

Barbara Smith, City Clerk

ORDINANCE 06-14

AN ORDINANCE amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laurens, Iowa, by amendment to CONTROL OF VEGETATION.

BE IT ENACTED by the council of the City of Laurens, Iowa:

SECTION 1. NEW CHAPTER. The Code of Ordinances of the City of Laurens, Iowa is amended by repealing Chapter 52, Control of Vegetation; and replacing with the new Chapter 52, Property Maintenance Code to read as follows:

CHAPTER 52

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

52.01	Title	52.05	Definitions
52.02	Purpose	52.06	Maintenance Standards
52.03	Interpretation	52.07	Violations
52.04	Abrogation and Greater Restrictions		

52.01 TITLE

This ordinance may be referred to as the "Property Maintenance Code", and is herein referred to as "this Code".

52.02 Purpose

The purpose of this Code is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, esthetics and property values, by establishing minimum standards for maintenance, appearance, condition, and occupancy, and for essential utilities, facilities, and other physical components and conditions to make residential premises fit for human habitation, and to make non residential premises fit for use according to the purpose for which they were developed; by fixing certain responsibilities and duties upon the owners and managers, and distinct and separate responsibilities and duties upon the occupants; by authorizing and establishing penalties for violations; and providing for proper repair, demolition, or vacation of premises which do not comply with this Code.

52.03 Interpretation

This provision of this Code shall be interpreted and applied as minimum requirements, and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal for any other power granted by the Code of Iowa.

Nothing in this Code shall be construed to abrogate the Federal or State Constitutions, nor to grant power to the City that are otherwise reserved by or for Federal and State government.

52.04 Abrogation and Greater Restrictions

It is not the intent of this Code to repeal, abrogate, annul, impair, or interfere with any existing easements, covenants, deed restrictions, agreements, ordinances, rules, regulations, or permits previously adopted or issued pursuant to law. Where two or more provisions apply the higher standard shall prevail.

52.05 Definitions

Words used in the Code shall have the same meaning as that defined by the Zoning Ordinance, unless otherwise defined by this Code.

1. Abandoned Building. Any building or portion of a building under construction which has stood with an incomplete exterior shell for more than one year, or any completed building or portion thereof which has stood unoccupied for longer than six (6) months, and which is unsecured or has Housing Code or Building Code violations.
2. Deterioration. A state of conditions caused by lack of maintenance or excessive use, characterized by holes, breaks, rot, crumbling, peeling paint, rusting, or other evidence of physical decay or neglect.
3. Enforcement Officer. The Mayor, Council, Police Officer, City Manager, Public Works Director or other City staff as may be assigned.
4. Exposed to Public View. Any premises or any part thereof which may be lawfully viewed by the public or from adjoining premises.
5. Exterior. Yards and other open outdoor spaces on premises, and the external surfaces of any structure.
6. Extermination. The control and elimination of insects, rodents and vermin.
7. Infestation. The presence of insects, rodents, vermin, or other pests on the premise to the extent that they constitute a health hazard, are deemed by an Enforcement Officer to be in threat of spreading to adjoining premises, or are exposed to public view.
8. Junk. All old or scrap copper, brass, lead, or any other non-ferrous metal; old or discarded rope, rages, batteries, paper, trash, rubber, debris, waste or used lumber, or salvaged wood; dismantled vehicles, machinery and appliances or parts of such vehicles, machinery or appliances, iron, steel or other old or scrap ferrous materials; old or discarded glass, tinware, plastic or old or discarded household goods or hardware. Neatly stacked firewood located on a side yard or rear yard is not considered junk.

9. Nuisance. Physical conditions that are dangerous or detrimental to the health or safety of persons on or near the premises where the conditions exist, or anything that is injurious to the senses or interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property.

10. Owner. Any person who alone, jointly, or severally with others, holds legal or equitable title to any premises, with or without accompanying actual possession thereof.

11. Premises. A lot, parcel, tract or plot of land, contiguous and under common ownership or control, together with the buildings and structures thereon.

12. Public Authority. Any officer or any department or branch of the City, County, or State charged with regulating health, fire, zoning, building regulations, public safety or other activities concerning property in the City.

13. Refuse. Any material that has lost its value for the original purpose for which it was created or manufactured, or for its resigned use, whether putrescible or non-putrescible, combustible or non-combustible, which is not securely stored in a building or legal outdoor storage yard for prompt disposal or resale, including, but not limited to junk; paper or cardboard; plastic, metals; glass; yard clippings, leaves, woody vegetative trimmings, and other plant wastes which have not been properly composted; vegetable or animal waste resulting from handling, processing, storage, preparation, serving or consumption of food crockery; bedding, furniture, or appliances; offal; rubbish; ashes or incinerator residue; construction debris; accumulation of animal feces; dead animals; or wastes from commercial or industrial processes.

14. Responsible party. Any person having possession, charge, care, or control of real or personal property, whether with or without the knowledge and consent of the owner, including without limitation any one or more of the following: owner, agent, property manager, contract purchaser, mortgagee or vendee in possession, receiver, executor, trustee, lessee or tenant, or any other person, firm or corporation exercising apparent control over a property.

52.06 Maintenance Standards

1. GENERAL. The exterior of every premises and structure shall be maintained in good repair, to the end that the premises and each structure thereon will be preserved; adjoining properties protected from blighting influences; and safety and fire hazards eliminated.

2. MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES. Each and every premise shall be kept free of all nuisances, health, safety, and fire hazards, unsanitary conditions, and infestation. It shall be the duty of the responsible party to keep the premises free of all said conditions and to promptly remove and abate same, which include but are not limited to the following declared nuisances:

- a) Weeds or grasses allowed to grow to a height greater than eight (8) inches on the average, or any accumulation of dead weeds or grass that are exposed to public view, on any non-farm property. This provision shall not apply to prairies, wetlands, or similar area of naturalized perennial vegetation which are certified by an Enforcement Officer to not constitute a nuisance.
- b) No person shall permit garbage or recyclable materials to accumulate longer than a garbage collection cycle or recyclable cycle upon premises owned or occupied by him or her if such accumulation would violate the purpose of this Chapter; nor shall any person deposit any garbage or recyclable materials upon any other premises except the County Transfer Station or the County Recyclable Trailer unless such person has been authorized by the owner of the premises to deposit such materials there.
- c) Any structure, which is in such a dilapidated condition that it is unfit for human habitation or the use for which it was constructed; kept in such an unsanitary condition that it is a menace to the health of people residing therein or in the vicinity thereof; or any structure defined as that is defined as abandoned or a public nuisance by Chapter 657A, Code of Iowa.
- d) Any nuisance as defined herein or described as such by Chapter 657 of the Code of Iowa.
- e) Any alteration, modification, or obstruction which prevents, obstructs or impedes the normal flow of runoff from adjacent lands, or any alteration or modification which substantially concentrates or increases the flow of water onto an adjoining premises to the extent of damaging or saturating such premises.
- f) Conditions which are conducive to the accumulation of weeds, vegetation, junk, dead organic matter, debris, garbage, offal, rodent harborages, stagnant water, combustible materials and similar materials or conditions on a premise which constitutes a fire, health or safety hazard.
- g) Fences or retaining walls that are not structurally sound or which are deteriorating, as may be evidenced by leaning or loose elements.

3. BUILDING MAINTENANCE. All buildings shall be maintained to be weather and water tight. Broken windows, holes in roofs, and missing siding shall be replaced with similar materials to maintain the weather and water tight properties of the structure. All wood including floor boards, decking, subfloors, joists, rafters, roof sheathing, and siding shall be replaced when missing, rotted or damaged. Materials and practices used in reconstruction and residing shall be of standard quality ad appearance commensurate with the character of house or building. Their appearance, as judged under prevailing appraisal practices and standards. Owners or responsible parties shall not use materials which would depreciate the value of adjoining premises or the neighborhood. Painted surfaces shall be maintained or repainted so that an individual wall surface does not have peeling or missing paint in areas in excess of fifty percent (50%) of that individual surface area.

52.07 Violations

1. INSPECTION REPORT. Whenever the Mayor or other authorized City officer (Zoning Administrative Officer) is informed that a nuisance or other condition exists which is listed in this chapter, the Mayor or other authorized City officer shall provide that an inspection report be prepared within a reasonable time and given to the Mayor and Council. The report shall contain, but not be limited to:

- a) A legal description of the property and a site map, if applicable.
- b) A description of the nuisance and conditions that exist that caused the nuisance designation to be applied.
- c) A statement of the acts necessary to abate the nuisance or condition.
- d) A reasonable time within which to complete the abatement.
- e) An estimate of the cost to abate the nuisance. If the abatement notice is regarding a dilapidated or junk building, the inspection report shall compare the cost of abatement with a project cost of reconstruction of the structure.

2. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE OR CONDITION

a) VOLUNTARY ABATEMENT. The objective of this Code being the abatement of violations, person violating this Code shall, except in emergency situations, be given notice of the violation and allowed a reasonable amount of time to voluntarily remedy the violation before action to assess costs or penalties for committing a municipal infraction are undertaken. Consideration will be given to evidence of a good faith effort to correct the violation; whether an imminent health or safety hazard exists; whether the person has previously been notified of or charged with violations of a similar nature; and other factors.

b) EMERGENCY CONDITION. If the Enforcement Officer judges that an emergency exists which creates a dangerous and imminent health or safety hazard to person, property or the general public which requires immediate action, the City may order such action as may be necessary to meet the emergency. Any orders issued pursuant to this paragraph shall be effective immediately or in the time and manner prescribed in the order itself.
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

c) PROCEDURE. Whenever Enforcement Officer finds that a nuisance or other condition that is listed in this chapter exists, the Enforcement Officer has the authority to determine on a case-by-case basis whether to utilize the nuisance abatement procedure described in Section 50.07 of this Code or the municipal infraction procedure referred to in Section 50.08 of this code.

3. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE BY WRITTEN NOTICE. Any nuisance, public or private, may be abated in the manner provided for in this section:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

a) Contents of Notice to Property Owner. The notice to abate shall contain: †

1. A legal description of the property and a site map, if applicable.
2. A description of the nuisance and conditions that exist that caused the nuisance designation to be applied.
3. A statement of the acts necessary to abate the nuisance or condition.
4. A reasonable time within which to complete the abatement.
5. An estimate of the cost to abate the nuisance. If the abatement notice is regarding a dilapidated or junk building, the notice shall compare the cost of abatement with a project cost of reconstruction of the structure.
6. A statement that if the nuisance or condition is not abated as directed and no request for hearing is made within the time prescribed, the City will abate it and assess the costs against the property owner.

b) Method of Service. When service of a notice to abate is required, the following methods of service shall be deemed adequate:

1. By personal service upon the person or persons in possession of the property in violation or the owner of the property upon which the nuisance exists.
2. If, after reasonable effort, personal service cannot be made, service shall be made by sending the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested to the last known address of person or persons in possession of the property.

c) Request for Hearing. Any person ordered to abate a nuisance may have a hearing with the Council as to whether a nuisance exists. A request for a hearing must be made in writing and delivered to the Clerk within the time stated in the notice, or it will be conclusively presumed that a nuisance exists and it must be abated as ordered. The hearing will be before the Council at a time and place

fixed by the Council. The findings of the Council shall be conclusive and, if a nuisance is found to exist, it shall be ordered abated within a reasonable time under the circumstances.

d) Abatement by City. If the person notified to abate a nuisance or condition neglects or fails to abate as directed, the City may perform the required action to abate, keeping an accurate account of the expense incurred. The itemized expense account shall be filed with the Clerk, who shall pay such expenses on behalf of the City.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

e) Collection of Costs. The Clerk shall send a statement of the total expense incurred by certified mail or by service in the manner of an original notice to the property owner who has failed to abide by the notice to abate, and if the amount shown by the statement has not been paid within one month, the Clerk shall certify the costs to the County Treasurer, and such costs shall then be collected with, and in the same manner as, general property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

f) Installment Payment of Cost of Abatement. If the amount expended to abate the nuisance or condition exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the City may permit the assessment to be paid in up to ten (10) annual installments, to be paid in the same manner and with the same interest rates provided for assessments against benefited property under State law.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.13)

g) Failure to Abate. Any person causing or maintaining a nuisance who shall fail or refuse to abate or remove the same within the reasonable time required and specified in the notice to abate is in violation of this Code of Ordinances.

4. MUNICIPAL INFRACTION ABATEMENT PROCEDURE. In lieu of the abatement procedures set forth in Section 50.07, the requirements of this chapter may be enforced under the procedures applicable to municipal infractions as set forth in Chapter 3 of this Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 2. REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

Passed by the Council the ____ day of _____, 2014, and approved this ____ day of _____, 2014.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Barbara Smith, City Clerk

1st Reading _____

2nd Reading _____

3rd Reading _____

I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance 06-14 on the ____ day of _____, 2014.

Barbara Smith, City Clerk

ORDINANCE 07-14

AN ORDINANCE amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laurens, Iowa, 2014 by amendment to NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROCEDURE .

BE IT ENACTED by the council of the City of Laurens, Iowa:

SECTION 1. NEW CHAPTER. The Code of Ordinances of the City of Laurens, Iowa is amended by repealing Chapter 50, NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROCEDURE; and replacing with the new Chapter 50, NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROCEDURE to read as follows:

CHAPTER 50

NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROCEDURE

50.01 Definition of Nuisance
50.02 Nuisances Enumerated
50.03 Other Conditions
50.04 Nuisances Prohibited

50.05 Inspection Report
50.06 Abatement of Nuisance or Condition
50.07 Abatement of Nuisance by Written Notice
50.08 Municipal Infraction Abatement Procedure

50.01 DEFINITION OF NUISANCE. Whatever is injurious to health, indecent, or unreasonably offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property so as essentially to interfere unreasonably with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property is a nuisance.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657.1)

50.02 NUISANCES ENUMERATED. The following subsections include, but do not limit, the conditions which are deemed to be nuisances in the City:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657.2)

1. **Offensive Smells.** Erecting, continuing or using any building or other place for the exercise of any trade, employment or manufacture, which, by occasioning noxious exhalations, unreasonably offensive smells, or other annoyances, becomes injurious and dangerous to the health, comfort or property of individuals or the public.
2. **Filth or Noisome Substance.** Causing or suffering any offal, filth or noisome substance to be collected or to remain in any place to the prejudice of others.
3. **Impeding Passage of Water.** Obstructing or impeding without legal authority the passage of water.
4. **Water Pollution.** Corrupting or rendering unwholesome or impure the water of any river, stream or pond, or unlawfully diverting the same from its natural course or state, to the injury or prejudice of others.
5. **Blocking Public and Private Ways.** Obstructing or encumbering, by fences, buildings or otherwise, the public roads, private ways, streets, alleys, commons, landing places or burying grounds.
6. **Billboards.** Billboards, signboards and advertising signs, whether erected and constructed on public or private property, which so obstruct and impair the view of any portion or part of a public street, avenue, highway, boulevard or alley or of a railroad or street railway track as to render dangerous the use thereof. **(See also Section 62.06)**
7. **Storing of Flammable Junk.** Depositing or storing of flammable junk, such as old rags, rope, cordage, rubber, bones and paper, by any person, including a dealer in such articles, unless it be in a building of fire-resistant construction. **(See also Chapter 51)**
8. **Air Pollution.** Emission of dense smoke, noxious fumes or fly ash.
9. **Weeds, Brush.** Dense growth of all weeds, vines, brush or other vegetation in the City so as to constitute a health, safety or fire hazard. **(See also Chapter 52)**
10. **Dutch Elm Disease.** Trees infected with Dutch Elm Disease, and dead, rotting or decaying trees, shrubs and brush. **(See also Chapter 151)**
11. **Airport Air Space.** Any object or structure hereafter erected within one thousand (1,000) feet of the limits of any municipal or regularly established airport or landing place, which may endanger or obstruct aerial navigation including take-off and landing, unless such object or structure constitutes a proper use or enjoyment of the land on which the same is located.
12. **Houses of Ill Fame.** Houses of ill fame, kept for the purpose of prostitution and lewdness; gambling houses; places resorted to by persons participating in criminal gang activity prohibited by Chapter 723A of the *Code of Iowa* or places resorted to by persons using controlled substances, as defined in Section 124.101 of the *Code of Iowa*, in violation of law, or houses where drunkenness, quarreling, fighting or breaches of the peace are carried on or permitted to the disturbance of others.
13. **Drainage Obstructions.** Any article or substance placed upon a street, alley, sidewalk, public ground, or in any ditch, waterway or gutter so as to obstruct the drainage.
14. **Accumulation of Trash.** Accumulations of rubbish or trash tending to harbor vermin or rodents, and rank growth of weeds or other vegetation and plants, which is conducive to hazard.
15. **Cottonwood Trees.** Newly planted cotton-bearing cottonwood trees and all other cotton-bearing poplar trees in the City.

50.03 OTHER CONDITIONS. The following chapters of this Code of Ordinances contain regulations prohibiting or restricting other conditions which are deemed to be nuisances:

1. Junk and Junk Vehicles (**See Chapter 51**)
2. Dangerous Buildings (**See Chapter 145**)
3. Storage and Disposal of Solid Waste (**See Chapter 105**)
4. Trees (**See Chapter 151**)
5. Property Maintenance (See Chapter 52)

50.04 NUISANCES PROHIBITED. The creation or maintenance of a nuisance is prohibited, and a nuisance, public or private, may be abated in the manner provided for in this chapter or State law.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657.3)

50.05 INSPECTION REPORT. Whenever the Mayor or other authorized City officer (Zoning Administrative Officer) is informed that a nuisance or other condition exists which is listed in this chapter, the Mayor or other authorized City officer shall provide that an inspection report be prepared within a reasonable time and given to the Mayor and Council. The report shall contain, but not be limited to:

1. A legal description of the property and a site map, if applicable.
2. A description of the nuisance and conditions that exist that caused the nuisance designation to be applied.
3. A statement of the acts necessary to abate the nuisance or condition.
4. A reasonable time within which to complete the abatement.
5. An estimate of the cost to abate the nuisance. If the abatement notice is regarding a dilapidated or junk building, the inspection report shall compare the cost of abatement with a project cost of reconstruction of the structure.

50.06 ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE OR CONDITION

1. **VOLUNTARY ABATEMENT.** The objective of this Code being the abatement of violations, person violating this Code shall, except in emergency situations, be given notice of the violation and allowed a reasonable amount of time to voluntarily remedy the violation before action to assess costs or penalties for committing a municipal infraction are undertaken. Consideration will be given to evidence of a good faith effort to correct the violation; whether an imminent health or safety hazard exists; whether the person has previously been notified of or charged with violations of a similar nature; and other factors.

2. **EMERGENCY CONDITION.** If the Enforcement Officer judges that an emergency exists which creates a dangerous and imminent health or safety hazard to person, property or the general public which requires immediate action, the City may order such action as may be necessary to meet the emergency. Any orders issued pursuant to this paragraph shall be effective immediately or in the time and manner prescribed in the order itself.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

3. **PROCEDURE.** Whenever Enforcement Officer finds that a nuisance or other condition that is listed in this chapter exists, the Enforcement Officer has the authority to determine on a case-by-case basis whether to utilize the nuisance abatement procedure described in Section 50.07 of this chapter or the municipal infraction procedure referred to in Section 50.08.

50.07 ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE BY WRITTEN NOTICE. Any nuisance, public or private, may be abated in the manner provided for in this section:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

1. Contents of Notice to Property Owner. The notice to abate shall contain:[†]
 - A. A legal description of the property and a site map, if applicable.
 - B. A description of the nuisance and conditions that exist that caused the nuisance designation to be applied.
 - C. A statement of the acts necessary to abate the nuisance or condition.
 - D. A reasonable time within which to complete the abatement.
 - E. An estimate of the cost to abate the nuisance. If the abatement notice is regarding a dilapidated or junk building, the notice shall compare the cost of abatement with a project cost of reconstruction of the structure.
 - F. A statement that if the nuisance or condition is not abated as directed and no request for hearing is made within the time prescribed, the City will abate it and assess the costs against the property owner.

2. Method of Service. When service of a notice to abate is required, the following methods of service shall be deemed adequate:

A. By personal service upon the person or persons in possession of the property in violation or the owner of the property upon which the nuisance exists.

B. If, after reasonable effort, personal service cannot be made, service shall be made by sending the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested to the last known address of person or persons in possession of the property.

3. Request for Hearing. Any person ordered to abate a nuisance may have a hearing with the Council as to whether a nuisance exists. A request for a hearing must be made in writing and delivered to the Clerk within the time stated in the notice, or it will be conclusively presumed that a nuisance exists and it must be abated as ordered. The hearing will be before the Council at a time and place fixed by the Council. The findings of the Council shall be conclusive and, if a nuisance is found to exist, it shall be ordered abated within a reasonable time under the circumstances.

4. Abatement by City. If the person notified to abate a nuisance or condition neglects or fails to abate as directed, the City may perform the required action to abate, keeping an accurate account of the expense incurred. The itemized expense account shall be filed with the Clerk, who shall pay such expenses on behalf of the City.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

5. Collection of Costs. The Clerk shall send a statement of the total expense incurred by certified mail or by service in the manner of an original notice to the property owner who has failed to abide by the notice to abate, and if the amount shown by the statement has not been paid within one month, the Clerk shall certify the costs to the County Treasurer, and such costs shall then be collected with, and in the same manner as, general property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

6. Installment Payment of Cost of Abatement. If the amount expended to abate the nuisance or condition exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the City may permit the assessment to be paid in up to ten (10) annual installments, to be paid in the same manner and with the same interest rates provided for assessments against benefited property under State law.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.13)

7. Failure to Abate. Any person causing or maintaining a nuisance who shall fail or refuse to abate or remove the same within the reasonable time required and specified in the notice to abate is in violation of this Code of Ordinances.

50.08 MUNICIPAL INFRACTION ABATEMENT PROCEDURE. In lieu of the abatement procedures set forth in Section 50.07, the requirements of this chapter may be enforced under the procedures applicable to municipal infractions as set forth in Chapter 3 of this Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 2. REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

Passed by the Council the ____ day of _____, 2014, and approved this ____ day of _____, 2014.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Barbara Smith, City Clerk

1st Reading _____

2nd Reading _____

3rd Reading _____

I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance 06-14 on the ____ day of _____, 2014.

Barbara Smith, City Clerk