The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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September 2, 2020

Local News

Laurens Prairie Preservation Trail Signs Refreshed

The Laurens Hometown Pride Committee decided it was time to refresh the Prairie Preservation Trail Signs hanging high above the popular multi-use trail located south of Hwy 10. The wood signs have been welcoming trail users for more than 25 years, but were showing the impact of years of exposure to all kinds of weather.

The Hometown Pride Committee applied for and received a Paint Iowa Beautiful Grant to purchase the stain and paint for the signs. The grant program, sponsored by Diamond Vogel Paint and Keep Iowa Beautiful, provides free paint to a wide variety of public service projects throughout Iowa. Hometown Pride Committee members recently completed the project.

Pictured in the photos are Hometown Pride Committee members John Pohlman and Doc Van Genderen pressure-washing and painting the two trail signs. Kaye Van Genderen also helped paint the signs. Laurens City employees assisted with the project by taking down the signs and will put the refreshed signs back in place. Special thanks to all who helped with this project!





At the Library with Glenda Mulder September 2, 2020

In my mind, Labor Day marks the official end of summer. Naturally, the Library will be closed for this three day weekend. (Librarians love 3 day weekends, just like you do!) Stock up now so you have plenty of books and movies to carry you through!

Our Book Club choice for September is Chris Bohjalian's *The Sandcastle Girls*. Our catalog describes it like this, "Presents the parallel stories of a young woman who falls in love with an Armenian soldier while aiding victims of the Armenian genocide in the early twentieth century, and a young woman who researches her Armenian heritage and discovers a terrible family secret." Hope you can join our discussion Monday, September 28 at 7 p.m.

Our Fall FUNdraiser has changed this year, thanks to Covid-19. We are not comfortable asking you to gather as we serve a meal. So on September 22 Laurens Public Library Foundation will be having a "Reverse Parade"! Library staff and Foundation Board members will be in front of the Library, dressed as our favorite book characters. You get to parade past us in your vehicle, honk, wave, yell, and (hopefully!) drop off your donation so we can continue with the FUN library projects that you have come to expect. We will have some book worms for you as a special thank you. Plan to join the Fun – at a safe distance, of course!

Speaking of fun Library Foundation projects, have you seen our new book bench? I was so excited to see this! It was almost a year ago that we found someone who was willing to try to give life to my dream. It was so worth the wait. The middle of this month it will be joined by a few more, and they will be scattered about our Music Garden on small cement pads. Your financial support makes this and other fun projects possible.

Some of the novels we have received this week include: *Squeeze Me* by Carl Hiaasen, *Chaos* by Iris Johansen, *Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline (Reg & LP) *Whirlwind* by Janet Dailey, *Bitter Pill* by Fern Michaels, *The Eighth Detective* by Alex Pavesi, *All the Devils are Here* by Louise Penny, *The Way of Love* by Traci Peterson, *Near Dark* by Brad Thor and *The Orphan Collector* by Ellen Wiseman.

In nonfiction we received *Memorial Drive; A Daughter's Memoir* by Natasha Trethewey

We are now open our regular hours, but if you don't feel comfortable coming in the library yet, let us know you need materials delivered, or we will arrange an outdoor pickup.

Coming Events

September 22 5-6 p.m. - Library Foundation "Reverse Parade" FUNdraiser September 28 @ 7p.m. - Book Club "Sandcastle Girls" by Chris Bohjalian

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Local News & Announcements

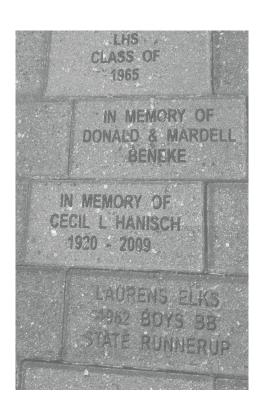




Memory Lane Brick Engraving

Brick engraving in Memory Lane is planned for some time in September. If you are interested in having a brick engraved, please have your brick order form completed and returned by September 9. Please use the attached link or contact Tjeran Jolliffe (841-2671) or Peg Milton (841-4645).

Click here for a brick engraving form!



Laurens Golf and Country Club Ladies Board Fall Meeting

The Laurens Golf and Country Club Ladies Board Fall Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15. Social hour from 5-6 p.m., meeting to start at 6 p.m., supper to follow. Hope to see you there!

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

Preserve Summer Bounty with Food Preservation 101 Virtual Course

To help Iowans safely preserve foods, ISU Extension and Outreach is hosting a virtual Food Preservation 101 course. Food Preservation 101 is a general overview that highlights the key information Iowans need to know to get started preserving food at home.

During this free, one-hour online course, nutrition and wellness specialists will:

- Discuss various food preservation techniques pressure canning, hot water bath canning, dehydration and freezing;
 - Provide science-based, reliable food preservation resources; and
- Answer general food preservation questions.

 The scheduled date and time is: Thursday, September 10, 7-8 p.m.

 These are free to Iowans across the state. To register for Food

 Preservation 101, go to https://www.extension.iastate.edu/
 humansciences/preservation-101.

We are also offering 2 new online food preservation classes, both free and 1 hour in length, for the fall:

Preserve the Taste of Summer Online: Totally Tomatoes
Thursday, October 8, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Monday, October 12, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Preserve the Taste of Summer Online: All About Apples

Thursday, October 22, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Wednesday, October 28, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The reservation link for these classes is: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/events?filter=preserve+the+taste+of+summer
For more information, email Holly VanHeel, vanheel@iastate.edu

Shaw Open House

All are invited to an open house honoring Allen & Cheryl Shaw who celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary and both of their 90th birthdays this fall. The open house will be at the Laurens United Methodist Church from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, September 6. NO GIFTS.

DENTAL ASSISTANT OPENING

As a Dental Assistant you will perform a variety of patient care, office, and laboratory duties, and work chair-side as dentists examine and treat patients.

Duties will include making patients as comfortable as possible in the dental chair, prepare them for treatment, obtain their dental records, assist by handing instruments and materials to dentists and keep patients' mouths dry and clear, sterilize and disinfect instruments and equipment, prepare trays of instruments for dental procedures, and instruct patients on postoperative and general oral health care.

Benefits and very competitive salary. Send resume directly to Bieri and Christensen Dentistry: 111 West Main Street, Laurens, IA 50554.



This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Ed Frank

Fri., Sept. 4:

Men's Bible Study @ 7 a.m.

Sun., Sept. 6:

In-person Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m. Celebration in honor of Allen & Cheryl Shaw's Anniversary & birthdays from 2-4 p.m. in fellowship hall

Mon., Sept. 7: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED in observance of Labor Day

Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic Church

Pocahontas, IA -- Pastor: Very Rev. Craig Collison, VF



This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Sunday: September 6, 2020 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM - Worship w/Communion

Tuesday: September 8, 2020

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

4:00 PM ~ W/M Mtg.

Wednesday: September 9, 2020

7:00 PM ~ Council Mtg.

Worship, Love, Accept-Together in Christ's Name

This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell 712-845-6164

Sunday, Sept. 6 10:30 a.m. - Worship

Sunday, Sept. 13 10:30 a.m. - Worship

New Hope Baptist Church

202 Byron St, Laurens

All services and activities at New Hope Baptist Church have been cancelled until further notice.

Iowa Forests Are Teeming with Bird Life

Forests provide critical habitat for Iowa's wildlife, and that is especially true for birds.

Even though forests cover only 7% of the state, more than 150 species of birds use Iowa's forests at some point during the year. In a new publication called "Iowa's Forest Birds," Adam Janke, assistant professor and extension wildlife specialist at Iowa State University, and two co-authors examine the variety of ways birds use forests.

Some species spend most of their time in the overstory of trees, some in the midstory and some in the understory. Additionally, some live most of their lives in the forest, while others only rely on the forest for occasional use or when migrating.

The publication examines all of the different ways birds use Iowa's forests, as well as when and where keen observers are most likely to spot a specific species.

"A high percentage of Iowa's species of conservation concern are found in forest environments," Janke said. "Even though forests aren't particularly common in Iowa's landscapes, they have a lot of unique diversity that supports bird life."

According to Janke, people often view all forests the same, when in reality, each forest is different and supports a different host of wildlife, including different species of birds.

The publication includes a comparative chart of different trees, shrubs and vines that produce valuable fruits eaten by birds. The publication also covers seasonal information, and how different birds use forests throughout the year.

"There are all different types of forests found in Iowa," he said. "We have forests with rivers and streams, savannahs, young forests and more. Some provide temporary habitat for young birds for example, and others host birds we don't find outside of the forest at all."

The article presents research findings from Iowa and neighboring states that revealed bird distribution within a forest is ultimately driven by forest structure: things like canopy cover, the type, size and growth form of trees and shrubs, and the age of the trees.

Some birds are drawn to the deeper, central parts of the forest, while other species are more drawn to forest edges.

The publication also offers guidance on how to maintain a healthy forest landscape, which leads to an optimal habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Co-authors included Benjamin West, graduate student in natural resource ecology and management at Iowa State; and Stephen Dinsmore, professor of natural resource ecology and management.

For more information, Janke can be reached at 515-294-7429 or ajanke@iastate.edu.

Publications Help Families Make Child Care Decisions During COVID-19

Families are understandably feeling overwhelmed with child care decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Child care programs have closed, re-opened and then closed again. Parents of school-agers are struggling to find child care that can accommodate school plans for alternate days and staggered arrival and departure.

"It's like learning to juggle on a rollercoaster," said Lesia Oesterreich, family life state specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

ISU Extension and Outreach has developed the COVID-19 Child Care Considerations publication series to help families sort through decisions during these trying times, Oesterreich explained.

- Exploring Child Care Options in a Pandemic discusses the pros and cons of different options and gives tips on finding and paying for child care.
- Child Care in Your Home offers helpful guidance for hiring someone to provide full or part-time care for your children.
- The Transportation Scramble helps parents make good decisions about shared transportation to and from school.
- "I encourage families to carefully weigh their concerns for safety, explore options, decide what will work best for them and have a plan B. While there is no one best solution, there are some workable options to help families get through this challenging time," Oesterreich said.

All three publications are available for free download from the Extension Store at https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/15960.

You also can search for HS 160 or COVID on the Extension Store website, https://store.extension.iastate.edu.

Yard and Garden: Sowing Grass Seed Fall is an ideal time to sow grass seed in Iowa

Sowing grass seed at the optimal time of year, selection of a high-quality seed mix appropriate for the site and consistent watering are keys to successfully establishing grass from seed. In this week's Yard and Garden article, Richard Jauron, horticulture specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, offers some insight. For more information, email your questions to hortline@iastate.edu.

When is the best time to sow grass seed in Iowa? Mid-August to mid-September is the best time to seed new lawns and overseed existing lawns in Iowa. Late summer seeding has several advantages over spring seeding. The seeds of coolseason grasses germinate quickly in the warm soil of late summer. The warm days and cool nights of early fall promote rapid turfgrass growth. The growing grass also has less competition from weeds, as few weed seeds germinate in fall. Grass seed can also be sown in spring (April to mid-May) in Iowa. However, spring seeding is often less successful than late-summer seeding.

What should I look for when buying grass seed? When purchasing grass seed, choose a high-quality seed mix that is best adapted to the site. In sunny areas, Kentucky bluegrass is the best choice. Select a seed mix that contains at least two or three bluegrass cultivars. Perennial ryegrass is often included in many bluegrass seed mixes because of its ability to germinate and establish quickly. Use a mixture containing Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and fineleaf fescues in areas that contain sun and shade. The fine-leaf fescues (creeping red fescue, hard fescue, chewings fescue, etc.) are the best grasses for shady locations.

How often should I water a newly seeded area? After seeding, keep the upper 1 inch of soil moist with frequent, light applications of water. Two light applications of water per day are usually sufficient. However, it may be necessary to water three or four times on windy, sunny days. The seeds of most turfgrasses should germinate in two to three weeks if the seedbed is kept uniformly moist. Gradually reduce the frequency of watering, but water more deeply, when the grass seedlings reach a height of 1 to 2 inches.

Stress Management Program Available Virtually to Ag Community

Farming can be stressful in the best of times. Financial worries, unpredictable weather, unpredictable commodity prices, plant pests, livestock diseases and isolation all contribute to farmers' anxiety. And now Iowa's rural communities and families are coping with the unpredictability and imposed isolation produced by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the destruction from the derecho that swept through Iowa.

In response to this additional stress, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, in collaboration with COVID Recovery Iowa, will offer 10 online "Stress on the Farm: Strategies That Help" programs beginning Friday, Aug. 28, said David Brown, behavioral health specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

"While our agricultural community has been impacted by COVID-19, many have now experienced extreme losses of their crops, buildings, storage and other hardships that came with the storm. This is all additional stress that is impacting our agricultural community and it's important we're all aware of the signs of stress for ourselves and so that we can be of help to our neighbors," Brown said.

ISU Extension and Outreach will offer Stress on the Farm: Strategies That Help at various dates and times to meet the busy schedules of those in the agricultural community. Each program will last for one-half hour on the following dates and times:

- Friday, Aug. 28, 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 31, 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 3, 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 8, 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 11, 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, Sept. 14, 12:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 22, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 25, 12:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2:30 p.m.

Agribusiness professionals, agriculture lenders and bankers, veterinarians, vet techs, commodity group members, producers and other concerned individuals can register at no cost for any of these programs. To register, go to https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/stress-farm. Participants will receive a unique URL prior to the program to access the Zoom hosted program.

For more information, contact David Brown at dnbrown@iastate.edu.

Other resources. Iowa Concern, offered by ISU Extension and Outreach, provides confidential access to stress counselors and an attorney for legal education, as well as information and referral services for a wide variety of topics. With a toll-free phone number, live chat capabilities and a website, Iowa Concern services are available 24 hours a day, seven days per week at no charge. To reach Iowa Concern, call 800-447-1985; language interpretation services are available. Or, visit the website, https://www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaconcern/, to live chat with a stress counselor one-on-one in a secure environment. Or, email an expert regarding legal, finance, stress, or crisis and disaster issues.

COVID Recovery Iowa offers a variety of services to anyone affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual counselors provide counseling, activities, referral information and help finding resources for any Iowan seeking personal support. Iowans of all ages may join groups online for activities and learn creative strategies for coping with the effects of the pandemic. COVID Recovery Iowa will announce upcoming programs on the website and via all social media to help Iowans build coping skills, resilience and emotional support. To request support, go to https://www.COVIDrecoveryiowa.org.

The Utility Board of Trustees of Laurens, Iowa met in regular session at the Municipal Building, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 5:15 p.m. on the above date. Present were Trustees Richard Main, Jerry Runneberg and Ben Storms. Also present was General Manager Chad Cleveland.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the agenda for the August 24, 2020 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020 Regular Board meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the summary of receipts for July 2020 in the amount of \$445,509.95 and the list of expenses for July 2020 in the amount of \$339,191.40. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Summary of Receipts

Total Cash Receipts	\$	445,509.95
Communications Receipts	\$	76,610.56
Electric Receipts	\$	368,899.39
Total Cash Receipts	\$	445,509.95
Property Insurance Refund – Cable TV	\$	6.40
Property Insurance Refund – Telephone		16.00
Property Insurance Refund – Internet	\$	33.60
Property Insurance Refund – Electric	\$ \$ \$	104.00
Work Comp Insurance Refund – Cable TV		103.20
Work Comp Insurance Refund – Telephone	\$	258.00
Work Comp Insurance Refund – Internet	\$ \$ \$	541.80
Work Comp Insurance Refund – Electric	\$	1,677.00
Office Supplies – Electric	\$ \$ \$	60.00
Miscellaneous – Cable TV	\$	71.99
Miscellaneous – Telephone	\$	36.00
Attachment H Revenues – Electric	\$	27,628.02
Tower Lease – Communications	\$ \$	1,200.00
E911 Fees – Communications	\$	1,283.37
Marathon Energy Sales – Electric	\$	10,478.24
Marathon Loan – Interest Payment – Electric	\$	250.26
Marathon Loan – Principal Payment – Electric	\$	60,895.67
Deposits – Internet	\$	329.00
Deposits – Electric	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	3,210.00
Energy Assistance – Electric	\$	241.81
Write-Off Recovery – Communications	\$	250.00
Write-Off Recovery – Electric	\$	1,455.00
Carrier Access Fees – Communications		4,995.66
Merchandise/Services – Communications	\$	92.00
Merchandise/Services – Electric	\$	1,075.00
A/R – Communications	\$	67,393.54
A/R – Electric	\$	261,824.39
Cammary of Receipts		

List of Expenses

A & M Laundry	Dust Mops & Mats	\$ 85.28
AFLAC	Employee Contributions	\$ 245.80
Alliant Energy	Natural Gas	\$ 374.58
August Enterprises LLC	Asbestos Removal	\$ 1,995.00

LMPC Minutes

Aureon	CALEA/SS7/Switching/Transport	\$	552.05
Avesis	Group Vision Insurance		108.48
Big 10 Network	Programming Fees	\$	529.74
Border States Electric	Ground Rods/Lineman Tool	\$	294.86
Century Link Access	Access/Transport Fees	\$	558.65
Century Link Lexcis	Directory Listings	¢	25.84
Charger Pride	Advertising School Calendars	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	50.00
Cleveland, Chad	Hosting Services/Domain Renewal		171.85
	•	φ	900.00
Consortia Consulting	Consulting Contract	φ	
Counsel	Lanier Copier Support	Ф	72.00
Customers	Deposit/Closed Account Refunds	Þ	969.55
Department of Energy	WAPA Power Bill	\$	30,934.10
DGR Engineering	Electric Rate Study	\$	540.00
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding – Administration	\$	120.00
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding – Claims	\$	438.32
Fox Sports North	Programming Fees	\$	1,363.74
Grainger	Fuel Meter/Compartment Boxes	\$	372.22
Gray Television Group	Programming Fees	\$	1,340.00
Hearst Television	Programming Fees	\$	1,222.86
ICMA RC	Employee Contributions	\$	800.00
Iconnectiv	Local Number Portability	\$	16.83
Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	\$	7,211.45
Internal Revenue Service	Federal Excise Tax	\$	754.01
Interstate TRS Fund	TRS Fund Assessment	\$	2,567.52
Iowa Department of Revenue	Sales Tax	$oldsymbol{\omega}$	6,796.00
Iowa Department of Revenue	State Withholding	\$	1,231.00
Iowa One Call	Locates	\$	111.60
Iowa Public Employees Retirement System	IPERS Contributions	\$	4,761.19
Iowa Utilities Board	DPRS Assessment	\$	39.17
KTIV-TV	Programming Fees	ψ	1,518.00
Laurens, City of	Utility Billing	Ψ	94,416.24
Laurens Food Pride	Cleaning Supplies	ψ	179.69
Laurens House of Print	• • • •	φ	48.15
	Paper Communications Bill	Φ	200.99
Laurens Municipal Power & Communications		Φ	
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Utility Bill	Ф	224.38
Laurens Plumbing	Dehumidifier/Supplies	Þ	584.75
Laurens State Bank	Service Charges	- 1	29.82
Laurens Sun	Publications/Advertising	\$	173.83
Library of Congress	SA1 Royalty Licensing Fees	\$	67.00
Long Lines	Communication Services	\$	9,487.08
LS Engineers, Inc.	Industrial Foundation Bldg. Review	\$	4,265.00
Merchant Bankcard	Credit Card Processing Fees	\$	894.86
Messenger	Advertising	\$	189.00
Mid-American Energy	NEAL 4 Operations	\$	40,000.00
National Cable Television Cooperative	Programming Fees	\$	13,663.63
Nexstar Broadcasting	Programming Fees	\$	1,190.82
NIMECA	Power Bill / MCR Bill	\$	55,611.33
Norgaard Sand & Gravel	Pea Rock	\$	293.91
Northern Tool & Equipment	Trailer Dolly	\$	197.18
Oakhill Consulting	FTTH Project	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	2,046.00
Office Elements	Office Supplies	\$	74.25
Payroll	Salaried, Hourly & Overtime	\$	20,719.10
PLIC-SBD Grand Island	Life/Disability Insurance	\$	497.84
Pocahontas County 911	E911 Fees	\$	1,283.37
Pop Media	Programming Fees	\$	45.39
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Biggest Little Paper In Town!

LMPC Minutes

Postmaster	Postage	\$ 887.50
Pro Cooperative	Fuel	\$ 253.25
R&D Industries	Network Support	\$ 610.75
Richardson's Service	Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 70.91
Secure Shred Solutions	Paper Shredding	\$ 24.00
Sonksen, Karla	Supplies	\$ 13.64
Spencer Municipal Utilities	Transport Fees	\$ 660.75
Tegna	Programming Fees	\$ 1,388.40
TP Anderson & Company	Audit Fees	\$ 3,760.00
TSB Inc.	CMTS Upgrade	\$ 6,924.71
US Bank	Hallway Mirrors/Brochure Holders	\$ 47.63
US Card Systems	Credit Card Terminal Lease	\$ 29.95
Verizon	Wireless Phone Service	\$ 218.20
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	Group Health Insurance	\$ 8,048.09
Zcorum	Cable Modem Provisioning	\$ 798.32
	Total Expenses	\$ 339,191.40
	Electric Expenses	\$ 269,433.52
	Communications Expenses	\$ 69,757.88
	Total Expenses	\$ 339,191.40

The Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report, Balance Sheet, and Income Statement for July 2020. CD # 70403 recently matured. The Board reviewed the CD interest rate quotes received. Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to reinvest and purchase a \$550,000.00 CD from Laurens State Bank for a 6-month term. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the proposed demolition specifications for the structure directly South of the City's water tower – also known as the freezer building. Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the demolition specifications for the structure directly South of the City's water tower. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

At 6:35 p.m. the Trustees and General Manager left the Municipal Building to tour the LMPC facilities.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Richard Main
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland

Secretary, Board of Trustees