# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!

Laurens, Iowa





No. 42

www.thepapernow.com

## Local News

# Gift of Grain for Pool

A large thank you to those in our farming community who are deciding to contribute to the Pool Project through the Gift of Grain.

The Brian Olson family has a strong connection to the existing swimming pool in Laurens. "Obviously, we have a lot of kids and they all utilize the pool", states Katie Olson. "I think it's a great way for kids to stay active throughout the summer and keep in contact with friends. I want our kids to continue to have that option with a new pool along with the fun and memories it will bring them."

"Brian and I were drawn to donate towards this project because I grew up with a bigger sized pool in my hometown and I loved it as a kid. Another reason we feel strongly about donating to a new pool is, I think it's VERY important for kids to have the option of swimming lessons. It could save a life someday!"

"The gift of grain worked out in our favor when an anonymous donor offered to match whatever was donated. So it was just a few phone calls and we were able to make a donation! How easy and to a great project! "

Thank you to Brian and Katie for their gift of grain toward our pool facility that will create many happy memories in the near future.





Left back row: Addison, Emma, Brian, Ryan, Katie and Adeline Left front row: Jayden and Natalie.

# Multiple Ways to Give to the Pool!

Just a reminder that your gift to the Laurens Pool Project will now be matched by our Anonymous Donor. This is the perfect time to make your personal donation, or to donate in a loved one's memory.

We have a couple fundraisers happening now, to take full advantage of this offer.

We are selling Raffle Tickets for two Pork Bundles. Two lucky names will be drawn February 20th to win a half hog, fully processed. Get your tickets from any Pool Committee member, or at City Hall.

Speaking of February 20 - Sip & Press for a SPLASH! at 6 pm at Rally Point. MadTees Graphic Tees promises to make this easy and fun! Fun t-shirt designs include Spring, Chargers, Mama, St Patrick's Day, ISU, U of I themes and more! Cost is just \$30, which covers your shirt, a built-in donation, snacks, and a great time! Limited seats are still available. Register using the link on The Laurens Pool Project Facebook page.

Donations can be sent to: Laurens Pool Project, 272 North 3rd Street, Laurens, IA 50554.





# DNR to recap Hunting Seasons, Discuss Possible Rule Changes at Feb. 22 Public Meeting

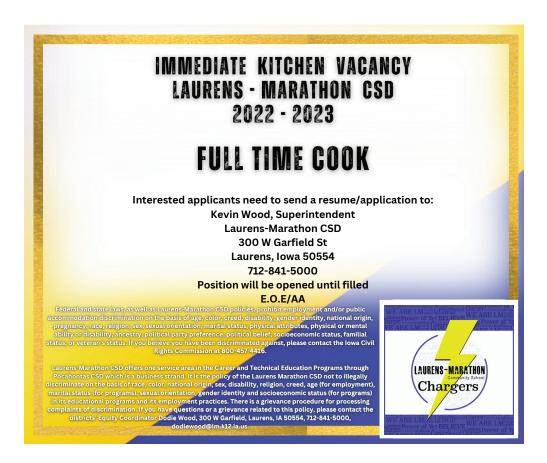
The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a series of town hall-style meetings where local staff provide updates on recently completed hunting seasons, discuss possible changes to hunting rules and regulations, and address other topics as requested.

Locally, the Iowa DNR will be at the Water's Edge Nature Center, 1010 250th Street, near Algona, on Feb. 22. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

"We want people to come out, listen to the hunting seasons reviews, ask questions and hear directly from our staff," said Todd Bishop, chief of the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Bureau. "Part of the meeting will be devoted to discussing potential rule changes and collecting feedback as we work through the rules process."

The meetings are open to the public. Comments collected from these public meetings will be considered along with other related comments received by the Iowa DNR prior to proposing changes to hunting rules and regulations. Proposed rules will be presented to the Natural Resource Commission during a regular public meeting for consideration and additional public comment.

Any person attending the public meeting and having special requirements, such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments, should contact the Iowa DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov, and advise of specific needs.





# At the Library with Glenda Mulder February 8, 2023

A Bar Crawl at the Library – what?! On a Librarian Facebook page I follow, someone posted that they had a "Bar Crawl" at their Library. As I read the details, it sounded like so much fun, I decided to steal the idea! (This is encouraged in the Library World!) So, at 2 p.m. next Tuesday, February 14, we will have a Valentine Bar Crawl at the Library!

Here's the plan: Participants bring in a pan of bars (brownies, lemon bars, etc.) along with the recipe. (So we can share, and also in case there are allergens) Attendees will do the "Bar Crawl" and try a bite of each bar, then vote for their favorite (Naturally, you cannot vote for your own!)

So haul out your recipes, decide which one to bake, and bring a pan of bars to the Library! Maybe get a friend or two to join you. I'll make a pot of coffee, and come up with a prize for the winner.

New novels this week include: Heart Bones by Colleen Hoover, Killer View by Roy Johansen, Unnatural History by Jonathan Kellerman, Three Days to Live by James Patterson, Lying Beside You by Michael Robotham, Shards by Bret Easton Ellis, Of Manners and Murder by Anastasia Hastings and How to Sell a Haunted House by Grady Hendrix.

Our February Book Club read is *The Book of Longings* by Sue

Monk Kidd. The publisher's book description ends like this, "Grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach, *The Book of Longings* is an inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her. It is a triumph of storytelling both timely and timeless, from a masterful writer at the height of her powers." Grab a copy and join the discussion Monday, February 27 at 7 p.m.

#### **Dates to Remember**

February 8 - Kids Valentine Cards & Crafts

February 14 @ 2 p.m. - Valentine Bar Crawl

February 15 @ 5:30 p.m. - Valentine Tot Time

February 27 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd

February 28 @ 6:30 p.m. - Cardmaking



# 2 pm Tuesday, February 14

## How it works:

Bring in a pan of bars (brownies, lemon bars, etc.) along with the recipe.

Attendees will do the "bar crawl" and try a bite of each bar, then vote for their favorite (you cannot vote for your own!)

Laurens Public Library

# Advertising











- Sponsored cocktail hour from 6:30-7:30.
- Hors D'oeuvres, Games, DJ, Silent **Auction**, and Raffles.
- Texas Hold 'em Tournament at 7:45... limited seats.
- \$50 a ticket.
- Tickets open to the public beginning December 15th.

Please respond to one of the following at vour earliest convenience. Tickets are limited!

Bry Gustafson

515-320-0954

Cayla Frerk

712-358-2215

Laura Hansen

712-450-2131

Steph Santellanez 712-730-1675

**Tricia Willeford** 

712-450-2134

## IMMEDIATE CUSTODIAL VACANCY LAURENS - MARATHON CSD 2022 - 2023 CUSTODIAL FULL - TIME OR PART - TIME DAY / EVENING HOURS

Interested applicants need to send a resume/application to:

Kevin Wood, Superintendent

Laurens-Marathon CSD

300 W Garfield St

Laurens, Iowa 50554

712-841-5000

Position will be opened until filled E.O.E/AA

and/or public ender identity, national origin tributes, physical or mental cioeconomic status, familial

Laurens-Marathon CSD offers one service area in the Career and Technical Education Programs through Pocahontas CSD which is a business strand, it is the policy of the Laurens Marathon CSD not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the districts' Emility Coordinates of the contact the



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or publisher@mylaurens.com.

# This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Wednesday: February 8, 2023 5:00-6:30 PM ~ Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner at UMC 7:00 PM ~ Council Mtg.

Sunday: February 12, 2023 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS 9:30 AM ~ Youth SS & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 AM ~ Worship 4:00 PM ~ Youth Board Mtg. at UMC

Tuesday: February 14, 2023

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group 9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

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



# This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

#### Pastor Deb Parkison

Fri., Feb. 10:

AA meeting from 7-8 p.m. in the Wesley Room

Sun., Feb. 12

Sunday School @ 9:10 a.m. Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m. Worship @ 10:30 a.m. Youth Group Board meeting @ 4 p.m. at Laurens UMC

Wed., Feb. 15:

Administrative Council mtg @ 7 p.m.



# This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

**Thursday, Feb. 9** 2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Sunday, Feb 12 -

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - Worship 4:00 p.m. - Youth Group Board Meeting at UMC



# Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic Church

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

#### **MASS TIMES:**

Daily Mass as scheduled in the weekly bulletin Saturday at 5:00 PM and Sunday at 10:30 AM

**Confessions:** Saturday 4:15 pm at Resurrection

# Seed Treatment Course Set for February 15

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County will host a Seed Treatment Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators Wednesday, February 15, 2023. The program, provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP), is available at office locations across Iowa.

Preregistration may be required. Walk-ins are not guaranteed admission. The course runs from 9-11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$45. The registration fee is \$45. Starting January 1, 2023, every 3rd Thursday is a scheduled reshow day. Non-scheduled reshows days will be charged an additional \$10 per person for a reshow.

To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, call ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103.

The course will provide continuing instruction credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in category 4. Topics covered will include personal protective equipment and safe handling, storage of pesticides, including chemical security; and pests, pest management and pesticides.

Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered at this program. Interested participants should bring their CCA number.

Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered by the PSEP program can be accessed at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/PSEP.

# Use Tax Refund to Reach Financial Goals

A tax refund is always a welcome bonus. Whether it's \$500 or \$5,000, the way you use that money can have a real impact on your personal and financial wellbeing.

Barb Wollan, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, offers some suggestions on how to use your tax refund.

"I'm not suggesting 'right' and 'wrong' ways to use your refund. Only you can decide what's best for you and your family," Wollan noted. "I do, however, suggest you keep in mind four general considerations before spending your refund."

Plan ahead before your refund arrives. Without a plan, you might use the money on the first valuable thing that comes to mind, and then later realize something else was more important. Planning ahead and involving the family increases the chances you will identify all the possibilities and think about which are most important.

Keep in mind that it will be a full year before you receive another tax refund. Consider the possible needs and goals that you will encounter throughout all of 2023 before deciding how to use your refund. For example, you could set some money aside for car repairs or new tires, or for back-to-school expenses or holiday expenses later in the year.

Consider ways your refund could help to build long-term financial security. These might include paying down high-interest debts, boosting your emergency savings, or setting some money aside for retirement or college expenses.

Don't throw away part of your refund on loan fees. "Companies that offer 'quick refunds' are just giving you a loan," Wollan said. "It's a high-cost, high-risk loan that could come back to bite you if your refund is held by the government to pay back student loans or other government debts.

"People are often most satisfied with their use of their tax refund when they balance long-term goals with shorter-term goals," said Wollan. "That often means putting some money toward the 'big picture,' while using some of the refund for something that makes your life better or offers enjoyment now."

Wollan offered one final tip related to tax refunds. "For those who get big refunds, but experience extremely tight finances during the year, it sometimes makes sense to reduce the amount of tax that is withheld from your income. This reduces the size of the tax refund but offers larger monthly paychecks year round."

For some families, making this change helps to prevent overdue bills, late fees and other financial stressors during the year. If this could be helpful to you, Wollan suggests talking with your employer's payroll department to arrange to have less tax taken out of your paycheck.

ISU Extension and Outreach specialists are available for individual financial consultations with Iowans who are working toward financial goals and would like some information, tools or strategies that would assist them. Find your regional specialist at www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/finance.

January 30, 2023

The Utility Board of Trustees of Laurens, Iowa met in regular session at the Municipal Building, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 4:00 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 Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the agenda for the January 30, 2023 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to appoint Trustee Richard Main as Chairman, Trustee Ben Storms as Chairman Pro Tem, Chad Cleveland as Board Secretary, and Trustees Main, Runneberg, Storms and Secretary Cleveland to the Investment Committee. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2022 Board meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the summary of receipts for December 2022 in the amount of \$439,091.96 and the list of expenses for December 2022 in the amount of \$378,298.79. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### **Summary of Receipts**

A/R – Electric	\$	235,840.78
A/R – Communications	\$	58,851.61
Merchandise/Services – Electric	\$	2,160.00
Merchandise/Services – Communications	\$	56.00
Carrier Access Fees – Communications	\$	3,058.39
Write-Off Recovery – Electric	\$	190.61
Accrued Interest – Electric	\$	4,062.50
Lehigh-Webster Transmission Sale Proceeds – Electric	\$	95,777.55
ACP/Lifeline/ERATE Reimbursements – Communications	\$	429.00
Deposits – Electric	\$	445.14
Deposits – Internet	\$	322.00
Deposits – Cable TV	\$	101.00
RESCO Deferred Patronage – Electric	\$	183.00
Treasury Interest in Excess – Electric	\$	.07
Marathon Energy Sales – Electric	\$	9,417.50
Tower Lease – Communications	\$	2,118.00
Attachment H Revenues – Electric	\$	25,973.24
Miscellaneous – Communications	\$	75.57
Office Phones – Electric	\$	30.00
Total Cash Receipts	\$	439,091.96
	_	
Electric Receipts		374,080.39
Communications Receipts		65,011.57
Total Cash Receipts	\$	439,091.96

#### List of Expenses

Tiot of Exposition		
A & M Laundry	Dust Mops & Mats	\$ 89.28
AFLAC	Employee Contributions	\$ 299.84
Alliant Energy	Natural Gas	\$ 347.86
Aureon	CALEA/SS7/Switching/Transport	\$ 556.32
Avesis	Group Vision Insurance	\$ 100.43
Bailey, David	Safety Footwear	\$ 150.00
Bally Sports North	Programming Fees	\$ 2,325.00

# LMPC Minutes

Big 10 Network	Programming Fees	\$	451.20
CDS Global	Credit Card Processing Fees	\$	36.95
Clanton Creek Connections	FTTP Project – Customer Installs	\$	27,000.00
Cleveland, Chad	Meeting Expense	\$	10.00
Community First Broadcasting	Radio Advertising	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$	52.50
Community State Bank	Service Charges	\$	113.53
Consortia Consulting	Consulting Contract	\$	1,206.25
Customers	Deposit/Credit Refunds	\$	233.39
Department of Energy	WAPA Power Bill	\$	31,086.39
DGR Engineering	Marathon Rate Calculation	\$	2,023.00
DGR Engineering	Relay Upgrade/SCADA Project	\$	400.00
Display Systems International	Programming Fees	\$	165.76
Echo Group	FTTP Project – Installation Supplies	\$	8,093.19
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding – Administration	\$	120.00
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding – Claims	\$	505.90
Fiserv	Credit Card Processing Fees	\$	47.20
Goldfield Telecom	FTTP Project – Calix E7 Cards	\$	14,574.55
Gray Media Group	Programming Fees	\$	825.00
Gworks	Annual License/Support Fees	\$	4,497.80
Hearst Television	Programming Fees	\$	1,489.40
ICMA RC	Employee Contributions	\$	1,000.00
Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	\$	8,795.05
Interstate TRS Fund	TRS Fund Assessment	\$	137.76
Iowa Department of Revenue	Sales/Use Tax	\$	5,750.20
Iowa Department of Revenue	State Withholding	\$	1,459.00
Iowa One Call	Locates	\$	23.50
Iowa Public Employees Retirement System	IPERS Contributions	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$	5,735.21
Laurens, City of	Utility Billing	\$	84,638.27
Laurens, City of	Cable TV Franchise Fees	\$	12,317.29
Laurens Food Pride	Supplies	\$	34.60
Laurens Municipal Power & Communications	Communications Bill	\$	110.36
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Utility Bill	\$	209.05
Laurens Plumbing		\$	261.92
Laurens Sun	Publications/Advertising	\$	547.21
Long Lines	Communication Services	\$ \$	9,381.61
Lumen Access Billing	Access Charges		551.68
Lumen Lexcis	Directory Listings	\$	36.45
Main, Richard	Trustee Fees	\$	720.00
Merchant Bankcard	Credit Card Processing Fees	\$	859.11
Mid-America Communications II, LLC	FTTP Project – Customer Installs	\$	12,583.20
National Cable Television Cooperative	Programming Fees	\$	13,752.90
Nexstar Broadcasting	Programming Fees	\$	1,474.68
NIMECA	Power Bill	\$	64,283.67
NIMECA	Lehigh Webster Legal Fees	\$	1,519.45
Oakhill Consulting	FTTP Project Engineering	\$	204.00
Office Elements	Office Supplies	\$	47.85
Payroll	Salaried, Hourly & Overtime	\$	24,471.64
Petty Cash	Postage	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	15.20
PLIC-SBD Grand Island	Life/Disability Insurance	\$	671.35
Pocahontas County E911	E911 Fees	\$	903.37
Pop Media	Programming Fees	\$	37.69
Pro Cooperative	Vehicle Fuel	\$	528.07
Pro Cooperative	Generator Fuel	\$	9,585.10
R&D Industries			877.37
RB Lumber Company	FTTP Project – Installation Supplies	\$	153.97

## LMPC Minutes

Richardson's Service	Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 75.18
Runneberg, Jerry	Trustee Fees	\$ 720.00
Spencer Municipal Utilities	Transport Fees	\$ 450.00
Storms, Ben	Trustee Fees	\$ 720.00
Stuart C Irby	Electric Supplies	\$ 125.73
Unity Point Occupational Medicine	Testing	\$ 42.00
US Card Systems	Credit Card Terminal Lease	\$ 29.95
Verizon	Wireless Phone Service	\$ 207.00
Visa	FTTP Project – Tools/Smart TV	\$ 612.01
Visa	Winter Shelter/Code Books	\$ 752.88
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	Group Health Insurance	\$ 13,324.44
Zcorum	Cable Modem Provisioning	\$ 761.08
	Total Expenses	\$ 378,298.79

 Electric Expenses
 \$ 306,042.83

 Communications Expenses
 \$ 72,255.96

 Total Expenses
 \$ 378,298.79

Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report, Balance Sheet, and Income Statement for December 2022. No specific action was taken.

Trustee Runneberg introduced the following Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NAMING DEPOSITORIES" and moved for adoption. Trustee Storms seconded the motion to adopt. The roll was called, and the vote was: Ayes: Main, Runneberg, and Storms. Nays: None.

Chairman Main declared the following Resolution duly adopted:

#### RESOLUTION NAMING DEPOSITORIES

BE IT RESOLVED that the Utility Board of Trustees of the City of Laurens, Iowa approves the following list of financial institutions to be depositories of the Laurens Municipal Light and Power Plant and the Laurens Municipal Broadband Communications Utility.

DEPOSITORY NAME	LOCATION	MAXIMUM BALANCE
Community State Bank	Laurens, Iowa	\$10,000,000
West Iowa Bank	Laurens, Iowa	\$ 5,000,000
Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust	West Des Moines, Iowa	\$ 5,000,000
LPL Financial Holdings	Boston, Massachusetts	\$10,000,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Chairman, Board Chairman Pro Tem, Board Secretary, Accounting/Billing Clerk, and Customer Service/Billing Clerk are hereby authorized to deposit Utility funds in amounts not to exceed the maximum approved for each financial institution.

Adopted this 30th day of January 2023.

Richard Main

Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland

Secretary, Board of Trustees

Trustees reviewed the current Investment Policy. No specific action was taken.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the "New Home Cash Incentive Program" for calendar year 2023 available to the first owner of a newly constructed all electric residence.

#### LMPC Minutes

Qualified applicants will receive a cash incentive of up to \$10,000 from Laurens Municipal Power & Communications which is calculated at a rate of \$5.00 per square foot of living area. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to pay the IRS standard mileage rate for calendar year 2023. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Fiber-To-The-Premise Project Update: We are actively transitioning customers to the new fiber system. Customers are being contacted by phone to schedule appointments for our installation teams. To date we have transitioned 365 customers over to the new fiber system.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the Scope of Services and Fee Proposal from CMBA Architects for our new storage building. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the proposed energy efficiency rebate program for calendar year 2023. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried. The written rebate program for calendar year 2023 will be available to review on the Utility website: www.lmpc-ia.com.

Discussion was held on the LMPC Employee Handbook, in particular, the sections related to vacation, sick leave, and overtime. No specific action was taken.

Discussion was held on the Security Assessment at First Entry of the Laurens Municipal Building prepared by Chris Judge of the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency. No specific action was taken.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Richard Main
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland

Secretary, Board of Trustees