

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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Local News

Iowa Grocers Award Build with Bags Grants in 2023

New park benches, picnic tables and trash cans will help to beautify parks and schools throughout Iowa this spring and summer, courtesy of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association's Build with Bags program.

Eight Iowa communities will be receiving grants of up to \$2,000 to purchase items made from recycled plastic bags. Items include park benches made by Plastic Recycling of Iowa Falls. One park bench represents

approximately 10,600 bags that won't end up in the landfill.

"We are excited to announce the winners of this year's Build with Bags grants," says Michelle Hurd, president of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association. "Now in its 14th year, the program continues to encourage individuals to recycle their plastic bags so those bags can be turned into products that beautify our communities. We are proud to reward this year's grant winners for their recycling efforts."

A total of 16 applications were submitted from which eight winners were selected by a committee of representatives in support of the Build with Bags program. Each committee member individually scored the applications. The scores were then combined for an overall point total. This year, the top eight applicants with the most points received grants totaling \$13,268.

Applications were evaluated based on set criteria that included a statement of need for the grant and the community's

own plastic bag recycling efforts. Grant applicants were also asked to verify the recycled plastic content in the products they were looking to purchase and to obtain an endorsement letter from a local grocer who is supportive of the community's project and recycling plans.

Geographic location also played a factor as the committee sought to disperse the grant awards around the state of Iowa. Local Iowa grocers played an important role in making the grants possible. Store representatives throughout the state wrote letters of support that led to their communities being selected to receive a grant.

"While the endorsement letter was not the most weighted category in the selection process, it is an important component of the Build with Bags program," Hurd explains. "It reflects how the applying community is working with its local grocers to establish long-term projects and goals that help increase the awareness of plastic bag recycling."

Encouraging purchases of furniture and equipment made from recycled plastic for parks and schools through

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its grant program is one of four goals established by Build with Bags partners. The other three include increasing the number of plastic bags recycled, reducing consumption of plastic bags and increasing the safe use of reusable bags.

Participating retailers include Fareway Stores and Hy-Vee locations statewide plus many independent grocers.

Build with Bags is a cooperative effort of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association, Keep Iowa Beautiful, Metro Waste Authority in Des Moines and Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Originally launched in August 2009, the Build with Bags Grant program has awarded \$ 362,095 in grants to approximately 250 Iowa communities.

For more information on Build with Bags Grants, visit www.iowagrocers.com.

About the Iowa Grocery Industry Association. The Iowa Grocery Industry Association is a state trade association that represents the food industry, including chain and independent supermarkets, convenience stores, mass merchandisers, wholesalers, brokers, manufacturers and distributors. Founded in 1899, the IGIA has long served as a resource to its members, the food industry and the general public through education, legislative, partnership and philanthropic programs. The IGIA has headquarters in Urbandale, Iowa, and can be found online at www.iowagrocers.com.

2023 Grant Recipients

Organization Name	Grant Amount	Project	Local Grocer
Chapel View Manor	\$714	One picnic table for the outdoor area	Peter Dietrich, Gary's Foods
City of Havelock Hometown Pride Committee	\$1,626	Two picnic tables for the City Park	Kent Wood, Woods Supermarket
Friends of the West Branch Public Library	\$1,190	One picnic table for the greenspace outside of library	Joel Miller, Hy-Vee Iowa City
Laurens Hometown Pride Committee	\$1,913	Five trash receptacles for the park	Rita Schmidt, Laurens Food Pride
Oelwein Community School	\$2,000	Five benches for the school garden	Paul Schemmel, Fareway Oelwein
Pocahontas Hometown Pride Committee	\$1,825	Five benches for the park	Kent Wood, Woods Supermarket
Wayne County Fair	\$2,000	Four benches and a picnic table for the county fair	Becca Bellman, Hy-Vee Corydon
Winneshiek County Conservation Board	\$2,000	Six picnic tables for the shelter at the park	Ariana Cervantes, Hy-Vee Decorah



Laurens United Methodist Women

will be selling pie by the slice with ice cream

Saturday, July 8, 2023

during the Laurens Summer Celebration Days

11:00 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

at the Laurens United Methodist Church.

COST ~ \$5.00 a slice



*At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
June 21, 2023*

We enjoy our Evening Tot Time so much that we decided to make it a year round event! Join the fun of Aliens & Robots through books, songs and crafts tonight (June 21) at 5:30 p.m.

Kids Summer Reading is so much fun this year! This year's theme is "Find Your Voice." Children's Librarian Alyssa is helping our kids discover how they can find their voice through music, science, art, cooking, nature, and more. Special Wednesday events include a Bubbles program with the Grout Museum on June 28. Ever wonder why bubbles are round? What does it take to make a giant bubble? We will learn the answers to these questions and more, as we experiment with Bubbles! Load up the kids and come to one, or come to all Wednesday programs at 1 pm through August 9th! There is no age limit, we welcome all who are interested.

We've received a nice assortment of large print fiction recently. We get a monthly shipment of new releases, which includes mysteries, "clean reads" and regular fiction. But this month they had a package of westerns that we grabbed. I like large print books because they are so easy on the eyes – especially when tired or reading outdoors. Stop and check one out, see if you agree with me!

June's book of choice is the all Iowa Reads teens selection *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley. I have to tell you, the only reason it is classified as "teen" is the age of the main character. Our catalog describes the book like this: Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, defers attending the University of Michigan to care for her mother and reluctantly becomes involved in the investigation of a series of drug-related deaths. I started this book on audio, then switched to the paper version when I was home for a while. I have to say, I prefer the audio because they pronounce the native American names and words for me and it really adds to the story! I need to go on one more good road trip... We've got plenty of copies, so stop and pick one up. Hope you can join our discussion Monday, June 26 at 7 p.m.

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

*Fonda Arts Center Afternoon
of Music Featuring William
Lawson*

The Fonda Arts Center will be adding to the Fourth of July weekend festivities with an afternoon of music, featuring William Lawson of Webb, IA.

William started playing mandolin around 6 years old, after being inspired by the sounds of bluegrass music since before he could speak. He began playing guitar and singing at age 11. At 15 years old, William has already played on stage alongside such greats as Bobby Osborne and Ricky Skaggs. He has won several mandolin and guitar competitions throughout the country. He mostly plays mandolin and guitar but also enjoys playing banjo as well as the dobro. William can be found playing various festivals and events throughout the midwest.

On this Arts Center Sunday, we look forward to William being accompanied by his extremely talented siblings: Addie, age 18 on bass, and Jake, age 13, on the "catch of the day"!

All this is happening on Sunday afternoon, July 2nd, starting at 3:00, at the Fonda Arts Center on the Northwest corner of Fourth & Main Streets in Fonda. As always, free admission and Root Beer Floats! Everyone is welcome!!



Fair Entry for the 2023 Pocahontas County Fair

ALL livestock must be entered in <https://fairentry.com> no later than June 23, 2023. This is different than the identifications you put in your 4Honline account!

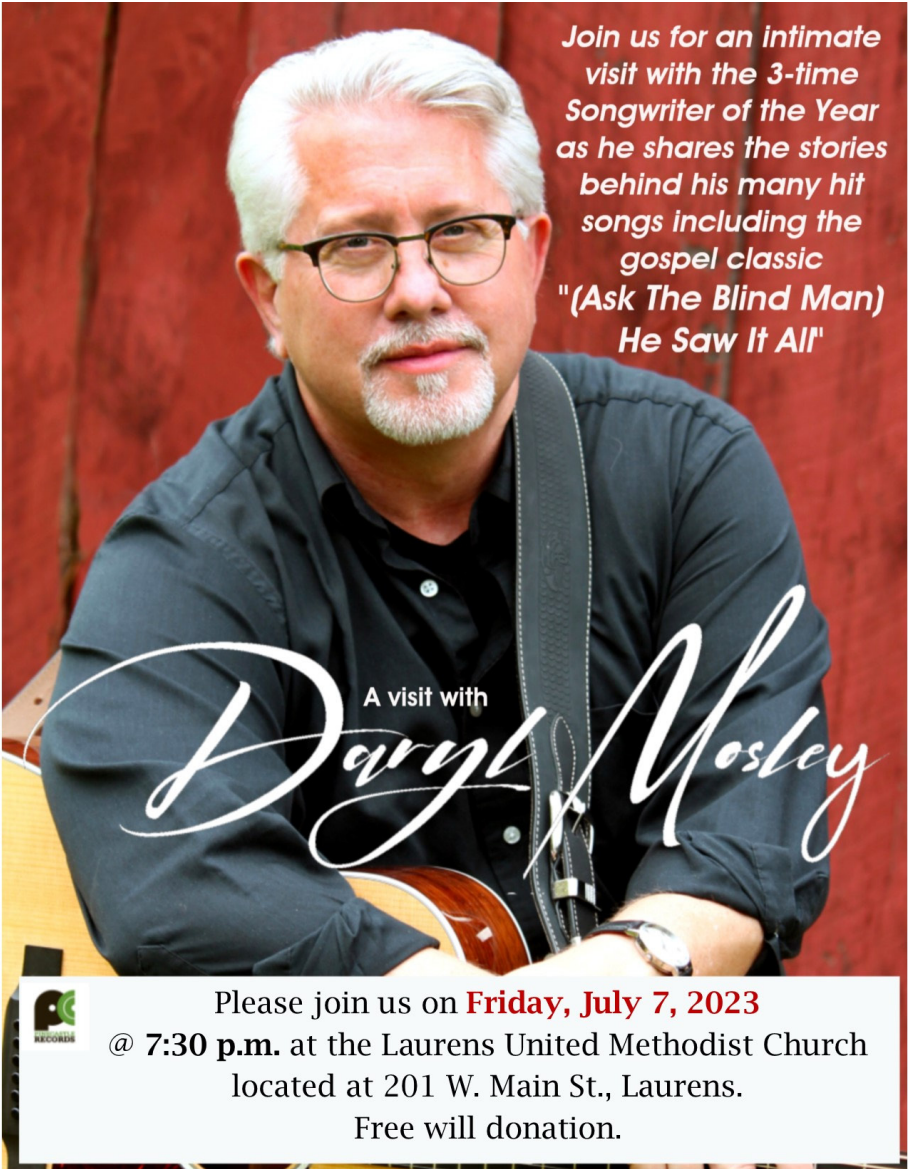
Due to the generous support of PRO Cooperative, there is not a fee to enter the 2023 Pocahontas County Fair for 4-H members but you **MUST** enter. Static items (exhibits you bring to the Expo) must be entered by July 5 and you will have a scheduled time with the judges. FFA members **DO NOT SIGN UP AS A 4-H member!** You also need to make entry by June 23 but follow the directions and make sure you are under FFA.

If you need help with entry, make sure you contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County Office at 712-335-3103 or lzeman@iastate.edu

Bridal Shower

A come and go bridal shower honoring the bride-to-be Trisha Griffin, will be held on Sunday, July 16 from 1-3 p.m. at West Iowa Bank, Laurens.

The couple is registered on Amazon.



Join us for an intimate visit with the 3-time Songwriter of the Year as he shares the stories behind his many hit songs including the gospel classic "(Ask The Blind Man) He Saw It All"

A visit with
Daryl Mosley

Please join us on **Friday, July 7, 2023**
@ **7:30 p.m.** at the Laurens United Methodist Church
located at 201 W. Main St., Laurens.
Free will donation.

2023 Pocahontas County Fair Book

The 2023 Pocahontas County Fair Book is available at www.extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas/files/documents/2023%20Fairbook.pdf.

If you would like a paper copy, you may stop at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office during regular business hours and pick one up, books will not be mailed.

Please read the rules for whatever project areas you will bring to the 2023 fair, if you have questions, please contact lzeman@iastate.edu or 712-335-3103. The tentative schedule is posted in the front of the fairbook with the final schedule posted July 1.



**United Methodist Men's
Hamburger/Hot Dog Meal**

Saturday, July 8, 2023
11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
at the City Park (shelter house)

Free will donation.
All meals served with chips
& a drink.

The UMM support many local & global projects.



Everyone is invited to enjoy

ice cream sundaes

on Friday, July 7, 2023

during the

Laurens Summer Celebration Days.

The **Laurens Area Community Youth
Group** will be selling ice cream sundaes

from **5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.**

at the Fire Station!

Free will donation.



Destined to Fly Program Coming to the Fonda Arts Center

“Destined to Fly” The Story of Pilot Ron Strauss - from Iowa to Elvis, coming to the Fonda Arts Center! Elvis comes to life for the enjoyment of fans through the stories of Ron Strauss, the Fonda native who was the personal pilot of Elvis for many years. Ron will be on stage at the Fonda Arts Center on Saturday afternoon, June 24 beginning at 3 p.m., sharing his memories of the endless ups and downs, ins and outs of this beloved idol in the world of rock & roll.

Also present will be special guest, Sally Hoedel, author of *“Destined to Die Young”*, the story of the life of Elvis, and the book *“Destined to Fly”, the story of pilot Ron Strauss, From Iowa to Elvis*. Books will be available for purchase, personally autographed by both of these featured guests.

All this happening at the Fonda Arts Center on the Northwest corner of Fourth & Main Streets in Fonda. As always, free admission, free refreshments! Everyone welcome

Services to be Held for Mary Ellen Hyslop



Mary Ellen Hyslop, 74, of Davenport, Iowa passed away Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at Genesis East Medical Center.

A memorial service to honor her memory will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at the Bettendorf Christian Church; visitation will be before the service starting at 10:30 am. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Mary Ellen's name may be made to the Quad City Symphony Orchestra, to the Bettendorf Christian Church, or One Eighty.

Mary Ellen was born on September 12, 1948, in Chicago, Illinois to Walter and Betty (Poulson) Hyslop. She graduated from Laurens Consolidated Schools, and earned her bachelor's degree from

William Penn College in music and education. During her years there she was part of the Penn radio station staff, and played Yenta in their production of "Fiddler on the Roof".

She taught music at various schools in Iowa. This included Stuart – Menlo Schools, and Davenport Schools including St. Catherine's and St. Mark's, Madison Elementary, and Jackson Elementary. She was an active member of Bettendorf Christian Church.

Mary Ellen loved teaching music and watching children learn and grow in their appreciation and participation in musical events. She enjoyed organizing and chaperoning trips for her students to Europe and for creating opportunities for students to attend local musical events, opening their minds to the world of music.

She was a devoted daughter, sister, aunt, cousin and friend who cared deeply for everyone in her life. Her family, especially the young people, were her passion and the loves of her life, along with the many dogs and puppies she loved along the way.

Those left to honor Mary Ellen's memory are her siblings Susan (Andre) Lascari and Don (Jean) Hyslop; nephew Lance (Sarah) Lascari, nieces Megan (Kevin) Campbell and Rebecca Hyslop; great-nieces Elizabeth Lascari, Catherine Hyslop, and Josephine Campbell; great-nephews Reilly Lascari and Barristan Campbell; and many cousins, and friends far and near.

She was preceded in death by her parents and several cousins.

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***This Week at
Bethany Lutheran***

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

**Sunday: June 25, 2023
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 AM ~ Worship
10:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

Monday: June 26, 2023

7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

Tuesday: June 27, 2023

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

Saturday: July 1, 2023

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

*Worship, Love,
Accept~ Together in
Christ's Name*



***This Week at
Laurens United
Methodist Church***

Pastor Deb Parkison

Wed., June 21:

Administrative Council meeting
@ 7 p.m.

Sun., June 25:

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.



***This Week at First
Christian***

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Sunday, June 25

9:30 a.m. - Worship followed by
coffee fellowship



***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

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City Council Minutes

June 5th, 2023

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5th, 2023. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, John Jamison, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, Deputy City Clerk Joan Hoben, and Chief Ben Aschenbrenner.

Jamison moved to approve the consent agenda moving item number two, Tami Karri, to item number six, consisting of the minutes from the May 15th meeting, the list of claims, a Dollar General Cigarette & Tobacco Permit, and a Rally Point Class C Liquor License pending fire inspection. Zylstra seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 06-05-23

A & M SERVICES, INC	MOPS, RAGS, RUGS	97.64
ACCO	CHEMICALS	904.00
AFLAC	GROUP INSURANCE	204.38
AHLERS & COONEY	LEGAL FEES	350.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS	153.16
BOMGAARS	SUPPLIES	27.98
BURBACH AQUATICS	FINAL PAYMENT	95,000.00
CHOSEN VALLEY TESTINGS, INC	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	4,650.00
CLOUSER PLUMBING TECHNOLOGIES	VALVE REPAIRS	11,600.00
COFFMAN'S LOCKSMITH SHOP	DRILL BITS	88.72
EMERGENCY APPARATUS MAINT.	REBUILD PUMP	3,553.67
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	3,132.50
GFC LEASING - WI	COPIER MAINT.	67.32
HEART ' HOME	FLOWERS	496.00
IACMA	RETIREMENT 457	750.00
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	13,793.87
IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY	2023 PRINCIPAL	168,246.25
IOWA ONE CALL	LOCATES	23.50
IPERS	IPERS	8,631.82
IPERS/PD	PROTECTED IPERS	2,652.52
JACK'S UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	1,000.75
JCL SOLUTIONS	CLEANING SUPPLIES	207.92
JERLYNN SVUBA	FLOWERS	40.00
KENNEDY TATE	TRAINING	75.00
LAURENS HOUSE OF PRINT	DOOR HANGERS	302.25
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE BILL	406.56
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	5,884.50
NORTHERN LIGHTS FOODSERVICE	POOL CONCESSION	718.54
NORTHERN ROLLOFF	CLEAN UP DAYS ROLLOFF DUMPSTERS	3,845.92
PRIME BENEFITS SYSTEMS	GROUP INSURANCE	2,087.50
RSM US LLP	TECH SUPPORT	14.00
RYNO'S	NUISANCE MOWING	1,205.00
SANTANDER LEASING, LLC	PUMPER PAYMENT	1,461.34
SCHUMACHER ELEVATOR CO	SAFETY TEST	501.00

City Council Minutes

SECURE SHRED SOLUTIONS	SHREDDING PAPER	26.00
SHAMROCK RECYCLE, INC.	CURBSIDE RECYCLING	1,840.00
STAPLES	OFFICE SUPPLIES	69.99
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA	MAY SALES TAX	5,908.02
ULINE	SUPPLIES	1,859.71
UMB	INTEREST EAST/VETERANS ROAD	181,000.00
US BANK	VANDALISM SUPPLIES	139.75
WATER'S EDGE	CONSTRUCTION ADMIN	<u>11,500.00</u>
	TOTAL	<u><u>534,517.08</u></u>

PAYROLL		5/15/2023
001	GENERAL	7,346.83
210	ROAD USE TAX	1,619.01
600	WATER	3,117.72
610	SEWER	2,685.71
670	GARBAGE	<u>2,660.74</u>

TOTAL 17,430.01

PAYROLL		5/30/2023
001	GENERAL	7,595.89
210	ROAD USE TAX	1,759.63
600	WATER	3,072.86
610	SEWER	2,713.24
670	GARBAGE	<u>2,436.24</u>

TOTAL 17,577.86

PAYROLL		6/1/2023
001	GENERAL	<u>6,012.89</u>

TOTAL 6,012.89

PAYROLL TOTAL 41,020.76

PAID TOTAL 575,537.84

001	GENERAL	46,888.52
110	ROAD USE TAX	7,205.63
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	1,448.11
174	POOL RESTRICTED	111,150.00
175	POCKET PARK	96.00
200	DEBT SERVICE	181,000.00
600	WATER	122,126.44
610	SEWER	90,483.42
670	GARBAGE	15,127.73
745	STORM WATER	<u>11.99</u>

TOTAL BY FUND

		<u>575,537.84</u>
REVENUES	GENERAL	10,933.49
	ROAD USE TAX	15,689.00
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	3,667.23
	EMERGENCY LEVY	213.47
	LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	15,278.61
	TAX INCREMENT FINANCING	500.02
	POOL RESTRICTED	20.00
	DEBT SERVICE	4,037.85
	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FUND	361.58
	WATER	43,854.25
	SEWER	30,716.04
	GARBAGE	20,422.37
	STORM WATER	<u>2,952.60</u>
		<u>148,646.51</u>

Marcia Leu gave an update on Congregate Meals and thanked everyone for their help and encouragement. They are still looking for a new location. The city will help in any way they can.

Booth motioned to approve Resolution 12-23 SRT application for the trail. Zylstra seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Jamison, Booth, Christenson, Swanson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Christenson motioned to approve Resolution 13-23 – Reappointment of Jerry Runneberg to Utility Board of Trustees. Swanson seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Jamison, Booth, Christenson, Swanson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Tami Karri, Prevention Specialist, discussed the current alcohol outlet density in the Laurens area and possible harm reduction interventions that may be possible.

No update to report on the pool.

Booth moved to adjourn 5:45 p.m. Zylstra seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

Joan Hoben, Deputy City Clerk