

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 19 No. 12

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October 2,
2024

Local News

Fire Prevention Week: Oct. 6-12 - Pancake Breakfast to be Held

October 6th through the 12th is Fire Prevention Week this year. This is the time of the year to remember to check your homes and business establishments for possible fire hazards. Also please take time to check your smoke detectors to make sure they work and to change the batteries in the detectors. This should be done twice a year to ensure that they work should you need them. Do you own a fire extinguisher? These also need to be checked at least once a year to keep them in working order. If you are unsure how to check them, just ask any firefighter and we will either explain how to check them or if you prefer, check them for you. These are such simple things but could become very important in an emergency.

The Laurens Volunteer Firefighter Association would like to invite you and your family to visit the Fire Station on Sunday, Oct. 6th. We will be serving pancakes and sausages and biscuits and gravy from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. or later, if need be. While you are visiting with us, please take a look at the equipment that has been purchased with your tremendous support over the years. I am sure you will find it very interesting.

We are once again asking for your help. As with all things from time to time our equipment needs to be updated. Many of the things used by the Fire Department were purchased by your generous donations and we are very proud of the equipment we have. We are asking that you place your donations, whether large or small, in the enclosed envelope and mail it to the Fire Department or better yet, bring it with you on Oct. 6th and spend a little time with us.

Our annual pancake breakfast has always been a great success thanks to the wonderful support of our community. It is great to live in a community where people respect and care about each other, making it much easier to be a volunteer. Thank you for your continued support and thank you in advance for your contribution.

Jake Graff
Fire Chief

Pictured Back Row L-R:
James Carnine, Jeremy
Fulkerth, Matt Hertz, Mike
Hayek, Cam Graff, Troy
Stockwell, Ben Zylstra and
Freddy Hammond.

Front Row L-R: Cory Bailey,
Justin Weig, Brian Hoffman,
Dennis Leuer, Denny Sandvig,
Jimmy Gamboa, Matt Garton,
Jason Ashenbrenner, Skyler
Vanderhoff and Jake Graff.

Absent: Ben Storms, Julian
Johnsen, Mike Hertz and
Grant Ahlers.



At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
October 2, 2024

The Library Foundation Potato Bar Supper will be 5-6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 14. This will be held across the street to the north of the Library at the First Christian Church. Funds raised will go towards our current projects; Stained Glass Window, Event Flags, new furniture for the Children's Department, and more STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) items for the kids. The Foundation's ongoing projects include Special interest programs for kids & adults, CD Audiobooks, digitization of the Laurens Sun newspapers, and the Summer Reading program. Your financial support of these projects is appreciated. The Laurens Library Foundation now also accepts donations via Venmo.

I am so looking forward to Darren Crow's program "Morbid Curiosities; An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe" for October 14, it seemed forever away, now it's almost here! Program is described as the master of Gothic horror comes from beyond the veil to talk with audiences about his life and share his best stories and poetry including "The Masque of the Red Death", "The Raven" and "The Tell Tale Heart." I have heard such good things about this program and I am currently reacquainting myself with his works.

New novels this week include: *Ruthie Deschutes O'Hara has Ulterior Motives* by Cathy Lamb, *Somewhere Beyond the Sea* by T.J Klune, *Mistletoe Mystery* by Nita Prose and *Intermezzo* by Sally Rooney. We also received the CD Audiobook of Nicholas Sparks' latest, *Counting Miracles*.

In nonfiction we received *The Boys of Riverside: A Deaf Football Team and a Quest for Glory* by Thomas Fuller.

October's Book Club choice is *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. This book is on the top 100 Banned & Challenged list for its vulgar language, sexual content, and violence. I guess I would have anticipated that in a book of stories about soldier's experiences in the Vietnam War! Anyway, grab a copy of the book, then you can cross another one off your list (This will be #55 for me!) and join our discussion on Monday October 28 at 7 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar

October 2 & 21 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time

October 14 Library Foundation Potato Bar Fundraiser 5-6:30 p.m.
Morbid Curiosities an Evening with Edgar Alan Poe @ 7 p.m.

October 28 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

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Pocahontas County 4-H Youth Will Celebrate National 4-H Week October 6-12th

4-H members in Pocahontas County are encouraged to participate in weeklong activities to celebrate National 4-H week. The 2024 National 4-H Week theme is Beyond Ready, which celebrates the program's dedication to building a generation equipped for the future while being met where they are today. This year, 4-H is focused on helping youth be ready to lead, ready to serve, ready to build, and ready to conquer.

Pocahontas County 4-H is open to all youth in 4th through 12th grade. Clover Kids is open to all youth in Kindergarten through 3rd grade.

To learn more about 4-H, enroll or just celebrate National 4-H week, please join us on Wednesday, October 9th from 3-5 P.M. at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office for our National 4-H Week Open House. Please contact Ashlie Jergens if you have any questions regarding Pocahontas County 4-H at 712-335-3103 or ashliej@iastate.edu

Fall Soil Sampling: Get to Know Your Fields

Soil is an important resource in Iowa farm fields. Productivity for corn and soybeans can vary based on nutrient levels, pH, and organic matter content. Soil samples should be taken every two to four years to understand nutrient levels available in the soil for the upcoming crop.

Different crops have specific nutrient needs. A resource for soil fertility in the state of Iowa is publication PM 1688 "A General Guide for Crop Nutrient and Limestone Recommendations in Iowa." The publication is available online as a free download from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/5232>. The guide outlines nutrient recommendations for crops in the state of Iowa as well as lime recommendations.

Best practices for soil sampling include timing, sampling depth and methods of sampling. The ideal time for soil sampling is during the fall after harvest or early spring before planting. Allow enough time for lab results to be processed and returned before making a fertilizer application. For corn and soybeans, samples should generally be taken from the top six inches of soil. ISU Extension and Outreach recommendations are based upon the six-inch soil depth. Pulling cores that are consistent with this depth is important for obtaining consistent results.

Options for soil sampling include grid soil sampling, zone sampling, and whole farm sampling:

- Grid soil samples utilize a composite sample taken in each of the grids ranging from 1 to 10 acres. Grid samples are formed with a pattern of uniform sizes of grids across the field.
- Zone sampling factors in field history, yield maps, topography, and other management factors creating zones. Composite samples are then collected from each zone forming representative samples.
- The final method is whole farm sampling. This method of sampling gathers subsamples across large areas of the field. A drawback of this method is that not all areas of the field are represented in the sample. If your farm has variability, whole farm sampling would not be recommended.

When taking composite samples, factor in past management strategies in your plan for sampling. Old feedlots or areas of the field that were managed another way may not be a representative sample area and should be treated differently than an area that has less variability. Other non-representative areas of a field may include depressions or wet spots, end rows, areas that are heavily traveled, and locations where manure or lime was stored prior to application.

Each soil sample should consist of multiple subsamples collected from various locations within the designated area to ensure a representative analysis. Typically, a subsample of 12-15 cores is combined into one sample.

Label the samples and keep records of the sampling locations and conditions. This information is invaluable for tracking changes over time. When fields are soil sampled it assesses soil health and nutrient availability, enhancing crop productivity, reducing costs, and contributing to sustainable agricultural practices.

*This Week at
Bethany Lutheran*

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Saturday: October 5, 2024

8:00 AM ~ Men's Group

Sunday: October 6, 2024

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS

9:15 AM ~ Youth SS

9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship

11:30 AM ~ Special Congregational Meeting

6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Monday: October 7, 2024

4:00 PM ~ W/M Mtg.

Tuesday: October 8, 2024

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Wednesday: October 9, 2024

7:00 PM ~ Council Mtg.

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



*This Week at
Laurens United
Methodist Church*

Pastor Deb Parkison

Thursday, October 3

United Methodist Women Meeting at the Laurens Care Center @ 2 PM

Serving: Dorothy Long and Wendy Hopkins

Program: Care Center Song Fest

Saturday, October 5

United Methodist Men Meeting: 8 AM in Fellowship Hall

Breakfast: Bob and Don Lesson: Monty

Sunday, October 6

World Communion Sunday Offering

Sunday School @ 9:15-10:05 AM

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

Monday, October 7

Quilt Club Meeting in Fellowship Hall @ 2 PM.



*This Week at
First Christian*

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Wednesday, Oct. 2

11:30 a.m. - Ladies Lunch followed by C.W.F.

Sunday, Oct. 6

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Mission Council following worship



*Resurrection
of Our Lord
Catholic Church*

Pocahontas, IA -- Priest:

Father Paul Nguyen

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

Animal Food PCQI Training to be Offered November 20 in Ames

The Iowa Grain Quality Initiative, a program of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State, in collaboration with the Center for Industrial Research and Service, is offering a blended interactive course leading to the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance designation as a Preventive Controls Qualified Individual (PCQI) in compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Preventive Controls for Animal Food rule.

The course will be offered in person Nov. 20 at the Iowa State University Kent Feed Mill and Grain Science Complex, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants should check that their IT is working properly for two-way communication.

Participants should pre-register by Nov. 13 and the cost is \$400 per participant. Breaks and lunch are on site and included in the fee.

The course is essential for individuals creating FSMA Hazard Analysis Risk-Based Preventive Control plans for animal food facilities. Participants must provide a Part 1 completion certificate by the registration deadline.

FSMA requires facilities processing any animal food (complete feed or ingredients) for sale to comply with new current good manufacturing practices and to implement a written animal food safety plan developed and overseen by a “preventive controls qualified individual.”

Although the law “requires” individuals to be PCQI certified, it’s actually a good idea to certify multiple people who will be mixing animal food or working with the manufacturing process, said Ben Drescher, food and feed quality and safety extension specialist at Iowa State.

Drescher reminds applicants, however, that they will be required to show completion of Part I before registering for Part II. The session has 30 spots available, he said.

He will be speaking at the training, alongside Connie Hardy, ag and natural resources extension education specialist; Charles Hurburgh, professor and extension grain quality specialist; and Gretchen Mosher, professor in agricultural and biosystems engineering.

For more information, Drescher can be reached at 515-509-0940 or bdresche@iastate.edu.

Forest, Aquatic, and Right-of-Way Continuing Instruction Course is October 16

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office will host a Forest, Aquatic, and Right-of-Way Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024. The program provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) can be seen at office locations across Iowa.

The local attendance site is ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office, 305 N Main Street, Pocahontas. Preregistration may be required and walk-ins on the day of the program will only be admitted if room allows. The course runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$45 on or before Oct. 9 and \$55 after Oct. 9. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact Lisa Zeman at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103.

The course will provide continuing instruction credits for commercial and public pesticide applicators certified in categories 2 (Forest Pest Control), 5 (Aquatic Pest Control), and 6 (Right-of-Way Pest Control). Topics to be covered are: application equipment use, maintenance, and calibration; safe application techniques, including pesticide drift reduction; and category-specific pests, pest management and pesticides.

Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered through the PSEP Program can be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/PSEP.

Yard and Garden: Fall Color FAQ

Learn how the colors of fall form in your favorite plants

As autumn approaches, deciduous trees and shrubs transform into a vibrant mix of reds, oranges and yellows. Fall color in plants is not only beautiful but a fascinating interplay of pigments, environmental factors and seasonal changes. In this article, horticulturists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach answer questions about how fall color forms and recommend trees and shrubs with colorful fall foliage to plant in the home landscape.

How does fall color develop in trees and shrubs? Fall color in leaves is driven by three pigments: chlorophyll, carotenoids and anthocyanins. Weather conditions influence what happens with each of these pigments.

Chlorophyll, the green pigment, is crucial for photosynthesis and is dominant during the growing season. In the fall, the day length shortens and temperatures cool, which triggers plants to prepare for winter by reducing chlorophyll production and restricting carbohydrate movement to the leaves.

Carotenoids are always present in the leaves but are masked by chlorophyll. When chlorophyll production stops, the green color fades, revealing the yellow and orange hues of carotenoids.

Anthocyanins, which give red and purple colors, are produced in late summer and early fall when carbohydrate transport is restricted. Environmental factors like warm days and cool nights enhance anthocyanin production, leading to vibrant colors.

Not every tree or shrub species produces carotenoids or anthocyanins in equal quantities. This is what creates

the difference in fall color from species to species.

Why does fall leaf color on trees and shrubs vary from year to year? The weather in early fall largely determines the intensity and duration of leaf color in those tree and shrub species capable of producing good fall color. The best fall color typically develops when days in early fall are sunny and mild, and nights are cool but remain above freezing. Long periods of cloudy, rainy weather or a hard freeze in early fall will mute fall colors.

Which trees have colorful fall foliage? Shade trees with excellent fall foliage include Freeman maple (*Acer × freemanii*). They are hybrids of red and silver maples with leaves that vary from orange to red in fall. Popular Freeman maples include Autumn Blaze®, Sienna Glen® and Firefall™. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) has cultivars such as Red Sunset®, Redpointe™, and Scarlet Jewell™ that have dark red foliage in fall.

Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) is native to eastern Iowa. Their fall foliage varies from yellow to orange to reddish orange. ‘Commemoration,’ ‘Legacy’ and Fall Fiesta™ are excellent sugar maple cultivars. The fall foliage of black maples (*Acer nigrum*) varies from yellow to orange. In fall, the foliage of white oaks (*Quercus alba*) is often reddish brown, while red oaks (*Quercus rubra*) have wine-red foliage. Black gums (*Nyssa sylvatica*) are not widely grown in Iowa. However, they possess outstanding fall foliage.

Additional trees include yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*), honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*) and ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), including cultivars ‘Autumn Gold’ and Presidential Gold®, all with yellow fall color. Other fall favorites include ‘Moraine’ sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua* ‘Moraine’) with foliage that varies from yellow to red to purple and Dutch elm disease-resistant American elms (*Ulmus americana*), such as ‘Jefferson,’ ‘Princeton’ and ‘Valley Forge,’ with yellow fall foliage.

Small trees with colorful fall foliage include serviceberry (*Amelanchier*

× *grandiflora*), American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) and redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). The fall foliage of serviceberry and American hornbeam varies from yellow to orange to red, while redbud leaves turn yellow in fall.

Which shrubs have good fall color? Several deciduous shrubs have colorful fall foliage. The fall foliage of fothergilla (*Fothergilla* spp.) varies from yellow to orange to red. Common witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) has yellow leaves in the fall. In autumn, the foliage of Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) varies from yellow to orange to reddish purple. Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) and black haw viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*) have yellow, red and reddish-purple foliage, respectively.

Do any perennials have colorful fall foliage? Most perennials are grown for their attractive flowers. However, several perennials have colorful fall foliage.

Perennials with yellow foliage in fall include the blue star (*Amsonia* spp.), balloon flower (*Platycodon* spp.), hosta (*Hosta* spp.) and monkshood (*Aconitum* spp.). The sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) and royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) also develop yellow fall color. The foliage of pigsqueak (*Bergenia cordifolia*) often turns burgundy red in fall. The foliage of many hardy geraniums (*Geranium* spp.) is yellow, orange, red or purple in autumn.

Several ornamental grasses also have striking fall color. Switchgrass (*Panicum* spp.) cultivars with colorful fall foliage include ‘Rehbraun’ (reddish brown), ‘Rotstrahlbusch’ (burgundy red) and ‘Prairie Fire’ (wine red). In fall, *Miscanthus* cultivars ‘Purpurascens’ and ‘November Sunset’ have orange-red and golden-orange foliage, respectively. Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) has yellow to burnt orange fall color. The little bluestem cultivar ‘Blaze’ has an orange to reddish-purple fall color, while ‘Blue Heaven’ develops a burgundy-red color in autumn.

ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Team Webinar on October 16 will be A Review Of The Proposed Changes to the Federal Milk Marketing Orders

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team monthly webinar series continues Thursday, October 16, from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

USDA recently proposed the most important changes in two decades to how minimum milk prices will be set under Federal Milk Marketing Orders (FMMOs). These changes will affect milk prices and dairy farm profitability for years to come. Dairy farmers and their cooperatives will vote on whether to accept the proposed changes once they are finalized in November. This webinar will discuss the changes and their potential impacts on milk prices.

Two presenters will discuss this topic. Dr. Charles Nicholson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. My work focuses on the analysis of dairy markets, policy and supply chains and is supported by the UW Dairy Innovation Hub. I teach undergraduate courses on food systems and supply chains. I also maintain an affiliation with the School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell University and contribute to research on the economics and environmental impacts of controlled-environment agriculture (greenhouses, vertical farms). I also collaborate with interdisciplinary teams doing research on food security in low-income countries. I previously worked with the Nijmegen School of Management in the Netherlands, the Smeal College of Business at Penn State University and the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University.

Leonard Polzin serves as a Dairy Markets and Policy Outreach Specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

Leonard Polzin grew up on a century-old Wisconsin dairy farm. He has held positions in both the public and private sectors and takes pleasure in applying research to industry scenarios. With considerable experience as an educator and analyst, he has developed and delivered programs covering a wide range of topics, including market analysis, outlook, market expectations, risk management, and policy analysis.

Producers, dairy consultants, and industry representatives are encouraged to attend the free webinar from 12 noon to 1 p.m. on October 16 by registering at least one hour prior to the webinar at: <https://go.iastate.edu/MILKPRICE2024>

For more information, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Specialist in your area: in Northwest Iowa, Fred M. Hall, 712-737-4230 or fredhall@iastate.edu; in Northeast Iowa, Jennifer Bentley, 563-382-2949 or jbentley@iastate.edu; in East Central Iowa, Larry Tranel, 563-583-6496 or tranel@iastate.edu; in Ames, Dr. Gail Carpenter, 515-294-9085 or ajcarpen@iastate.edu.

September 26, 2024

The Utility Board of Trustees of Laurens, Iowa met in regular session at the Municipal Building, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 3:00 p.m. on the above date. Present were Trustees Kelly Horsman, Jerry Runneberg, and Ben Storms. Also present was General Manager Chad Cleveland.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the agenda for the September 26, 2024 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2024 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the summary of receipts for August 2024 in the amount of \$451,758.38 and the list of expenses for August 2024 in the amount of \$411,628.47. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Summary of Receipts

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| A/R- Electric | \$ 255,714.44 |
| A/R- Communications | \$ 61,106.79 |
| Merchandise/Services- Electric | \$ 1,085.84 |
| Merchandise/Services- Communications | \$ 30.00 |
| Carrier Access Fees- Communications | \$ 2,459.62 |
| NIMECA Power Credits- Electric | \$ 76,549.61 |
| Investment Interest Earned- Electric | \$ 11,611.87 |
| ERATE Reimbursement- Communications | \$ 122.40 |
| Deposits- Electric | \$ 2,805.00 |
| Deposits- Communications | \$ 642.00 |
| Marathon Energy Sales- Electric | \$ 11,096.66 |
| E911 Circuits- Communications | \$ 643.26 |
| Attachment H Revenues- Electric | \$ 27,274.40 |
| Broadband Lifeline Reimbursement- Internet | \$ 9.00 |
| Voice Lifeline Reimbursement- Telephone | \$ 11.00 |
| Miscellaneous- Communications | \$ 51.29 |
| Fuel Tax Refund- Electric | \$ 309.12 |
| Fuel Tax Refund- Communications | \$ 206.08 |
| Office Phones- Electric | \$ 30.00 |
| Total Cash Receipts | \$ 451,758.38 |

List of Expenses

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| A & M Laundry | Dust Mops & Mats | \$ 133.92 |
| AFLAC | Employee Contributions | \$ 142.86 |
| Bally Sports North | Programming Fees | \$ 904.50 |
| Border States Electric | LED Street Lights | \$ 1,324.34 |
| Calix, Inc. | Operations Cloud | \$ 501.87 |
| Cantu, Wilfredo | Credit Balance Refund | \$ 68.00 |
| City of Laurens | Utility Billing | \$ 98,065.02 |
| Cleveland, Chad | Meeting Expenses | \$ 69.68 |
| Consortia Consulting | Consulting Contract | \$ 1,125.00 |
| Department of Energy | WAPA Power Bill | \$ 41,294.59 |
| DGR Engineering | Relay Upgrades/SCADA Project | \$ 25,425.00 |
| DGR Engineering | Additional Fuel Storage Project | \$ 4,950.00 |
| Display Systems International | Scrolling Channel Guide | \$ 165.76 |
| Dugan, Chanda | Credit Balance Refund | \$ 101.36 |
| Echo Group | CAT 6 Cable | \$ 103.88 |
| Employee Benefit Systems | Self-Funding Administration | \$ 120.00 |
| Employee Benefit Systems | Self-Funding Claims | \$ 63.06 |
| Fidelity Security Life (Avesis) | Group Vision Insurance | \$ 70.76 |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| Fransyl Equipment | Vehicle Maintenance- HiRanger | \$ | 886.27 |
| Fransyl Equipment | Vehicle Maintenance- Digger Derrick | \$ | 663.40 |
| Fuchs Construction | Storage Building Project | \$ | 10,025.79 |
| GFC Leasing – WI | Copier Leases | \$ | 80.57 |
| Goldfield Telecom | Gigaspires & Gigablasts | \$ | 7,591.42 |
| Grainger | Storage Building Project/Tools | \$ | 215.23 |
| Graves Construction Company | Storage Building Project | \$ | 3,691.23 |
| Gray Media Group | Programming Fees | \$ | 742.50 |
| Hearst Television | Programming Fees | \$ | 1,419.00 |
| Iconnectiv, LLC | Local Number Portability | \$ | 236.89 |
| Internal Revenue Service | Payroll Taxes | \$ | 8,482.85 |
| Interstate TRS Fund | TRS Assessment | \$ | 246.75 |
| Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities | Energy Rebate Program Fees | \$ | 100.00 |
| Iowa Department of Revenue | Sales Tax | \$ | 5,626.05 |
| Iowa Department of Revenue | State Withholding | \$ | 1,225.82 |
| Iowa Public Employees Retirement System | IPERS Contributions | \$ | 4,915.68 |
| KC Nielsen LTD | Red Armor Fuel | \$ | 37.45 |
| Laurens House of Print | Check Envelopes | \$ | 554.69 |
| Laurens Municipal Power & Communications | Communications Bill | \$ | 106.30 |
| Laurens Municipal Utilities | Utility Bill | \$ | 101.59 |
| Laurens Plumbing | Supplies | \$ | 55.06 |
| Laurens Sun | Publications/Advertising | \$ | 355.27 |
| Long Lines | Communication Services | \$ | 10,118.97 |
| Lumen Access Billing | Access Charges | \$ | 101.59 |
| Lumen Lexcis | Directory Listings | \$ | 36.45 |
| LumenServe | Tower Lighting Monitoring | \$ | 316.24 |
| Merchant Bankcard | Credit Card Processing Fees | \$ | 435.00 |
| Mid-America Communications II | Wiring Management Trays | \$ | 490.98 |
| Mid America Computer Corporation | Utility Billing | \$ | 897.98 |
| Mid-American Energy | Neal 4 Operations | \$ | 59,000.00 |
| National Content & Technology Cooperative | Programming/TiVo/ACA | \$ | 11,311.08 |
| Nexstar Broadcasting | Programming Fees | \$ | 1,528.80 |
| Office Elements | Office Supplies | \$ | 222.88 |
| Paymentus Corp | Credit Card Processing Fees | \$ | 697.33 |
| Payroll | Salaried, Hourly & Overtime | \$ | 21,138.24 |
| Petty Cash | Postage/Board Meals | \$ | 28.25 |
| PLIC-SBD Grand Island | Life/Disability Insurance | \$ | 604.84 |
| POP Media Networks | Programming Fees | \$ | 30.86 |
| Prins, Reid | Employee Deductions Refund | \$ | 79.42 |
| Pro Cooperative | Vehicle Fuel/Generation Fuel | \$ | 18,010.09 |
| R&D Industries | Network Support | \$ | 313.50 |
| RSM US LLP | Network Support/SFP Modules | \$ | 2,518.06 |
| Skarshaug Testing Lab | Glove Testing | \$ | 81.84 |
| Sonksen, Karla | Board Meeting Expenses | \$ | 15.82 |
| Stuart C. Irby | Locating Paint | \$ | 1,669.20 |
| T.P. Anderson & Company | Audit Services | \$ | 1,000.00 |
| US Bank | Office 365 Renewal | \$ | 1,200.00 |
| US Card Systems | Credit Card Terminal Lease | \$ | 29.95 |
| Van Wert Inc. | Electric Meter | \$ | 396.58 |
| VECTOR | Annual Dues | \$ | 4,311.10 |
| Verizon | Wireless Phone Service | \$ | 104.81 |
| VISA | Domains/Electric Code | \$ | 167.92 |
| Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield | Group Health Insurance | \$ | 8,216.28 |
| Zcorum | TruVision Buyout | \$ | 5,516.60 |
| Ziegler Inc. | Annual Generator Maintenance | \$ | 36,900.89 |
| Ziegler Inc. | Generator Repairs | \$ | 2,153.98 |
| | <u>Total Expenses</u> | \$ | <u>411,628.47</u> |

Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report, current Investment Schedule, Income Statement, and Balance Sheet for August 2024. Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to authorize the Investment Committee to reinvest CD 104755 upon maturity. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

RSM provided the Trustees with competitive quotes to replace and update the server, licensing, and backups for LMPC and the City of Laurens. Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to accept the recommendation from RSM to purchase the Cisco Server Solution at a cost of \$35,883 to be split 50/50 with the City of Laurens. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

DGR Engineering provided the Board with two different proposals for the computer equipment needed on the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Project and recommended that we go with the proposal that includes the Pro Support. The Board agrees with DGR's recommendation and advised the General Manager to proceed with their recommendation. No other action was taken.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the renewal of our group health insurance plan with Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield through Woodley Insurance. The renewal goes into effect on December 1, 2024, and runs through November 30, 2025. The Utility will be staying with the same health plan code and drug code. The Utility will continue to partially self-fund the group health insurance plan as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Deductibles | \$2,500 / \$5,000 | self-insured down to | \$250 / \$500 |
| Out-Of-Pocket Maximum | \$5,000 / \$10,000 | self-insured down to | \$1,000 / \$2,000 |
| Drug Plan | \$8 / \$35 / \$50 | self-insured down to | \$8 / \$25 / \$40 |

Single coverage monthly premium will be \$806.46. Family coverage monthly premium will be \$2,016.22. Employees with Family coverage will continue to pay 8% of the difference between the family and single premium. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the renewal of our group dental insurance plan with Blue Dental through Woodley Insurance. The renewal goes into effect on December 1, 2024, and runs through November 30, 2025. The Utility will be using dental plan Code DG000102. Single coverage monthly premium will be \$45.84. Family coverage monthly premium will be \$151.10. Employees with Family coverage will continue to pay the difference between the family and single premium. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the hiring Tracie Ellrich for the position of Customer Service/Billing Clerk and welcome her into the LMPC family. Her starting wage will be at Grade 3, Step 15 of the wage scale for this position and her first day was September 4, 2024. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to move the Open House for the 75th Anniversary of the Electric Utility from Thursday, October 3, 2024 to Thursday, October 10, 2024.

Discussion was held on the Large Interruptible Electric Load rate and some of the recent changes in SPP rules related to new loads. No action was taken.

Trustee Runneberg left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Discussion was held on the Project Charter for the Municipal Building Renovation Project. Due to a recent incident that took place in City Hall, the need to control access into City Hall has become a high priority. City and LMPC staff are working with CMBA Architects on revising the Project Charter by trying to break down the overall project into multiple phases. No action was taken.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Ben Storms
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees