

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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February 12,
2025

Local News

Pocahontas County Foundation Awards Grants to 21 Organizations

The Pocahontas County Foundation awarded \$136,011 to 21 non-profit organizations during its recent Awards and 20 Year Anniversary Celebration Event held on Jan. 29. Representatives of these organizations are pictured above.

The Gilmore City Hometown Pride Committee received a High Impact Grant Award for \$22,000 to construct a new shelter house in Sunset Park, located at the west entrance to Gilmore City.

In celebration of its 20th Anniversary, the Foundation Board announced it will donate \$15,000 to the County Visioning Committee to help complete the County Kaleidoscope Project in 2025. This funding will be used for three kaleidoscopes to be built and installed in Havelock, Plover and Varina.

For more information about the Pocahontas County Foundation's grant and charitable giving programs visit: <https://www.pocofoundation.org/home>



At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
February 12, 2025

Goodness, there are a lot of nasty sicknesses going around! Hope you have stayed healthy.

We postponed last week's Tot Time because of all the illness in the area, so now we've got two of them this week – Wednesday the 12th & Monday the 17th! There will be lots of songs, books, crafts, and of course, bubbles! Hope you and your littles are healthy and can join the fun for one or both of these 5:30 p.m. Tot Times.

I was able to attend the Pocahontas County Foundation's 20th Annual Grant Awards Ceremony. I totaled up the value of grants the Library has been awarded by the County Foundation in the past 20 years, and it's just over \$40,000! They have funded a wide variety of projects including DVDs & books, tech equipment, programs, furniture, and a couple instruments in the Music Garden. This year the Library received a grant for \$3605 to purchase a small loveseat for the Children's Department. This will be perfect for adults to sit on while reading to a child, or for Tessa to sit on for Story Times.

New novels in the library this week include *We All Live Here* by Jojo Moyes, *Waiting for the Long Night* by Amanda Peters, *Presumed Guilty* by Scott Turow, *Three Days in June* by Anne Tyler, *Dream Girl Drama* by Tessa Bailey, *Memorial Days* by Geraldine Brooks, *Last Twilight in Paris* by Pam Jenoff, *Open Season* by Jonathan Kellerman, *Crash* by Frieda McFadden, *You are Fatally Invited* by Andre Pliego and *Onyx Storm* by Rebecca Yarros.

Deb and I spent a day recently taking online Continuing Education classes sponsored by the State Library. The theme of the day was "Assess, Adapt, Act: Making Evaluation Count." It sounds pretty dry, but it was really pretty interesting, and filled with useful information.

This month's Book Club choice is by popular RomCom author Emily Henry. One reviewer of *The People We Meet on Vacation* says it is a "sparkling novel that will leave you with the warm, hazy afterglow usually reserved for the best vacations." Sounds like just the escapism we need this February!

Mark Your Calendar

February 12 & 17 Evening Tot Time @ 5:30 p.m.

February 24 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *The People We Meet on Vacation* by Emily Henry

March 4 @ 3:45-5 p.m. - Kids Make & Take Leprechaun Lookers

March 4 @ 6:30 p.m. - Take it Tuesday Leprechaun Decoration

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*This Week at
Bethany Lutheran*

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Wednesday: February 12, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation Class

7:00 PM ~ Council Mtg.

Sunday: February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS

9:15 AM ~ Youth SS

9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion,
SS sing

11:30 AM ~ Potluck

4:00 PM ~ 4-H Club Mtg.

6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Tuesday: February 18, 2025

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Wednesday: February 19, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation Class

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



Bethany
LUTHERAN CHURCH
North American Lutheran Church

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

*This Week at
Laurens United
Methodist Church*

Pastor Deb Parkison

Wednesday, February 12:

Caring Cards Meeting from 6:00-8:00
PM in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 16:

Sunday School from 9:15-10:05 AM

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

Administrative Council Meeting @

11:30 AM in the Wesley Room

following worship

Wednesday, February 19:

Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the


Wesley Room



The
United
Methodist
Church

Submit . . .

Submit. . . 100% of The Paper's articles are submitted by you - The Reader!! Take a minute to send us your news and photos too! *It's fun and it's FREE!*



*This Week at
First Christian*

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, Feb. 13

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet open

Sunday, Feb. 16

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - 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

One-Woman Play at the Rialto

Writer and actress Diane Star Helmer will perform a one-woman play featuring Betty Ford called "My Name is Betty Ford."

The performance will take place on Saturday, February 15 at 2 p.m. at the Rialto Theater in Pocahontas.

A reception featuring Mrs. Ford's favorite cake and other treats will follow.

This event is sponsored by the Pocahontas County Historical Society with the help of a bequest from Mary Jo Vainreb.



Laurens Women's Club To Meet

The Laurens Women's Club will meet Friday, February 14 at 1:30 p.m. at West Iowa Bank. Evelyn Hakes will present the program about Valentine's Day. Members of the serving committee will be Evelyn Hakes and Anne Walstead. Jackie Stelter will give the book report.

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Bridal Registry
for Rachel Potter
BRIDE-ELECT OF
MIKE MONTINO

Saturday,
MARCH 8
10:00-12:00

**BRIDAL
SHOWER**

Sunnybrook
CHURCH
SIOUX CITY, IOWA

If you are unable to attend the shower
but would like to give a gift,
it will be delivered to the shower.

**OPEN 9-2
ON SAT.
FEB. 15**

LIZZIEDOODLE GIFTS
& HOME DECOR

REGISTRY
ON
OUR FB
PAGE

LAURENS, IOWA 712-841-1111

CABIN FEVER EVENT

January 29, 2025

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 January 29, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the summary of receipts for December 2024 in the amount of \$373,417.03 and the list of expenses for December 2024 in the amount of \$283,683.34. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Summary of Receipts

A/R- Electric	\$ 247,916.61
A/R- Communications	\$ 62,267.09
Merchandise/Services- Electric	\$ 332.00
Merchandise/Services- Communications	\$ 42.00
Carrier Access Fees- Communications	\$ 1,057.47
Write Off Recovery- Electric	\$ 50.00
Write Off Recovery- Communications	\$ 108.87
E-Rate Reimbursement- Communications	\$ 61.20
Deposits- Electric	\$ 2,425.00
Deposits- Communications	\$ 425.00
Marathon Energy Sales- Electric	\$ 26,009.16
Tower Lease- Communications	\$ 4,382.18
Attachment H Revenues- Electric	\$ 28,232.99
Miscellaneous- Communications	\$ 47.46
Office Phones- Electric	\$ 60.00
Total Cash Receipts	\$ 373,417.03

List of Expenses

A & M Laundry	Dust Mops & Mats	\$ 178.56
AFLAC	Employee Contributions	\$ 389.40
Amaril Uniform Company	FR Clothing	\$ 787.57
Aureon	CALEA/SS7/Transport	\$ 549.96
Avesis	Group Vision Insurance	\$ 90.28
B & K Embroidery	Company Clothing- Embroidery	\$ 10.70
Bally Sports North	Programming Fees	\$ 529.30
Big 10 Network	Programming Fees	\$ 200.46
Calix, Inc.	Operations Cloud	\$ 598.69
City of Laurens	Cable TV Franchise Fees	\$ 9,041.49
City of Laurens	Utility Billing	\$ 90,236.60
Cleveland, Chad	Meeting Expense	\$ 52.26
Community First Broadcasting	Radio Advertising	\$ 52.50
Consortia Consulting	Monthly Consulting Fee	\$ 1,125.00
Customers	Closed Account Credit Refunds	\$ 2,096.96
Department of Energy	WAPA Power Bill	\$ 36,207.19
DGR Engineering	Marathon Rate Calculation	\$ 1,490.50

DGR Engineering	Relay Upgrades & SCADA Project	\$	5,085.00
Display Systems International	Programming Fees	\$	165.76
Echo Group	Electric Supplies	\$	16.60
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Administration	\$	120.00
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Claims	\$	53.95
GFC Leasing – WI	Copier Leases	\$	85.07
Goldfield Telecom	Calix Equipment/Upgrades	\$	2,318.23
Gray Media Group	Programming Fees	\$	472.50
Hearst Television	Programming Fees	\$	903.00
Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	\$	8,950.74
Interstate TRS Fund	TRS Fund Assessment	\$	246.75
Iowa Department of Revenue	Sales Tax	\$	4,591.44
Iowa Department of Revenue	State Withholding	\$	1,259.77
Iowa One Call	Locates	\$	47.70
Iowa Public Employees Retirement System	IPERS Contributions	\$	5,131.29
Laurens Chamber of Commerce	Chamber Bucks	\$	1,650.00
Laurens House of Print	Paper	\$	58.85
Laurens Municipal Power & Communications	Monthly Communications Bill	\$	132.45
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Monthly Utility Bill	\$	104.37
Laurens Plumbing	Supplies	\$	116.37
Laurens Sun	Publications/Advertising	\$	135.44
Long Lines	Communication Services	\$	8,795.30
Lumen Access Billing	Interconnect Access Fees	\$	95.15
Lumen Lexcis	Directory Listings	\$	36.45
Lumenserve	Tower Lighting Monitoring	\$	316.24
Merchant Bankcard	Credit Card Processing Fees	\$	245.04
Mid America Computer Corporation	Utility Billing	\$	922.98
MidAmerican Energy	Neal 4 Operations	\$	26,000.00
National Content & Technology Cooperative	Programming/ACA	\$	6,778.51
Nexstar Broadcasting	Programming Fees	\$	968.52
NIMECA	Power Bill	\$	14,155.88
NIMECA	Cornbelt Meter Maintenance	\$	821.91
NIMECA	NAR Transfer Fees	\$	107.83
Norsolv Systems Environmental	Norsolv Services	\$	290.99
OCD Detailing	Undercoating/Paint Protection	\$	944.46
Office Elements	Office Supplies	\$	113.05
Paymentus Group Inc	Communications Credit Card Fees	\$	205.42
Paymentus Group Inc	Utility Billing Credit Card Fees	\$	158.38
Payroll	Salaried, Hourly & Overtime	\$	23,251.03
Petty Cash	Postage	\$	16.57
PLIC-SBD Grand Island	Life/Disability Insurance	\$	604.84
Pocahontas County E911	Quarterly E911 Fees	\$	780.70
Pop Media	Programming Fees	\$	18.06
Postmaster	Stamps- General Use	\$	730.00
Pro Cooperative	Vehicle Fuel	\$	166.83
R&D Industries	Network Support	\$	36.00
RSM US LLP	Network Support	\$	3,283.72
RSM US LLP	Network Server Upgrade	\$	8,813.74
Secretary of State- Iowa	Notary Fees	\$	30.00
Storey Kenworthy – Matt Parrott	Checks	\$	595.51
Unity Point Health	Hearing Tests	\$	427.75
Unity Point Occupational Medicine	Testing Services	\$	42.00
US Card Systems	Credit Card Terminal Lease	\$	29.95
Verizon	Wireless Phone Service	\$	155.55
Visa	Supplies/YouTube TV	\$	300.98
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	Group Health Insurance	\$	8,161.30
	Total Expenses	\$	283,683.34

Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report, Investment Schedule, Income Statement, and Balance Sheet for December 2024. Discussion was held on money market funds. No specific action was taken.

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

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

Chairman Storms 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.

<u>DEPOSITORY NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MAXIMUM BALANCE</u>
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
Community Financial Services	Spencer, Iowa	\$ 5,000,000

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 29th day of January 2025.

Ben Storms
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the "New Home Cash Incentive Program" for calendar year 2025 available to the first owner of a newly constructed all electric residence. 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 Horsman to pay the standard mileage rate for business use as set by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for calendar year 2025. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Trustee Horsman introduced the following Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LABOR AND EQUIPMENT HOURLY RATES FOR CUSTOMERS, EMERGENCIES, AND MUTUAL AID SERVICE CALLS" and moved for adoption. Trustee Runneberg seconded the motion to adopt. The roll was called, and the vote was: Ayes: Horsman, Runneberg, and Storms. Nays: None.

Chairman Storms declared the following Resolution duly adopted:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LABOR AND EQUIPMENT HOURLY RATES FOR CUSTOMERS, EMERGENCIES, AND MUTUAL AID SERVICE CALLS

WHEREAS, pursuant to elections held in the years 1949 and 1997, the management and control of the Laurens Municipal Electric and Communications Utilities are the responsibility of a Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees may, by resolution, establish, impose, adjust, and provide for the collection of rates to be charged for the use of the services provided by the Laurens Municipal Electric and Communications Utilities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Laurens Municipal Electric and Communications Utilities of the City of Laurens that the labor and equipment hourly rates for customer related service calls, including the City of Marathon, are as follows:

Labor (Regular Hours)	\$ 80.00 per hour
Labor (After Hours)	\$120.00 per hour
Service Truck/Van	\$ 46.00 per hour
Basket Truck	\$ 86.00 per hour
Digger Derrick Truck	\$ 86.00 per hour
Mini X Excavator	\$ 86.00 per hour
Skid Loader	\$ 86.00 per hour

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the labor and equipment hourly rates for emergencies and mutual aid service calls are as follows:

Labor (Regular Hours)	\$120.00 per hour
Labor (After Hours)	\$180.00 per hour
Service Truck/Van	\$ 69.00 per hour
Basket Truck	\$129.00 per hour
Digger Derrick Truck	\$129.00 per hour
Mini X Excavator	\$129.00 per hour
Skid Loader	\$129.00 per hour

Only properly trained Utility employees are authorized to operate Utility equipment. The Utility has the right to refuse any work that is the responsibility of the customer or person requesting the work.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 29th day of January 2025.

Ben Storms
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to adopt the Iowa Heartland Regional Directory as Laurens Municipal Power & Communication’s official directory. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the Distributed Generation Interconnection Agreement with the Laurens-Marathon School District and authorize the solar array to be energized. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve working with Elevate Roofing to schedule inspections and make repairs to the generation plant roofs. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

No action was taken on the large interruptible electric load rate and service rules.

No action was taken on the ground lease for the large interruptible electric load.

Discussion was held on the proposed job description and training plans for the Customer Service/Billing Clerk position. Discussion was also held on employee turnover and retention. The Trustees are on board with the direction and steps taken by the General Manager. No specific action was taken.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the proposed Cash Handling Policy. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

General Manager Update:

- Holiday Lighting Credit – we had 43 customers take advantage of the Holiday Lighting Credit.
- The Trustees reviewed reports showing 2024 total billing for electricity and communications.
- The Trustees reviewed reports showing the sources of power for 2024 and the breakdown of how much was from WAPA, coal, wind, diesels, and market purchases.
- The Trustees reviewed reports prepared by the Clean Energy Districts of Iowa (CEDI). Each year every electric utility in Iowa files an annual report with the Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC) that provides detailed information about each utility's operations. The IUC recently posted the 2023 consolidated information on their website. CEDI has analyzed this information and compared the bundled, all-in revenues per kilowatt-hour for the 2 investor-owned electric utilities (MidAmerican Energy and Alliant Energy) as well as 42 rural electric cooperatives and 136 municipal electric utilities. These all-in revenues, generated by customer rates, represent an average rate paid within a customer class. CEDI ranks these revenues/costs from lowest to highest for each of the major ratepayer classes (Residential, Commercial, and Industrial). The Board of Trustees were very pleased with the results of the CEDI rankings. **The Laurens Municipal Electric Utility ranked 11th lowest in the Residential Class, 14th lowest in the Commercial Class, and 19th lowest in the Industrial Class.** Customers can access the link to the CEDI article and rankings by going to LMPC's website: www.lmpc-ia.com.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Ben Storms
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees