

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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April 2, 2025

Local News

Laurens Care Center Community Update

Unfortunately there has been some pretty scary, negative press in recent months associated with nursing homes. I can't and won't make any excuses for such nursing homes, but what I will say is that people deserve to be treated with compassion, dignity and respect. I can also point out that MANY positive things take place in Laurens Care Center, and in many other nursing homes, everyday.

Today I am going to focus on six major benefits of nursing homes, and skilled care specifically.

Benefit #1: The priority of security and safety for those we care for. Skilled nursing facilities like Laurens Care Center have secure entrances and trained staff members from our surrounding communities who truly care and follow strict safety protocols. These measures provide peace of mind to friends and family, knowing that their loved one is being kept safe in a protected environment.

Benefit #2: Around the clock care and support for support, attention, and supervision as your loved one's care requires. Laurens Care Center has dedicated teams of healthcare professionals who provide personalized care tailored to the specific needs of each resident. From assistance with daily activities to medication management and specialized therapies, our staff offers comprehensive care that may be challenging to replicate at home.

Benefit #3: Nursing Homes are structured to enhance a person's quality of life. Reputable nursing homes like Laurens Care Center strive to create an engaging and fulfilling environment for our residents. We offer a wide range of life enrichment activities, facility outings, events, games, and social gatherings that provide opportunities for seniors to stay mentally, socially, and physically active.

Benefit #4: Nursing homes provide personalized care and specialized services. Laurens Care Center is equipped to handle various health conditions and we have access to skilled medical professionals, including registered nurses and therapists, who are experienced in addressing the specific needs of seniors. We offer rehabilitation services to keep residents independent for as long as possible, to palliative care options to ensure comfort and proper pain management. Whatever individual care needs may be, we continuously work to ensure that residents receive appropriate care and support throughout their care journey.

Benefit #5: Comprehensive support for daily living. Laurens Care Center offers a supportive environment that encourages individuals to remain as independent as they can for as long as they can. Those who experience challenges with performing certain daily tasks such as dressing, grooming, bathing, and eating independently receive assistance from trained, caring staff members who are experienced in offering assistance with these activities. This level of support can significantly reduce the physical and emotional strain on family members who may find it difficult to manage these tasks on their own.

Benefit #6: Access to social activities and peer support. Elderly individuals living at home are at a high risk of experiencing loneliness and isolation, which often has a negative impact their mood and overall well-being. To combat these issues Laurens Care Center provides daily opportunities for socialization and peer support, which creates a sense of community for residents. With a variety of organized social activities, group outings, and communal dining experiences, nursing homes foster an environment where seniors can interact with their peers, share experiences, and form meaningful connections. These social interactions contribute to emotional well-being, mental stimulation, and overall happiness, and give residents a sense of belonging and purpose.

Please feel free to stop into Laurens Care Center for a tour or give me a phone call at 712-845-4915 with any questions about nursing home living.

Jaime Dodd, Administrator

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

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Laurens Care Center Social Worker Debbie Shaw Retires

The staff, residents and Executive Board of the Laurens Care Center have had the pleasure of having Laurens resident Debbie Shaw serve in the Social Worker position for the past 2 years. We wish her much rest, relaxation, and all the Bucket List checkoffs during her well deserved retirement.

Congratulations on your retirement Debbie!



HAPPY ISU EXTENSION AND OUTREACH WEEK

APRIL 7-12, 2025



!! CARD SHOWER !!
IN HONOR OF OUR MOM'S 85TH BIRTHDAY ON
APRIL 12TH
Please send greetings to:
PAT BOUGHEY
314 NORTH FIRST STREET
LAURENS, IOWA 50554
Thank You!

A large, round birthday cake with light blue frosting and pink frosting swirls on top. The cake is decorated with colorful sprinkles around the base. It sits on a white, ornate pedestal. The text "HAPPY 85TH Birthday, MOM!" is written on the side of the cake.

At the Library with Glenda Mulder April 2, 2025

When her husband died in a sudden crash, she was forced to figure out how to move forward with a grieving teenage daughter. Next Tuesday, April 8 at 1:30 p.m. Author Michelle Cowan will be here to tell us about her book *Better, Not Bitter*. This is not just the title of her book, it is the mantra by which she and her daughter moved forward in life after the tragic loss of her husband. Come and hear her inspirational story. She will have copies of her book available for purchase.

New novels recently include: *The Griffin Sisters Greatest Hits* by Jennifer Weiner, *Happy Land* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez, *Promises, Promises* by Buck Turner, *Fight or Flight* by Fern Michaels, *Isola* by Allegra Goodman, *Killing Cold* by Kate Alice Marshall, *Life Cycle of the Common Octopus* by Emma Knight, *Nobody's Fool* by Harlan Coben, *Overkill* by J.A. Jance, *Quicksilver* by Callie Hart, *We Do Not Part* by Han Kang, *Worlds Fair Quilt* by Jennifer Chiaverini and *Writer* by James Patterson.

Because Don Beneke was a world traveler, it seemed appropriate to use some of his memorial donations to purchase Rick Steve's latest book, *On the Hippie Trail: Istanbul to Kathmandu and the Making of a Travel Writer*.

April Book Club choice is *Every Note Played* by Lisa Genova. I

really enjoy how this author takes a physical ailment and weaves the story around it. Our catalog's description of this book reads, "A once-celebrated concert pianist who is gradually succumbing to ALS is forced to accept help from the estranged wife he pushed away, a situation that forces the couple to reconcile their past before time runs out." Grab a copy and join the discussion Monday the 28th at 7 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar

- April 28 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *Every Note Played* by Lisa Genova
- April 8 @ 1:30 p.m. - *Better, not Bitter* by author Michelle Cowan
- April 2 & 21 - Evening Tot Time @ 5:30 p.m.
- April 30 @ 7 p.m. - Brad Wilkening's Lessons of the Holocaust

CANVA 101

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 **4/24/25**

 **1:00 - 3:00 PM**

 **Northwest Career Academy in Laurens**

TUITION: \$99



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

 515-574-1293

 noncredit@iowacentral.edu



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One-Woman Play at the Rialto

Writer and actress Diana Star Helmer will perform a one-woman play about the former First Lady, Betty Ford. "My Name is Betty Ford" will take place on Saturday, April 12 at 2 PM at the Rialto Theater in Pocahontas. Refreshments will follow and the admission is free. The event is sponsored by the Pocahontas County Historical Society with the help of a bequest from Mary Jo Vainreb.

4-H and FFA Market Sheep and Market Goat Weigh-Ins to be Held

4-H and FFA Market Sheep and Market Goat Weigh-Ins will be on Saturday, April 5, from 10:00-11:00 a.m at the Pocahontas County Fairgrounds. All market lambs and market goats that will be exhibited at the 2025 Pocahontas County Fair need to be weighed in at this time.

State Fair identification will take place during the last 15 minutes of weigh-in, but you must let Ashlie know by April 1st if you need retinal imaging for the State Fair. Please contact Ashlie at ashliej@iastate.edu or call 712-335-3103.

Derby Swine Weigh-In will follow from 11:00-11:30 a.m., maximum weight of feeder pig is 90 pounds. Tags are \$4 per animal.

There will NOT be a special swine challenge this year.

The Paper

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*This Week at
Bethany Lutheran*

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Wednesday: April 2, 2025

11:30 AM ~ Lenten Lunch at UMC
5:30 PM ~ Lenten Soup Supper here
6:30 PM ~ Lenten Evening Service
here

Saturday: April 5, 2025

8:00 AM ~ Men's Group

Sunday: April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS
9:15 AM ~ Youth SS
9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion
6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Tuesday: April 8, 2025

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group
9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany
7:00 PM ~ Confirmation

Wednesday: April 9, 2025

11:30 AM ~ Lenten Lunch at Body of
Christ Church
5:30 PM ~ Lenten Soup Supper here
6:30 PM ~ Lenten Evening Service
here
Council meeting to follow

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

Thursday, April 3:

UMW Meeting @ 1:45 PM at the
Laurens Care Center

Saturday, April 5:

UMM Meeting @ 8:00 AM

Sunday, April 6:

Sunday School from 9:15-10:05 AM
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Holy Communion Sunday
Scarlett June Gustafson Baptism
Meal to follow worship service
provided by the family in Fellowship
Hall

Monday, April 7:

Town & Country Quilter's Club
meeting at UMC @ 2:00 PM in
Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 9:

Caring Cards Meeting from 6-8 PM in
Fellowship Hall.
Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the
Wesley Room



The
United
Methodist
Church

*This Week at
First Christian*

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Wednesday, April 2

11:30 a.m. Lenten Luncheon at
United Methodist Church
11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch followed by
C.W.F.

Thursday, April 3

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Sunday, April 6

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Worship
Mission Council Meeting 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

March 27, 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 Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the agenda for the March 27, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the summary of receipts for February 2025 in the amount of \$376,866.70 and the list of expenses for February 2025 in the amount of \$262,547.85. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Summary of Receipts

A/R- Electric	\$ 268,572.59
A/R- Communications	\$ 38,824.67
Merchandise/Services- Electric	\$ 2,553.00
Carrier Access Fees- Communications	\$ 1,759.64
Write Off Recovery- Electric	\$ 289.07
Write Off Recovery- Communications	\$ 66.08
E-Rate Reimbursement- Communications	\$ 61.20
Deposits- Electric	\$ 2,350.00
Deposits- Communications	\$ 302.00
Energy Assistance- Electric	\$ 2,191.32
Energy Assistance on Closed Account- Electric	\$ 400.00
Investments Interest Earned- Electric	\$ 11,727.06
Marathon Energy Sales- Electric	\$ 17,558.29
Tower Lease- Communications	\$ 2,191.09
Attachment H Revenues- Electric	\$ 28,020.69
Total Cash Receipts	\$ 376,866.70

List of Expenses

A&M Laundry	Dust Mops & Mats	\$ 133.92
AFLAC	Employee Contributions	\$ 142.86
Ahlers & Cooney PC	Legal Fees	\$ 3,925.00
Amaril Uniform Company	FR Clothing	\$ 528.22
Aureon	CALEA/SS7/Switching	\$ 137.87
B & K Embroidery	Company Clothing	\$ 23.54
Calix, Inc.	Operations Cloud	\$ 585.33
City of Laurens	Utility Billing	\$ 96,544.90
Cleveland, Chad	Meeting Expenses	\$ 259.00
Community First Broadcasting	Advertising	\$ 52.50
Consortia Consulting	Monthly Consulting Fee	\$ 1,200.00
Customers	Credit Refunds	\$ 51.89
Department of Energy	WAPA Power Bill	\$ 41,851.75
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Administration	\$ 120.00
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Claims	\$ 1,811.62
GFC Leasing – WI	Copier Leases	\$ 80.57
Grainger	Supplies	\$ 61.95
Howard E Nyhart Company	GASB 75 Report	\$ 1,450.00
Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	\$ 8,460.91
Interstate TRS Fund	TRS Fund Assessment	\$ 246.75

Iowa Department of Revenue	Sales Tax	\$	4,790.35
Iowa Department of Revenue	State Withholding	\$	817.85
Iowa Public Employees Retirement System	IPERS Contributions	\$	5,067.61
Laurens Municipal Power & Communications	Monthly Communications Bill	\$	98.40
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Monthly Utility Bill	\$	105.60
Laurens Plumbing	Tools	\$	64.19
Laurens Sun	Publication/Advertising/Subscription	\$	1,003.91
Library of Congress	SA1 Royalty Licensing Fees	\$	67.00
Long Lines	Communication Services	\$	8,581.72
Lumen Lexcis	Directory Listings	\$	36.45
Lumenserve	Tower Lighting Monitoring	\$	316.24
Merchant Bankcard	Credit Card Processing Fees	\$	27.45
Mid America Computer Corporation	Utility Billing	\$	896.71
NIMECA	Monthly Power Bill	\$	43,628.60
Office Elements	Office Supplies	\$	197.43
Paymentus Group Inc	Communications Credit Card Fees	\$	198.97
Paymentus Group Inc	Utility Billing Credit Card Fees	\$	356.62
Payroll	Salaried, Hourly & Overtime	\$	22,532.43
PLIC-SBD Grand Island	Life/Disability Insurance	\$	629.83
Pro Cooperative	Vehicle Fuel	\$	285.18
Pye-Barker Fire & Safety	Sprinkler System Inspection	\$	1,051.81
Qwest dba Centurylink-IA	Access Charges	\$	95.15
R & D Industries	Network Support	\$	18.00
Resco	Transformer Stand	\$	196.75
RSM US LLP	Network Support	\$	2,814.00
RSM US LLP	Network Server Upgrade	\$	2,223.38
Skarshaug Testing Lab	Glove Testing	\$	84.95
Unity Point Occupational Medicine	Testing Services	\$	42.00
US Card Systems	Credit Card Terminal Lease	\$	29.95
US Card Systems	Consulting Fees	\$	149.95
Verizon	Wireless Phone Service	\$	155.55
Visa	W2 Filings/Postermywall	\$	213.94
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	Group Health Insurance	\$	8,101.30
	Total Expenses	\$	262,547.85

Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report, Investment Schedule, Income Statement, and Balance Sheet for February 2025.

Trustees reviewed interest rate quotes received to re-invest up to \$1,200,000. Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the quote from Community State Bank for a 12-month CD for \$800,000 in operating funds and the quote from Community State Bank for a 24-month CD for \$400,000 of non-operating funds. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion on service rules for large load interruptible transmission service customers. No action taken.

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

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the Fee Proposal from CMBA Architects of \$20,000. LMPC and the City of Laurens will be splitting these fees. CMBA will design updates to the West and South entry doors for handicap accessibility as well as controlling access to City Hall. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on our electric distribution transformers in the field and in inventory. No action taken.

Discussion was held on our EMC Insurance Package. The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Laurens, signed a document that changed the Agent of Record with EMC to Jason McCartan. The City of Laurens has 10 days in which to rescind the change. If they do not rescind the change, then Jason McCartan automatically becomes the agent for the EMC Insurance Package. The Board of Trustees came to the following conclusions:

- The Board of Trustees oppose the Agent of Record change and recommend that this be rescinded.
- The Board of Trustees supports the idea of getting competitive bids.
- Timing of getting competitive bids needs to be well in advance of our renewal so it is fair to all parties interested in providing quotes.
- The Board of Trustees directs the General Manager to draft a letter stating these conclusions so Board Chairman Ben Storms can sign it.
- The Board of Trustees also directs the General Manager to deliver a copy of the letter to each City Council member, the Mayor, and City Manager.

General Manager Update:

- Went over an email from Andy Koob, DGR Engineering that provided us an update on the West Generation Plant Additional Fuel Storage Project and the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Replacement Project.
- Discussion was held on the Hy-Vee Aisles Online Program they just started in town. The Board of Trustees is thrilled that this service is offered and recommends that our citizens take advantage of this service.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Ben Storms
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees