

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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April 16, 2025

Local News

Update on Laurens Community Center Presented to Laurens Womens' Club

On April 11, 2025, Patrick Sullivan presented an update on the Laurens Community Center (LCC) to the Laurens Womens' Club at the Homestead Cooperative. The City of Laurens accepted ownership of the Laurens Community Center by gift in the summer of 2024 from the Catholic Church Diocese of Sioux City. The location was formerly the Catholic Church Parish Hall. There is a 5 person board which oversees the operation of the LCC consisting of Jason Aschenbrenner, Kelly Horsman, Holly Storms, Mary Jo Litwiller, and Patrick Sullivan.

The need for a community center became apparent when the Congregate Meals Program was flooded in the basement of City Hall in 2023. In the interim, the Laurens Bethany

Lutheran Church graciously provided the facilities for Congregate Meals until about July 1, 2024. Further, the Veterans of Foreign Wars was in need of a place for meetings. Mr. Sullivan noted that community centers are not profit making and are generally on a tight budget. Thus, the Laurens Industrial Foundation has provided regular financial assistance to help "make the community center happen".

The LCC initially had a nice kitchen facility, a gymnasium, several meeting rooms, and handicapped accessible bathrooms. Improvements of all new LED lighting in the gym, and folding overhead doors in the kitchen have been made. A grant from Pocahontas County Foundation for landscaping was received. A donor from Rolfe, IA, gave about 100 chairs to the LCC. The City of Laurens plans to install signage.

So far, the attendance at Congregate Meals has increased, the VFW is utilizing the LCC for meetings, funeral meals have been hosted at the LCC, some businesses

such as the soybean plant in Alta, IA, have held a meeting, and a class reunion is booked for this coming summer.

There are plans and discussions for more efficient heating than the current electric heat, an upgrade to the bathroom facilities, and a purchase of a big screen tv. A grant application for paint has been made. Womens' Club members added that curbside repair and snow removal service are needed. The board of 5 persons is hopeful that graduation parties, small wedding receptions, and business seminars will be booked. A \$100 damage deposit is required when the LCC is rented. There are different levels of cost for rent. In early June, the board of 5 persons will be making an annual report.



Fonda Arts Center - "Songs of Faith and Inspiration"

As the promise of Spring becomes more of a reality, "Songs of Faith and Inspiration" is the theme for an afternoon of music at the Fonda Arts Center, performed by Daniel Keen and Larry Heschke.

Both Dan and Larry have been the backbone at the Arts Center over the years, always delighting audiences with their heartfelt talent and versatility.

This event takes place on Sunday, April 27, at the Fonda Arts Center on the Northwest corner of Fourth & Main, beginning at 3 p.m. Everyone is always welcome; admission and refreshments are free

At the Library with Glenda Mulder April 16, 2025

Friday, April 18 @ 2 p.m. we will learn Outdoor Survival Skills with Adam, our Pocahontas County Naturalist. We are hoping the weather cooperates & we can do this in the City Park beside the library, but if necessary, we will be in the library. Adam is very knowledgeable and has fun ways to share what he knows.

New novels recently include: *Heart of Winter* by Jonathan Evison, *Murder by Cheesecake* by Rachel Courage, *Summer in the City* by Alex Aster, *Silent as the Grave* by Rhys Bowen, *Beautiful Ugly* by Alice Feeney, *The Eights* by Joanna Miller and *Elphie* by Gregory McGuire.

April Book Club choice is *Every Note Played* by Lisa Genova. I really enjoy how this author takes a neurological disorders 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 21 Evening Tot Time @ 5:30 p.m.

April 18 @ 2 p.m. - Survival Skills with Poky County Naturalist

April 28 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *Every Note Played* by Lisa Genova

April 30 @ 7 p.m. - Brad Wilkening's Lessons of the Holocaust

May 6 @ 3:30-5:00 p.m. - Kids Make & Take

May 6 @ 6:30 p.m. - Take it Tuesday for adults



Author Michelle Cowan Visits the Library

Author Michelle Cowan reading an excerpt from her book, "Better, not Bitter" at the Laurens Public Library recently. She was a dynamic speaker, who told us about her husband, his death which was caused by a drunk driver, and her subsequent quest to get the Dram Shop laws changed in Nebraska.

Happy Birthday Jeanette!!

Our amazing Mom is turning 95 on Friday, April 18!!

Help this special lady celebrate by sending her a card or note!

Jeanette Korreck
Laurens Care Center
Room 108
304 East Veterans Road
Laurens, Iowa 50554

Thank You!

Steve, Jerry, David and Susan



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EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY
19
APRIL

HOP ON OVER FOR A FUN TIME!
SPORTSMAN'S PARK LAURENS

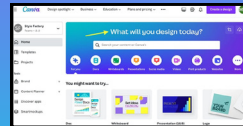
AGE GROUPS
3 & UNDER | 4, 5, 6 | 7, 8, 9

START TIME
10:00
AM SHARP

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY THE EASTER BUNNY!

CANVA 101

Elevate Your Designs with
Canva



Unlock your creativity and
elevate your designs with
Canva - where beginner
friendly meets professional
results!

4/24/25

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Northwest Career
Academy in Laurens



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

515-574-1293

noncredit@iowacentral.edu

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4-H Members at Coopers Cove

Pocahontas County 4-H members participated in a fun and educational afternoon at Cooper's Cove last week.

During this experience, 4-H members had the opportunity to explore Iowa's ecosystems through a guided hike with Pocahontas County Conservation's Naturalist Adam Mann, where they learned to identify both native and invasive plant species. Additionally, members pitched in to clean up the park, preserving the natural beauty of the area for others to enjoy.

A big thank you to Adam for sharing his knowledge about our beautiful state's ecosystems and showing us how we can help take care of it!



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*This Week at
Bethany Lutheran*

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Wednesday: April 16, 2025

7:00 PM - Council Mtg.

Thursday: April 17, 2025

7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Worship Service w/Communion

Friday: April 18, 2025

6:30 PM - Laurens Ecumenical Good Friday Worship Service at FCC

Sunday: April 20, 2025

**Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:30 AM - Easter Celebration Worship w/Communion, First Communion, SS sing

(***Note change in worship time***)

6:00 PM - Bethany Prayer Group

Tuesday: April 22, 2025

8:30 AM - Prayer Group

9:30 AM - Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Wednesday: April 23, 2025

7:00 PM - Confirmation

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



*This Week at
Laurens United
Methodist Church*

Pastor Deb Parkison

Thursday, April 17:

Maundy Thursday Joint Worship Service with Varina UMC @ 7:00 PM at the Laurens UMC

Friday, April 18:

Good Friday Joint Worship Service with Laurens UMC @ 7:00 PM at the Varina UMC

Sunday, April 20:

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service @ 7 AM followed by breakfast Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM

Wednesday, April 23:

Confirmation @ 6 PM in the Wesley Room

Lifeline Reveal Party from 7-8 PM



*This Week at
First Christian*

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, April 17

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Friday, April 18

6:30 p.m. - Community Good Friday Service at First Christian Church

Sunday, April 20

8:30 a.m. - Coffee and Donuts
9:30 a.m. - Worship (Note time change)



*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

City Council Minutes

March 17th, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 17th, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem John Jamison called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra (at 5:10), Loren Booth, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben, and Public Works Director Julian Johnson.

Christenson moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the amended minutes from the March 3rd, 2025, meeting, and the list of claims. Swanson seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 03-17-25

AFLAC	GROUP INSURANCE	204.38
AGSTATE	OYSTER SHELLS	63.50
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS	387.97
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BOOKS	220.05
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	GROUP INSURANCE	162.03
BAKER & TAYLOR	BOOKS	364.93
BOLTON & MENK	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	22,603.00
CARROLL CONSTRUCTION	STREET DEPT. SUPPLIES	213.83
CENGAGE	LARGE PRINT BOOKS	219.67
CMBA ARCHITECTS	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	746.50
CONNECTIONS, INC.	GROUP INSURANCE	31.14
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	REPAIRS	650.88
DEE JACKSON/ JACKSON	SNOW REMOVAL	90.00
MOTOR		
DELTA DENTAL	MONTHLY DENTAL INS.	732.40
FOUNDATION ANAYLTICAL	WASTEWATER TESTING	220.00
LAB		
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	6,481.04
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	OIL FOR SHOP	497.97
KEVIN SHANNON	WATER CERTIFICATION	42.54
LAURENS HOUSE OF PRINT	COPY PAPER	55.00
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE & INTERNET	149.24
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	782.00
MACC	TECH SUPPORT	760.04
THE MESSENGER	LEGALS	154.28
POCAHONTAS CO.		
TREASURER	PROPERTY TAXES 25	1,220.00
POC. CO SOLID WASTE	MONTHLY LANDFILL FEES	6,921.90
PRINCIPAL LIFE GROUP	MONTHLY LIFE INSURANCE	778.26
PRO COOPERATIVE	MONTHLY FUEL CHARGES	1,766.98
R&D INDUSTIRES, INC.	TECH SUPPORT	18.00
RSM US, LLP	TECH SUPPORT	1,634.30
SHAMROCK RECYCLE	CURBSIDE RECYCLING	1,952.05
TRUCK EQUIPMENT	GUTTER BROOM	701.55
USPS	PO BOX FEES	94.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	MONTHLY CELL PHONES	290.92
WELLMARK	MONTHLY HEALTH INS.	10,095.92
	TOTAL	<u>61,306.27</u>

PAYROLL		3/3/2025	
001	GENERAL		8,892.57
210	ROAD USE TAX		1,966.92
600	WATER		3,177.76
610	SEWER		3,066.81
670	GARBAGE		2,706.45
		TOTAL	<u>19,810.51</u>
PAYROLL		3/10/2025	

City Council Minutes

600	WATER	<u>1,320.05</u>
		<u>1,320.05</u>
	PAYROLL TOTAL	<u>21,130.56</u>
	PAID TOTAL	<u>82,436.83</u>
001	GENERAL	16,556.72
110	ROAD USE TAX	4,710.45
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	5,165.78
316	WEST MAIN & BISSELL	22,603.00
600	WATER	10,012.74
610	SEWER	7,829.31
670	GARBAGE	<u>15,558.83</u>
	TOTAL BY FUND	<u>82,436.83</u>

Swanson moved to approve Resolution 07-25 Appointment of the Library Board Members, retroactively to March 1st, 2025. Christenson seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Booth, Christenson, Swanson, Jamison. Nays: None. Other: Zylstra not yet arrived. Motion carried.

Booth moved to approve the Amendment to the 28E agreement with Pocahontas Community Hospital. Swanson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Booth moved to approve the CMBA Proposal. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Zylstra moved to approve the authorization of the pre-employment hire for Michael Halsey pending completion of state testing. Swanson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

No decisions were made in regard to the Laurens Pool Project.

Zylstra moved to approve April 21st – April 30th as Spring Clean Up Days with NO DUMPSTER DIVING. Swanson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Zylstra motioned to adjourn at 6:19 p.m. Booth seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

John Jamison, Mayor Pro Tem

Hilary Reed, City Clerk

City Council Minutes

March 24th, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in special session at the Municipal Building at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 24th, 2025. Senior Council Member Aaron Christenson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra via phone, Loren Booth via phone, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, City Clerk Joan Hoben, Public Works Director Julian Johnsen, and Electric General Manager Chad Cleveland.

Zylstra moved to approve Resolution 08-25 – ECP Fix Date: Resolution fixing the date for a meeting on the proposition to authorize a Laon Agreement and the issuance of notes to evidence the obligations of the city thereunder. The date shall be set for April 7th at 5:00 p.m. Booth seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Swanson, Booth, Christenson. Nays: None.

Swanson moved to approve GCP Fix Date - Resolution fixing the date for a meeting on the proposition to authorize a Laon Agreement and the issuance of notes to evidence the obligations of the city thereunder. The date shall be set for April 7th at 5:00 p.m. Zylstra seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Swanson, Booth, Christenson. Nays: None.

Swanson moved to approve the Lead Line Service Replacement Contract with ISG. Booth seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Discussion was held on insurance.

Swanson moved to adjourn at 12:26 p.m. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Aaron Christenson, Senior Council Member

Hilary Reed, City Clerk

March 31st, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in special session at the Municipal Building at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31st, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem John Jamison called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra via phone, Loren Booth via phone, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, City Clerk Joan Hoben, Public Works Director Julian Johnsen, and Electric General Manager Chad Cleveland.

After much discussion, Booth moved to move forward with McCartan Insurance Agency for the 4/1/25 EMC Insurance Renewal. Christenson seconded. Ayes: Zylstra, Booth, Christenson, Jamison. Nays: Swanson; motion carried.

Swanson moved to adjourn at 12:20. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

John Jamison, Mayor Pro Tem

Hilary Reed, City Clerk

City Council Minutes

April 7th, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 25th, 2025. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, John Jamison, Loren Booth, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, and Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben.

Jamison moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the amended minutes from the March 17th, 24th, and 31st, 2025, meetings, and the list of claims. Zylstra seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 04-07-25

A&M SERVICES, INC.	RUGS, RAGS, MOPS	89.36
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS FEES	397.54
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	MONTHLY EYE INSURANCE	190.28
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC.	TASER	3,379.63
BADGER METER	ANNUAL LICENSE SERVICE	1,194.24
BOLTON & MENK	SEWER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	4,218.50
BOMGAARS	SUPPLIES	90.96
COMMUNITY FIRST AUTO PARTS	ALTERNATOR ON GARBAGE TRUCK	944.10
CONNECTIONS, INC.	GROUP INSURANCE	31.14
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	WATER DISTRIBUTION	577.92
DEE JACKSON/JACKSON MOTOR	SNOW REMOVAL	90.00
DENNIS LEUER	SUPPLIES	93.05
FOLLETT SOFTWARE COMPANY	HOSTED ONLINE SERVICE	1,275.67
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTE WATER TESTING	1,775.00
GFC LEASING-WI	COPIER MAINTENANCE	206.00
HACH CO	CHEMICALS	471.96
HEMPHILL LAW OFFICE	NUISANCE PROPERTY	338.10
IACMA	RETIREMENT 457	1,200.00
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	10,255.68
IPERS	IPERS	9,334.16
LMPC	REIMBURSEMENT OF INSURANCE DIVIDENDS	10,645.04
LMU	MARCH MONTHLY UTILITIES	5,387.96
LAURENS PLUMBING SERVICE	MAINT AT WATER PLANT	5,816.44
LAURENS SUN	LEGALS	515.00
MACC	TECH SUPPORT	763.36
MACQUEEN	EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES	425.25
OVERHEAD DOOR SALES & SVC	REPAIR OF OVERHEAD DOOR FIRE STATION	1,304.59
PAYMENTUS CORPORATION	TECH SUPPORT	334.83
POCAHONTAS COUNTY SHERIFF	FEBRUARY & MARCH COVERAGE	17,694.85
POC CO SECONDARY ROAD	SALT SAND MIX	1,705.85
POC SOLID WASTE	LANDFILL MONTHLY FEE	6,921.90
PRIME BENEFITS SYSTEMS	MONTHLY INSURANCE	70.00
PRO COOPERATIVE	MONTHLY FUEL	2,278.96
RB LUMBER COMPANY	SUPPLIES	11.95
RSM US LLP	TECH SUPPORT	1,245.44
SANTANDER LEASING, LLC	PUMPER PAYMENT	1,461.34
SECURE SHRED SOLUTIONS	SHREDDED PAPERS	27.00
SIEPKER AUTO REPAIR	2 OIL FILTERS	234.60
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA	STATE TAXES	1,613.57
US BANK	OFFICE SUPPLIES	440.67
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE	245.67

City Council Minutes

	TOTAL		<u>95,297.56</u>
PAYROLL		3/17/2025	
001	GENERAL		1,406.83
210	ROAD USE TAX		2,002.70
600	WATER		3,272.03
610	SEWER		3,305.72
670	GARBAGE		2,679.47
		TOTAL	<u>12,666.75</u>
PAYROLL		3/31/2025	
001	GENERAL		1,429.01
210	ROAD USE TAX		2,018.65
600	WATER		3,321.90
610	SEWER		3,084.64
670	GARBAGE		2,876.52
		TOTAL	<u>12,730.72</u>
PAYROLL		4/1/2025	
001	GENERAL		7,532.78
		TOTAL	<u>7,532.78</u>
		PAYROLL TOTAL	<u>32,930.25</u>
		PAID TOTAL	<u>128,227.81</u>
	001	GENERAL	55,861.40
	110	ROAD USE TAX	10,888.72
	112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	122.51
	600	WATER	24,058.67
	610	SEWER	19,523.33
	670	GARBAGE	17,773.18
		TOTAL BY FUND	<u>128,227.81</u>
REVENUES	GENERAL		29,722.83
	ROAD USE TAX		11,481.09
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		4,455.50
	LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX		13,364.79
	TAX INCREMENT FINANCING		399.24
	POOL RESTRICTED		975.00
	DEBT SERVICE		4,714.64
	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT		442.61
	WATER		42,779.08
	SEWER		31,977.59
	GARBAGE		19,746.54
	STORM WATER		2,894.35
		TOTAL	<u>162,953.26</u>

Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Authorization of Loan Agreement and the Issuance not to exceed \$220,000 General Obligation Capital Notes. There were no written or oral objections. The public hearing was closed for the proposed Authorization of Loan Agreement and the Issuance not to exceed \$220,000 General Obligation Capital Notes at 5:02 p.m.

Swanson moved to approve Resolution 10-25 – Resolution Instituting Proceedings to Take Additional Action for the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$220,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes. Jamison seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Jamison Booth, Christenson, Swanson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Authorization of Loan Agreement and the Issuance not to exceed \$420,000 General Obligation Capital Notes. There were no written or oral objections. The public hearing was closed for the proposed Authorization of Loan Agreement and the Issuance not to exceed \$420,000 General Obligation Capital Notes at 5:05 p.m.

Zylstra moved to approve Resolution 11-25 – Resolution Instituting Proceedings to Take Additional Action for the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$420,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes. Booth seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Jamison Booth, Christenson, Swanson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Christenson moved to approve Resolution 12-25 – Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2025, and Levying a Tax for the Payment Thereof. Jamison seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Jamison Booth, Christenson, Swanson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Johnson read the Keep Laurens Beautiful Proclamation and proclaimed April as Keep Laurens Beautiful month.

After discussion, Jamison moved to approve Resolution 13-25 – City of Laurens Insurance Review Policy. Booth seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Jamison Booth, Christenson, Swanson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Booth moved to approve setting the FY26 Budget Hearing for Tuesday, April 29th, 2025 at 12:00 pm. Jamison seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

No decisions were made in regard to the Laurens Pool Project.

Jamison motioned to adjourn at 5:38 p.m. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

Hilary Reed, City Clerk

April 7th, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in special session at the Municipal Building at 4:45 p.m. on Monday, April 7th, 2025, for the FY26 Proposed Property Tax Hearing. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, and Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben. Council Members Booth and Jamison were absent.

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing at 4:45. There were no written or oral complaints. Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing for the FY26 Proposed Property Tax at 4:47.

Zylstra moved to adjourn at 4:47 p.m. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

Hilary Reed, City Clerk