

## County goes after CDBG grant for LCHD building

ROBIN DELANEY  
editor@dailydem.com

Lee County Supervisors are pursuing a \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to help fund the construction of a new home for the Lee County Health Department and ambulance bay at 5001 Ave. O in Fort Madison.

The preliminary cost of the new building is \$5.5 million.

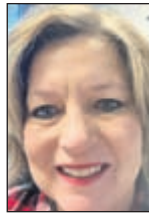
Tracey Lamm, regional development coordinator with Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission out of Burlington, said there is no deadline for submitting the application, but that doing so soon would be to the county's advantage.

"At the moment we're

kind of fishing because Lee County is eligible for \$800,000 right now, but that could change after the first the year and drop to \$500,000," she said.

Further, Lamm said the CDBG comes from federal Housing and Urban Development funds and 51% of the grant must benefit low to moderate income residents in the community in which the project is located.

"That's what qualifies you to apply for these funds," she said, adding that because the LCHD serves some clients fitting this criteria, she will be surveying the



Lamm

LCHD records for this data to include with the grant application.

Lamm said the 51% requirement can be met in other ways as well, including those served by the ambulance bay that is to be located at the site.

Lamm said supervisors are also required to address community needs, which again, can be shown through the LCHD and Lee County EMS services. She said because the county participates in the Great River Trust Fund, that will show assistance is being provided to housing needs of low to moderate residents.

The CDBG, if awarded, will be coupled with other sources of funding, including a pending federal USDA grant and the remaining \$3.6 million

in county's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund.

A fund for donations to the project has also been set up by the North Lee County and Keokuk Community Foundations.

The county now owns the property at 5001 Ave. O, valued at \$117,000, which was donated by the Glen Meller family through Meller's Circle M, Inc.

Although the USDA and CDBG applications are pending, supervisors have indicated that a portion of the project may need to be funded through a bond.

Carl A. Nelson Co. out of Burlington is the construction manager for the project and is doing the master plan for the property that is just under 10 acres.

## Fire destroys garage, damages home

KFD responds at 3:30 a.m. Monday

JOE BENEDICT  
editor@dailygate.com

The Keokuk Fire Department fought to save a house after a garage and camper caught on fire early Monday morning, but the house received fire damage as well.

Keokuk Fire Chief Gabe Rose said the call came in at about 3:30 a.m. for a structure fire along with several small explosions, being reported at 508 S. First St.

Upon arrival, a garage and large camper next to the house were fully engulfed. The fire spread to the rear of the home before the fire could be brought under control.

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CHRIS MILLS/MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PUBLISHING

A garage burned to the ground early Monday morning, with the flames spreading to the home at 508 S. First St. in Keokuk. All off-duty firefighters were called in to assist.

## More than 60 attend special needs trick or treat

GOLDIE FRANKLIN  
Correspondent

Every year, I always say this is one of my favorite events. And every year, I say this event can't get any better and that these kids can't get any sweeter. And somehow, I sit here after this year's KPlay's Special Needs Trick-Or-Treat party that was held this past weekend, and I'm in awe at how incredible these human beings are. These amazing folks give hope in our world.

My first thoughts at this party couldn't help but being turned to the genuine joy and sweetness that shined from these kids faces. There was a genuine pureness and wholesomeness that's like an addiction to watch, because these kids are just something so beautiful and real.

Over 60 attendees went through the lines at the party over the weekend. The costumes were everything you could ever imagine; everything from Bentley McGhghy dressed as my favorite quarterback Patrick Mahomes to Kacey

Boyles dressed as the best Lemonade Maker to 10 month old Emma Marie Bradshaw dressed as a Little Ladybug!

The 5th and 6th grade Keokuk Tackle Football Team was at this event helping out, running many of the games. They were a tremendous help. Even after the event was over, I noticed that while the adults were inside cleaning up the party, that same team of boys was outside in the Odd ellows parking lot playing a game of football with Bentley McGhghy, helping him be their quarterback each and every play. Bentley, a sixth-grader, was born with cerebral palsy. The boys (along with some girls) played football till well after dark with Bentley, and boy if you could have seen the smiles that I saw on all their faces as they wheeled him all around that parking lot playing football with him! That team of boys love their Bentley tremendously

SEE TREATS, PAGE 10



GOLDIE FRANKLIN/MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PUBLISHING

Dilly Ford came to the KPlay Special Needs Trick or Treat night from Farmington with her Dad, Dylan. Her smile lit up the whole room and won hearts all night!



### SWORN IN

Keokuk's newest city council member takes oath of office.

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### HIGHWAYMEN

Musical act set for Legacy Theater.

### INSIDE TODAY

#### NOTABLE



In Hamilton, the students of the week were named. See that as well as coverage from the Hamilton School Board on page 7.

### DEATHS

Donnie M. Jones, 63, Keokuk: Page 5  
Lorene L. Boyer, 88, Donnellson: Page 5

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