



Agenda: Board of Trustees  
September 1, 2022, at 4 pm  
Conference Room, Downtown Library

### ***Literacy, Access, & Inclusion***

Library Board Vice President – Monica Challenger

- A. Call to Order
- B. Consent Agenda – **Action**
  - o Minutes: August 4, 2022
- C. Public Comments and Communications
- D. **Action:** Resolution of thanks of Waypoint Services
- E. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
- F. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
- G. Board Education: Summer Dare Recap – Kevin Delecki
- H. Library Board Committee Reports
  - o Advocacy Committee – Rafael Jacobo, Committee Chair
    - No Action
  - o Finance Committee – Monica Challenger, Committee Chair
    - No Action
  - o Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
    - **Action:** Policy Review:
      - 3.07: Special Event Alcohol Use Policy
      - 4.00: Library as Place
  - o Westside Project Committee – Jade Hart, Committee Chair
    - No Action
- I. Library Director's Report
- J. Old Business
- K. New Business
- L. Adjournment

The next Board of Trustees meeting is **October 6, 2022 at 4 pm**, in the Conference Room, Downtown Library.

Upcoming Special Meetings:

- September 7, Architect Presentation, 10 am
- September 7, Architect Presentation, 1 pm
- September 8, Special Board Meeting, 4 pm

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact Jessica Musil, Library Administrative Assistant, at 319.261.7323 or email [musilj@crlibrary.org](mailto:musilj@crlibrary.org) as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
**Cedar Rapids Public Library**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**August 4, 2022**

**Board members in attendance:** [President] Clint Twedt-Ball (in person); and [Vice President] Monica Challenger, Jade Hart, Susie McDermott, Rafael Jacobo, Elisabeth Hepworth, Chris Casey and Hassan Selim (via Zoom)

**Unable to attend:** Jeremy Elges

**Staff in attendance:** Dara Schmidt and Jessica Musil (in person); Patrick Duggan, Todd Simonson, and Erin Horst (via Zoom)

**Others:** Charity Tyler, Executive Director, Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation (in person)

- A. Call to Order
  - Mr. Twedt-Ball called the meeting to order at 4 pm. He noted that it is a time of change and stress for the library with the recent electrical fire at the downtown library. Staff have adapted and found solutions to meet the community need. Speaking for the board, Mr. Twedt-Ball expressed thanks to Ms. Schmidt, library leadership, and staff, and encouraged the library teams to hang in there.
- B. Consent Agenda – **Action**
  - Minutes: July 7, 2022

*Ms. McDermott motioned to accept the consent agenda. Ms. Hart seconded. The motion carried with unanimous approval.*
- C. Public Comments and Communications
  - There being none, the meeting continued
- D. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
  - Ms. Tyler reported. The Foundation has ended its year on positively and exceeded the contributions budget. Ms. Tyler is thankful for donors and the community to support the Library Foundation and Library.
  - Two new team members joined the Foundation staff: Jess Netolicky as the Development Associate, and Amber Wieland as a shared administrative assist with Volunteer Services.
  - The Foundation is working through the land acquisition process and plan to close next week. In addition, the feasibility study is going well and Ms. Tyler expects to receive the report for the Foundation's September board meeting.
- E. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
  - Ms. Slappey was unable to attend. Ms. Tyler reported. With the downtown library's closure, the Friends canceled their Farmers Market sale on Saturday, August 6. Instead they will be part of the August 20 Farmers Market sale, as well as Farmers Market sales on September 17 and October 1. The Friends will also host the annual fall sale November 4-6 at the downtown library, and be part of the Very Cherry Sale in December.
- F. Board Education: PressReader – Erin Horst
  - The Library added PressReader as its newest resource with generous support for the next three years from the Foundation. This collection consists of thousands of newspapers and magazines including major titles. It can be difficult to acquire materials in different languages and this service allows access to several languages. Some pieces can be viewed in multiple languages or translated.

Mr. Selim joined the meeting at 4:16 pm.

- In the past month, we've had good reception with over 1,000 titles opened, and averaging about seven articles read for each title, so approximately 7,000 articles. Magazine consumption is moving from print to digital, especially as some magazines are ceasing physical distribution. Ms. Horst hopes we can continue this resource long-term, and will continue to monitor usage.
- Ms. Tyler asked if we could tell how many different languages are being accessed. With reporting tools available, we can only tell the most used languages, which are Spanish, French, and Chinese.
- Mr. Jacobo asked if there is a way to track how people are using accessibility features of PressReader. Only languages is tracked. Ms. Horst notes that downloading magazines and articles on devices can allow users to improve accessibility using device features.

#### G. Library Board Committee Reports

- Committee Assignments for FY23
  - Clint has been in contact with everyone about the assignments. Shared the committee roster make-up. Jessica/Dara will reach out to get regular meetings on the calendar.
- Finance Committee – Monica Challenger, Committee Chair
  - No report.
- Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
  - No report.
- Westside Project Committee – Clint Twedt-Ball, Committee Chair
  - Five architects submitted RFPs for the library project. A committee scored their responses and we're waiting for compiled scores to come back to determine if the top two or three architects. Following this, we will schedule architect presentations and a special board meeting to vote on negotiating a contract with the recommended architect. We should also have a final feasibility report to help us understand how much money to raise, and for the architect firm to design, bid, and build.
  - Ms. Schmidt noted that after results are tabulated and finalists are selected, the Westside committee will develop a presentation scope for the architects. Each architect will present in an open public meeting prior to the full board's approval to negotiate a contract. In October, the board will vote to approve the contract.
  - Mr. Twedt-Ball encouraged people to engage and ask questions as the process unfolds for the board and the community.

#### H. Library Director's Report

- The summer reading program concluded last week. Final data will be compiled but we know participation has improved since 2020. Ladd Library graciously hosted the end of the summer celebration following downtown's unexpected closure.
- Following the electrical fire downtown, Ladd Library's usage has noticeably increased. In order to keep some services in the downtown area, staff opened a cooling center and computer lab in an old classroom at Madge Phillips Center. The space is available during regular library hours but closes at 6 pm during the week. Service Navigators are working out the center and around the park to check in with patrons. Downtown staff are either working from home or providing additional support at Ladd.

Ms. Casey joined the meeting at 4:32 pm.

- In total, it took about five minutes for the fire to start and be extinguished, and the building was evacuated. Restoration has started. However, cleaning or repairs around the fire site cannot be done without insurance investigation and/or approval. At this time, we don't have a re-open date. Cleaning will be extensive – while there was minimal fire and water damage, soot is all over the building. All materials and surfaces will need to be

cleaned. Clean-up has been prioritized based on returning to service. Ms. Schmidt is hopeful to re-open by September.

- Staff and Friends areas will be cleaned first with the hope of opening the sorter and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue entrance for holds pick-up. A small browsing collection will be curated as well using popular returned items and the new fiction books, after cleaning. The overall collection will not be available until cleaned. As work continues with the crews, we can re-add services. August is quiet for programming so public programs were not canceled. We had to cancel room reservations but people have been kind and understanding.
  - Ms. Schmidt feels good about the Library staff's ability to respond to disaster and crisis. In addition, she feels supported by the City as multiple departments are working through this. She highlighted thanks from the Assistant Fire Chief, as printed in the board packet.
  - Ms. Hepworth asked if this is an opportunity to promote the digital collections and resources. Yes, we are trying to highlight available services in social media and other avenues. Due to the pandemic, we created a page called Library at Home, to educate people on how to access the library without coming in.
  - Mr. Twedt-Ball asked about other ways to get physical materials to patrons. Chomp is still an option but it was rarely used. The Books by Mail program is part of the strategic plan to expand delivery service options, and will start again when staff can access the downtown library.
  - Trustees expressed thanks to Ms. Schmidt for keeping them informed, and thanks to the library staff for adapting to meet community need during this difficult time. Ms. Challenger thanked staff to ensure safety.
  - Staff committees will start forming for two strategic plan initiatives: support elementary age learning and literacy, and reinvigorating active service. Updates will be shared at a future board meeting.
- I. Old Business
- There being no old business, the meeting continued.
- J. New Business
- There being no new business, the meeting continued.
- K. Adjournment
- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

**The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2022, at 4 pm in the Community Room, Ladd Library**



## Iowa football

Illinois a second 'home state' for recruiting

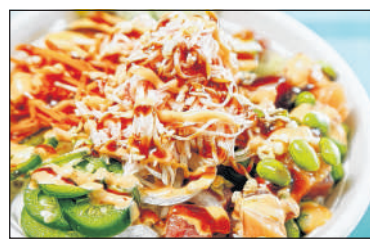
Sports, 1B



## Poké go

Ohana Poké Shop brings island blends

Hoopla, 5C



# The Gazette

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## Downtown C.R. library closed until September



Librarian Ethan Heims sorts books Wednesday that have been transferred from the downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library to the Ladd Library. The downtown facility is expected to be closed until September after a small fire last week. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)

## Changes proposed to school officer contract

'Not logical to assume that 5 SROs will be able to do the work of 7,' police chief says

By Marissa Payne, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Reflecting the Cedar Rapids school board's decision to remove police from the city's middle schools, the Cedar Rapids Police Department has proposed additional changes to the agreement for school resource officers that account for the reduction from seven to five officers.

With the start of the 2022-23 school year fast approaching, the Cedar Rapids City Council and school board have yet to approve the same contract outlining terms of the program that will station police officers this year at Kennedy, Washington, Jefferson and Metro high schools and Polk Alternative Education Center, but take them out of Cedar Rapids middle schools.

Ahead of next week's school board and council meetings — slated for Aug. 8 and 9, respectively — Cedar Rapids police Lt. Cory McGarvey in an email Tuesday night shared with Deputy Superintendent Nicole Kooiker the city's final proposed revisions to the contract the school board passed July 11.

McGarvey asked that the district respond with confirmation of these changes by noon Friday so city officials could place the contract on the council's Aug. 9 meeting agenda.

Asked whether this version of the contract would be placed on the board's Aug. 8 meeting

► OFFICERS, PAGE 8A

## Investigation and cleanup from July 27 fire to continue

By Sabine Martin, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — A small fire last week at the downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library will force it to stay closed until September as it moves employees and some services to other locations.

The fire started July 27 from a light fixture in the library commons area and was quickly put out with sprinklers and fire extinguishers. But inspectors still are investigating

### INSIDE

• Where to find cooling stations in Cedar Rapids, 8A

the fixture that caught on fire, and smoke soot is being cleaned up throughout the interior of the 100,000-square-foot library, said Library Director Dara Schmidt.

"That will take a while to repair, but as with any process, there are still ongoing investigations of the

► LIBRARY, PAGE 8A



The downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library remains closed Wednesday as cleanup continues after a fire July 27 in a light fixture. (Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette)

## I.C.'s truth panel leader under fire for racial insult

Chair facing calls for removal after insulting Black leaders

By Izabela Zaluska, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — The new chair of Iowa City's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is facing calls for removal after using a racial insult against other Black leaders in the community and making inappropriate comments on a local podcast.

The Iowa City Council will meet at 9:30 a.m. today in City Hall to discuss removing Amel Ali from

the commission. Ali's comments were brought up during the public comment session at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Johnson County Supervisor Royceann Porter learned of Ali's comments through an anonymous letter she received in the mail. Porter shared a photo of the letter with The Gazette.

The envelope also contained a USB drive that included recordings of the podcast "Rock Hard Caucus." The June 9 and June

16 podcast episodes, on which Ali was a guest, are no longer posted online.

"She has called out a number of Black Voices Project members and other community leaders by name using the most racist and offensive terms," Porter said during public comment, reading from a letter that she and other Black Voices Project leaders wrote.

The Iowa City Council created the nine-member commission in 2020 in the wake of Black Lives Matter protests following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. The

► COMMISSION, PAGE 5A



Amel Ali

## Ernst switches vote to help pass veterans health bill

Marion mom of deceased vet calls vote 'poetic justice'

By Tom Barton, Gazette Des Moines Bureau

The month of August has taken on a new meaning for Kristi Casteel of Marion, one marked now not only by sorrow but "poetic justice."

"I looked up the definition and it means fitting or deserved retribution for one's actions — and felt how true is that for every one of the soldiers there (who camped out at the U.S. Capitol) that have been impacted," Casteel said.

Facing increasing pressure from Democrats and veterans advocacy organizations, the U.S. Senate passed a bill late

Tuesday expanding health care and disability benefits for millions of veterans exposed to toxic burn pits. The Senate passed the measure, 86-11, with Iowa Republican U.S. Sens. Joni Ernst and Chuck Grassley in favor.

Ernst, a combat veteran, had previously objected with some other Republicans to a budget provision in the bill, which briefly blocked its passage. Casteel said explanations given for objecting didn't make sense to her and seemed like a distraction.

► BURN PITS, PAGE 6A



U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst R-Iowa





**DEAN A. LOFTUS**

Marion

The world lost a great man when Dean A. Loftus passed away on July 14, 2022, at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., peacefully and surrounded by family, following a sudden medical emergency.



Dean will be forever loved and missed by his wife of 52 years, Mavis; their three children, Stacey (Tony) Paoli, Jodi (Matt) Blazel and Bryce (Lisa) Loftus; eight grandchildren, Nicholas (Madison), Alexander and Andrew Paoli, Mason and Evalise Blazel, and Bennett, Foster and Emmeline Loftus; siblings, John (Karen) Loftus and Colleen Mulvihill, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends. With his passing, Dean has been reunited with his parents; his brothers, Don and Duane; sister-in-law, Colleen Loftus; brother-in-law, John Mulvihill; and nephew, Tim Mulvihill.

Dean was born in Osage, Iowa, the son of Robert and Melva Loftus. He grew up in New Haven, Iowa, until the family moved to Rochester, Minn. He graduated from Lourdes High School in Rochester and went on to obtain his Bachelors in Business and Economics from Winona State University in Winona, Minn.

Dean was a talented drummer and passionate about music. In high school, Dean and his friends started what would become one of the region's top bands, The Rogues of Rochester, Minn. Over the years, Dean, along with individual members of several other bands of that era, continued to play with each other in local events around the Rochester area. Most recently, Dean was still playing several gigs a year with the Vintage Tones of Spielzeiten Und Pausen.

In retirement, Dean loved to travel the country with Mavis and his family, exploring new places and making new memories. Above all else, Dean loved his family and they loved him. He lived every day like it was Saturday. To say that his family will miss Dean's joking and laughing is an understatement. They will forever hold the memories of him giving and taking a ribbing or an ear twist, working hard and loving without conditions.

Funeral services will be held at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1315 12th Ave. NW, Rochester, Minn., at 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 19, 2022, with a luncheon immediately following in the church's Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the music department of Lourdes High School. Please make checks payable to Lourdes High School Music Department and mail them to 1710 Industrial Dr. NW, Rochester, MN 55901. Please include "Dean Loftus Memorial" on the check memo line.

**STEVEN CHARLES THOMAS**

Strawberry Point

Steven Charles Thomas, 58, of Strawberry Point, Iowa, passed away on Sunday, July 31, 2022, at Regional Medical Center in Manchester.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.leonard-mullerfh.com](http://www.leonard-mullerfh.com).

Funeral service: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, at Edgewood Bible Church in Edgewood, with Pastor Jim Rinehart officiating.

Visitation: 3 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5, at Leonard-Muller Funeral Home in Strawberry Point, Iowa. Friends may also call after 9 a.m. at the church on Saturday.

Interment: Cass Township Cemetery, Strawberry Point, Iowa.

**JAMES JAY CONREY**

West Liberty

6/5/1938 - 5/23/2022

James Jay Conrey: A visitation and Celebration of Life for Jim will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6, at the West Liberty Community Center, 1200 North Calhoun St., West Liberty, Iowa. Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m., with a Celebration of Life to follow at 2 p.m. The celebration will be livestreamed on the Henderson-Barker Funeral Home Facebook page or can be accessed by using the following link: [fb.me/e/1Bw6iXW7u](https://fb.me/e/1Bw6iXW7u).

## Samuel Sandoval, one the last Code Talkers, dies at 98

**Associated Press**

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Samuel Sandoval, one of the last remaining Navajo Code Talkers who transmitted messages in World War II using a code based on their native language, has died.

Sandoval died late Friday at a hospital in Shiprock, N.M., his wife, Malula, told the Associated Press. He was 98.

Hundreds of Navajos were recruited from the vast Navajo Nation to serve as Code Talkers with the U.S. Marine Corps. Only three are still alive today: Peter MacDonald, John Kinsel Sr. and Thomas Begay.

The Code Talkers took part in every assault the Marines conducted in the Pacific, sending thousands of messages without error on Japanese troop movements, battlefield tactics and other communications critical to the war's ultimate outcome. The code, based

on the then-unwritten Navajo language, confounded Japanese military cryptologists and is credited with helping the U.S. win the war.

Samuel Sandoval was on Okinawa when got word from another Navajo Code Talker that the Japanese had surrendered and relayed the message to higher-ups. He had a close call on the island, which brought back painful memories that he kept to himself, Malula Sandoval said.

The Navajo men are celebrated annually on Aug. 14. Samuel Sandoval was looking forward to seeing a museum built near the Navajo Nation capital of Window Rock to honor the Code Talkers, she said.

"Sam always said, 'I wanted my Navajo youngsters to learn, they need to know what we did and how this code was used and how it contributed to the world,'" she said.

# Library/Staff going to Ladd branch, Waypoint center

**► FROM PAGE 1A**

cause and origin and insurance and all of that," Schmidt said.

She said all items in the library — including the carpet — will be wiped down and cleaned while the facility is closed.

"Think about if you've ever been in our children's area. There's little kids crawling around on the floor and putting things in their mouths like that, so it's not safe and healthy right now," Schmidt said.

Library officials are waiting on a complete timeline for the lobby restoration, she added.

Schmidt said reopening the lobby area for hold pickups is her next priority during the library's temporary closure. The library extended book due dates and holds, but patrons still can return materials to Hiawatha and Marion Libraries or one of the book drops at metro-area Hy-Vee stores instead.

Schmidt said the library's 82 employees have been reassigned to work in the west-side Ladd Library, outdoor and vehicle outreach programs and at a cooling and computer center. An American Red Cross blood drive set for Friday also has been moved to the Ladd Library.

**COOLING AND COMPUTER CENTER**

With extreme heat hitting Iowa this week, the library opened a cooling and computer center at Waypoint in the Madge Phillips Center Shelter, 520 Fourth Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids.

The center offers public access to 10 computers through one-hour sessions. Wi-Fi and limited seating are available, but books and other library materials are not accessible there.

The center will open today, a news release said. Its hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Public parking is available in the library lot on Fifth



Books that have been transferred from the downtown branch of the Cedar Rapids Public Library wait to be picked Wednesday at the west-side Ladd Library. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)

**COOLING STATIONS**

- **Ladd Library:** 3750 Williams Blvd., to use computers or cool off
- **Hiawatha Public Library:** 150 W. Willman St., Hiawatha, to use computers or cool off
- **Cedar Rapids Lindale Mall:** 4444 First Ave. NE
- **The Salvation Army:** 1000 C Ave. NW
- **Cedar Valley Community Support Services:** 2515 18th St. SW
- **Newly added:** Waypoint in the Madge Phillips Center Shelter, 520 Fourth Ave. SE, to use computers or cool off

Avenue SE, or in metered spots outside the center, the release said

**RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER**

Several self-checkout and staff stations in the downtown library's lobby were damaged by water from sprinklers during the fire, Schmidt said.

"Those are things that we'll need to replace over the next several weeks," she said. "We're not sure if those desks can be

salvaged or we need to actually replace the cubicle desk. It just sort of depends."

Roasters Coffeehouse, the cafe inside the library's lobby, will remain closed until the library reopens, Schmidt said. The cafe has another location in NewBo City Market.

Schmidt said she doesn't know the cost of the damage yet, but Cedar Rapids city staff are negotiating with its insurance carrier, which is expected to cover the bulk of the cleaning and restoration expenses.

After the 2008 flood and shutdowns in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Schmidt said, the library's employees are experts in crisis response and disaster recovery.

"From 2008 forward, the library has had to be incredibly flexible and responsive to community needs," she said. "We know when we're not here in our building, that doesn't mean that our community doesn't still need us."

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# Officers/'Heard loud and clear' additional SROs aren't wanted

**► FROM PAGE 1A**

agenda and whether changes had been shared with the school board, district communications director Colleen Scholer in an email didn't answer those questions but said the school board's agenda would be posted online at noon Friday.

The school board's earlier 5-2 decision is in conflict with a unanimous June 14 City Council vote that includes keeping police officers stationed each in McKinley STEAM Academy and Wilson Middle School, where police responded to a higher number of incidents this past academic year than in other middle schools.

Police data show that during the 2021-22 school year, there were 51 incidents across Cedar Rapids middle schools, 30 of which were at McKinley and Wilson, and they include issues such as simple assaults, schools threats and loaded weapons. The data encompasses any incidents generating a police report whether a school resource or patrol officer responded. The district reported 33 requests involving only school resource officers across elementary and middle schools.

The school board essentially approved permanently eliminating the "floater" officers that were deployed last year under an amended contract that removed officers from McKinley and Roosevelt and kept the two officers on call to all Cedar Rapids elementary and middle schools.

Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell last week offered for the city to pay for two school resource officers to free up funds for the district to allocate toward mental health and other services, but school board President David Tominsky said the board would not change its vote.

In the week since, the police department has reviewed the school board-approved changes to determine the impact on the

workloads of the remaining five officers.

"We've heard loud and clear that they do not want SROs in the middle schools, so I'm accepting that," Chief Wayne Jerman said.

In one amendment, the city proposed that any changes to a school resource officer's regular assignment at the five schools to support needs at other schools must occur "with the approval of the SRO supervisor" — either Jerman or Lts. Cory McGarvey or Matt Welsh.

"Because we're reducing staff, there is an impact on services provided," City Manager Jeff Pomeranz said. "We will always do our best to serve the district and the students, but we think it's very important that any requests for additional SRO resources be approved by (the police department)."

Jerman said if there is an incident at a school without permanently assigned school resource officers, and Kooiker calls one of the officer supervisors to apprise them of a situation, this would mean it is up to the supervisor whether to send a patrol officer or take a school resource officer away from their usual assignment to respond — but the district will receive service regardless.

School police get training above and beyond regular officers, including 40 hours through the National Association of School Resource Officers and in subjects such as adolescent behavior, relationship-building and restorative justice practices.

In collaboration with the school district, police have said the police department reduced criminal charges against students by increasing pre-charge diversions about 400 percent from previous school years to about 44. This progress was because "the SROs had the training and the time and the ability to redirect individuals into a diversion," Jerman said.

"... By not having an SRO at a school that is not staffed by an SRO, more than likely because of workload and staffing, if they need a police response they're going to receive a patrol officer," Jerman said. "He or she may not have the level of expertise, experience and training that SROs have."

Another change clarifies that school resource officers shall assist the district with facilitating lockdown drills specifically at school buildings staffed with school resource officers instead of at all school buildings twice per year.

Jerman said the department's ability to do the same frequency of "run, hide and fight" training also may be limited with the reduction in officers, but the contract language already allows flexibility for the district and department to determine the frequency of training.

The district previously had a school security coordinator position in which someone coordinated and performed such training, Jerman said. As that role was left vacant, he said the police were able to fill in the gaps because there were seven officers.

"It's not logical to assume that five SROs will be able to do the work of seven," Jerman said.

Pomeranz said the results of the district's survey of students, families and staff to assess perceptions of school resource officers show community support for the program. About 88 percent of the 762 students, or 16 percent of the student population, who responded reported feeling either very safe or somewhat safe with school resource officers in their buildings.

"I think we need to keep working together on a program that we believe is very important for the community and school system of Cedar Rapids," Pomeranz said.

Comments: (319) 398-8494; [marissa.payne@thegazette.com](mailto:marissa.payne@thegazette.com)



# IOWA TODAY

## Report: Dry conditions worsen in southern Iowa

Not much chance of rain in next 10 days

By Jared Strong, Iowa Capital Dispatch

Dry conditions in southern Iowa continue to increase, with little chance for rain in the next 10 days.

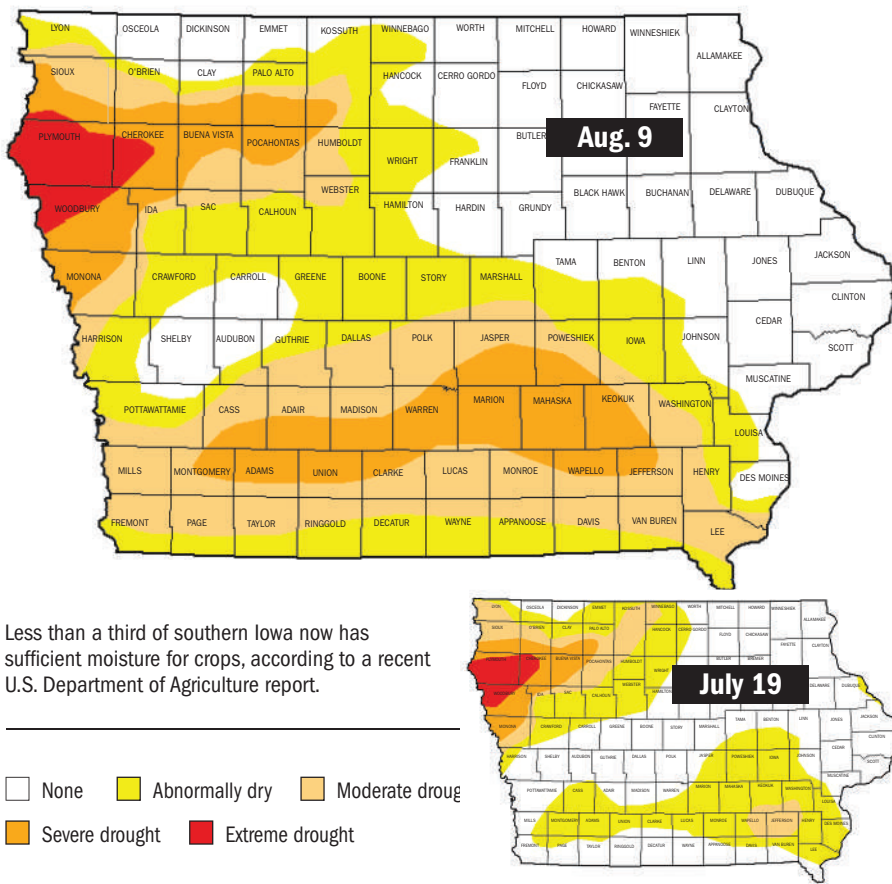
The U.S. Drought Monitor's report on Thursday shows that moderate drought now stretches from the state's western border to its eastern border and that severe drought has gripped central portions of that area.

Less than a third of southern Iowa has sufficient moisture for crops, according to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report, a reversal from June when nearly all of that region's topsoil and subsoil had adequate or surplus moisture.

The drought is leading to a decline of crop conditions during a crucial period of development.

"Unfortunately, it looks like, for the most part, the northeast half of the state is looking to have the best chances for rain over the next 10 days," said Rod Donovan, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service. "It's possible we

### Southern Iowa drought worsens



Less than a third of southern Iowa now has sufficient moisture for crops, according to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report.

Source: U.S. Drought Monitor as of Aug. 9

Gazette map

could get some storms across some of those drought regions, but the overall chances for heavier rainfall is low."

Northwest Iowa around Sioux City con-

tinues to have extreme drought conditions, though that pocket has reduced a bit in size in the past week, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Overall, the state is drier than it's been since March. A wet April soaked most of the state.

This article first appeared in Iowa Capital Dispatch.

## Cedar Rapids lifts mask mandate

Requirement for city buildings took effect in July as COVID spread

By Marissa Payne, The Gazette

**CEDAR RAPIDS** — The city of Cedar Rapids late Thursday dropped the requirement that staff and visitors wear masks inside city buildings and vehicles to curb the spread of COVID-19.

An email from City Manager Jeff Pomeranz to staff noted the mask mandate would be lifted, effective immediately, because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its COVID-19 community transmission level to "medium" for Linn County. The metrics are at CDC.gov.

"Masking will continue to be welcomed for employees and visitors in city facilities," Pomeranz wrote. "Moving forward, our masking policy will continue to respond to local data. The CDC advises communities to monitor health care surge support capabilities, and we will continue to do this in conjunction with our healthcare partners."

Cedar Rapids' mask requirement for city buildings took effect in mid-July as COVID-19 cases were on the rise, fueled by the new omicron subvariant, BA. 5, the dominant variant

in the U.S. that is showing an increased level of transmission, even among those who are vaccinated or have previously been infected.

At the time, according to the CDC, Linn County was at a high transmission level, signaling that indoor mask-wearing is advised and people should get tested if they have virus symptoms.

The city's move drew criticism from Republican U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson, who represents the city in Congress. Hinson said at the time that "wearing a mask should be a personal decision, not a government mandate."

As members of Congress do not set city mask policy, and city leaders have supported using CDC metrics and hospital data to guide decisions on COVID-19 mitigation measures, Cedar Rapids' Thursday decision comes after the CDC eased some COVID-19 quarantine and testing guidelines.

Unvaccinated and vaccinated people are still advised to mask up for 10 days and get tested five days after they were exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, under the CDC guidance, but people are not asked to self-quarantine after an exposure.

Comments: (319) 398-8494; marissa.payne@thegazette.com

## Shellsburg man dies in Benton County crash

By Emily Andersen, The Gazette

One person died in a two-vehicle crash Thursday in Benton County.

According to an Iowa State Patrol crash report, a 2011 Dodge Ram pickup and a 2013 Chevy Camaro collided at 61st Street

Lane and 30th Avenue, northwest of Shellsburg, shortly after 5 p.m. Thursday.

Both vehicles entered a ditch on the side of the road and came to rest upside down.

The driver of the pickup truck, Marion Schminke, 91, of Shellsburg, was pronounced dead at the

scene, according to the report.

The driver of the Camaro, Nathan Harrelson, 21, of Vinton, was transported to UnityPoint Health-St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids for injuries.

Comments: (319) 398-8328; emily.andersen@thegazette.com

## Library opens lobby for returns and hold pickup

By Emily Andersen, The Gazette

**CEDAR RAPIDS** — The Cedar Rapids downtown Public Library has opened part of the lobby for returns and holds pickup after a small fire in July caused the library to close.

The library entrance that faces Fifth Avenue — the side nearest the

parking lot — is open during regular hours for people to pick up holds, return materials, and browse a very small collection of materials, according to Amber McNamara, the library's community relations manager.

The book drop outside the library also is open. The rest of the build-

ing remains closed, and cleaning and restoration continue daily, McNamara said. Reopening is planned by September.

The library was closed after a fire broke out in a light fixture on July 27. The fire was quickly put out by sprinklers and fire extinguishers, but it left smoke soot throughout

the library.

In the meantime, the Ladd Library on the west side of Cedar Rapids remains open, and a cooling and computer center is open at Waypoint in the Madge Phillips Center Shelter, 520 Fourth Ave. SE, in Cedar Rapids.

Comments: (319) 398-8328; emily.andersen@thegazette.com

### THE GAZETTE

(USPS 95-680)

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# COMMUNITY



## THINGS TO DO TODAY

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### MUSEUM/EXHIBIT

#### Hoover Museum Exhibit on Russian Famine

“Deliverance: America and the Famine in Soviet Russia, 1921-1923” is open through Dec. 31. It recounts Herbert Hoover’s and the American Relief Administration’s food and medical relief efforts during the Soviet famine of 1921 to 1922.

- **When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Where:** Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, 210 Parkside Dr., West Branch
- **Cost:** \$5 to \$10

### FILM

#### Summer Kids Dream Family Film Series

Watch “Puss in Boots”

- **When:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Marcus Cedar Rapids Cinema, 5340 Council St. NE, Cedar Rapids
- **Cost:** \$3

### KID FRIENDLY

#### Crafts 4 Kids: Back to School Nametags

Help your new teacher learn your name with a snazzy nametag that you made yourself.

- **When:** 1:30 to 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Hiawatha Public Library, 150 W. Willman St., Hiawatha
- **Cost:** Free

### HEALTH

#### Metta Yoga

Experience the healing powers of meditative yoga from the spiritual environment. Heather English offers gentle/beginner’s yoga.

- **When:** 9:30 to 11:45 a.m.
- **Where:** Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center, 120 E. Boyson Rd., Hiawatha
- **Cost:** \$60 for 6-punch card; \$99 for 11-punch card

### HOBBY

#### Blue Vase Cork N Canvas Iowa

Paint a 16-by-20-inch painting. All supplies (canvas, paints, brushes and apron) will be provided.

- **When:** 6 p.m.
- **Where:** White Star Ale House, 305 Second Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids
- **Cost:** \$30

### MUSEUM/EXHIBIT

#### Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II

This exhibition from the Smithsonian examines the history and impact of Executive Order 9066, which led to the incarceration of 75,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry and 45,000 Japanese nationals following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

- **When:** 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Where:** National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 1400 Inspiration Pl. SW, Cedar Rapids
- **Cost:** Free to \$10



A vendor sells picture frames at a previous Kids Market in Iowa City. (City of Iowa City photos)

# Iowa City Kids Market returns in September

There will be 50 vendors selling assorted items

By Izabela Zaluska, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Young vendors will be selling an assortment of items at the annual Iowa City Kids Market come September. There might even be slime.

The Kids Market will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 24. This is the 11th year of the event hosted alongside the Saturday farmers market.

Young vendors from ages 8 to 18 will be selling items made, grown, baked or produced by them. This can range from craft items — like bracelets, coffee mugs or coasters — to produce to baked goods.

This event is an opportunity for kids to get creative and learn entrepreneurial skills, said Michelle Wiegand, the city’s recreation program supervisor for special events.

“Some kids are trying to



Kids sell cupcakes at a previous Kids Market in Iowa City.

raise money for themselves and then we have a number of kids who are raising money to be donated,” Wiegand said.

There will be 50 kid vendors on site this year, Wiegand said. Regular farmers market vendors will be set up, as well.

Young vendors will have their stands set up on the grassy area just outside the Chauncey Swan parking garage.

The application opened earlier this month for kids to sign up and participate. Wiegand said the city received the first application within three minutes of sending out the email with information.

Within three days, spots for the popular event were filled up, Wiegand said.

“It’s been just incredibly popular every year,” Wiegand said.

While the application pro-

cess is now closed, a waitlist has been created.

### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF IOWA CITY FARMERS MARKET

The Iowa City Farmers Market will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Residents are invited to the celebration from 7:30 a.m. to noon this Saturday.

In addition to the regular farmers market vendors, there will be giveaways, crafts, music and children’s activities.

“We will have a number of partners on site with hands-on learning activities about agriculture, about the environment,” Wiegand said.

There also will be a history display of the market.

“We’ve been able to uncover some neat articles from 1972, the first days of the market,” Wiegand said. “Luckily, we have some people who have kept some great archives over the years.”

Comments: (319) 339-3155; izabela.zaluska@thegazette.com

## EASTERN IOWA BRIEFS

### CEDAR RAPIDS

#### C.R. library wins Pacesetter Award

The Cedar Rapids Public Library won the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading’s Pacesetter Award for school and library collaboration during two crises — the derecho and COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cedar Rapids and Marion libraries worked with the Cedar Rapids Community School District, Linn-Mar Community School District, and Marion Independent School District to turn student ID numbers into library cards, creating nearly 40,000 library cards that allowed students to take advantage of online resources and print resources for pickup even when their school buildings were closed due to derecho repairs and the pandemic.

Reading into Success, the local Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, nominated the community for the award.

“Through both of the unprecedented events striking our community, a common thread has been access — whether how to get access, who has and does not have access, and even where is there better access in our community,” said Reading into Success coordinator Elizabeth Yusko in a news release. “Those are also focus areas for our library

and our schools, as highlighted by this collaboration.”

Cedar Rapids was one of 18 communities selected from across the country for the award.

“In these communities we found a common spirit for acknowledging the challenges and then developing creative and effective solutions that fit their local needs,” said Ralph Smith, managing director of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, in the news release. “We applaud the civic leaders and local funders whose time, talent, energy and imagination have fueled progress in these Pacesetter communities.”

### CEDAR RAPIDS

#### African American Dignity Woman Convention set for Sept. 17

Dignity Power Skills Consulting & Training and Jane Boyd Community House are collaborating to hold a free African American Dignity Women Convention from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 17 at Jane Boyd Community House, 943 14th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids.

The theme of the convention is Learning to Operate from a Position of Power. Speaking will be six Black women in Iowa who are leaders in various sectors of the workforce.

Keynote speaker will be Geneva Williams, assistant district attorney in Tama County. She will speak on “Embracing Your Power.” There will be two breakout sessions with the following speakers:

- Monique Johnson, owner of Monique Johnson American National Insurance Agency. She will focus on financial literacy.

- Anne Carter, health equity program manager and board member for Advocates for Social Justice, Orchestra Iowa and UnityPoint Health-St. Luke’s. She will speak on mental health awareness.

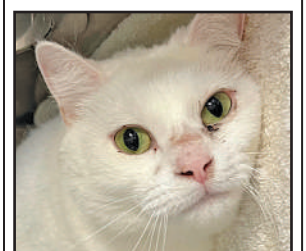
- Amara Andrews, president of the board for the Academy for Scholastic and Personal Success, and vice president of the board for the Advocates for Social Justice. She will speak on leadership and politics and voting power.

- Tasha Lard, owner of JD Beauty Supply and president of the board of directors of the South District Self-Supporting Municipal Improvement District and co-founder of South District Diversity Market. She will speak on entrepreneurship.

- Joy Briscoe, Air Force veteran and executive director for the 24/7 Black Leadership Advancement Consortium. She will speak on communicating effectively in the workplace.

## PET OF THE WEEK

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Meet Suki  
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Suki is a small 6-year old female domestic shorthair cat available for adoption at the Cedar Valley Humane Society, 7411 Mount Vernon Rd. SE. She is laid back, loves sitting on laps and being petted, and would make a great companion for a quiet household. Call (319) 362-6288 for more information. (Cedar Valley Humane Society)

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# INSIGHT

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Length limit: 250 words  
Email: editorial@thegazette.com  
Mail: 116 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
Questions?: (319) 398-8262

GUEST EDITORIAL | NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

# A path to fewer pathogens

From Tuesday's New York Daily News.

There's an internet meme about simple tasks that have been bungled, such as misapplied street markings or a misspelled sign, with the snarky superimposed text: "you had one job."

For the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it's not quite as simple — the sprawling federal agency is in charge of propelling research into curing transmissible maladies and supporting local health departments, among other tasks — but no one can dispute that its overarching, basic job is to control the spread of deadly pathogens that threaten human life and well-being. Similarly, no one can dispute that the CDC failed in this

fundamental task in its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the earliest days of the health emergency, the nation's highest authority on matters of disease control failed again and again to quickly, clearly and succinctly communicate to the public what it knew and what we should all be doing to safeguard ourselves.

The agency's penchant for caution and thorough internal deliberation is all well and good for developing new therapeutics or discerning the lineage of a bacterium, but it's a terrible way to respond to a fast-evolving crisis where thousands of lives are on the line and at greater risk with each passing day of incomplete or outdated guidance.

We commend CDC Director Rochelle Walensky for acknowledging this reality and acting to keep that situation from repeating itself.

Leaning on a review of the CDC's practices during COVID that she ordered in April, Walensky has now taken the bold step of ordering a cultural shift and management restructuring of the agency, focused in part on reforming the bureaucracy to share emerging health information much more quickly and issue public recommendations early and often when public health threats materialize.

It won't be an overnight shift, and the toughest lift will be combating the CDC's deep-set culture, but it is a crucial initiative that will very likely save many lives as we face increasing threats from the microscopic menaces that would do us great harm.



GUEST COLUMN  
NICHOLAS JOHNSON

# Libraries essential to democracy

At least some Americans may be slowly awakening to the demise of their democracy.

As Abraham Lincoln said in 1838, and others emphasized since, "At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up among us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."

Well, it has now "sprung up among us."

As a stew is the result of its ingredients, so is a democracy the result of the civic organizations and institutions that support its shaky structure: a courageous, trusted mass media; a wise, respected non-partisan judiciary; citizens who vote and honorable officials who count those votes.

Central is the cluster of efforts to prepare all citizens to be their own governors. Elections. Public schools. First Amendment protections and reduced postal rates for newspapers and books. Local and national elections. The roads and rail to turn "e pluribus" into "unum."

And public libraries. Although the Nazis' book burnings are perhaps the most notorious, authoritarians have been burning books for 2,000 years.

The U.S. is no exception. When the British burned the 3,000 books in the Capitol during the War of 1812, Thomas Jefferson offered to sell the Congress his near-7,000 book library. Because Federalists argued his books would spread his "infidel philosophy," the appropriation to buy them only passed by a narrow margin along party lines. Sound familiar?

Forcing librarians to leave, and a library to close, while less dramatic than book burning, produces the same result. As it did in Vinton earlier this year — even though Americans overwhelmingly oppose removal of books from libraries (70 percent Republicans, 75 percent Democrats).

Libraries have been a part of human culture since our agricultural age. One of the first, in the seventh century B.C., well before Dewey decimal classification, held 30,000 cuneiform tablets organized by topic.

Not surprisingly, it was political organizing by members of women's clubs that led to the establishment of 75 to 80 percent of U.S. libraries in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

In 1896 the Cedar Rapids Federation of Ladies Literacy Clubs generated enough public pressure for a library that the City Council scheduled a vote. Iowa was then one of two states that allowed women to vote on limited tax issues, including libraries.

It was approved by 59 votes (1,105 to 1,046).

The Gazette reported that "Had it not been for the efforts of the women themselves who voted in every ward in the city, the proposition would undoubtedly have been lost" — noting that half the men who voted didn't bother to vote on the library proposal.

Today's Iowa public libraries, and their personnel, still offer books and "information desks," but oh, so much more. Never have they been more essential if our democracy is to "live through all time."

Nicholas Johnson was a presidential adviser to the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services in 1979. mailbox@nicholasjohnson.org

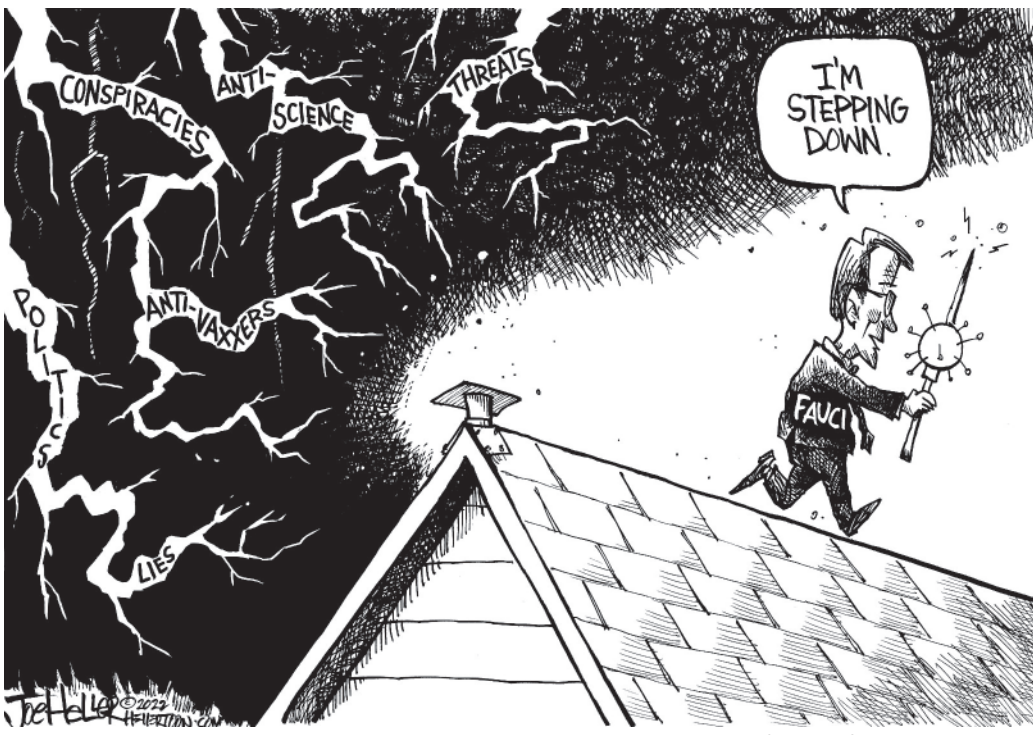
## COMMUNITY LETTERS

### Marion Square project not yet done deal

Even though most published articles make it seem like an ice rink and other items will be installed in the new plaza and redesigned Uptown City Square Park in Marion, this is not the case. Nothing has officially been decided as far as what the final redesign of the Marion Uptown Plaza and City Square Park areas will be. The city of Marion has hired a consultant to help provide a proposal as to what the plaza and park design may be. Last week the city of Marion published a survey (City of Marion: Central Plaza Survey). This survey is intended for Marion residents to reply to what possible plaza amenities and changes to the Marion Uptown park they may or may not desire.

Visit [www.polco.us/n/res/profile/marion-ia](http://www.polco.us/n/res/profile/marion-ia) to take the survey, which must be completed by Aug. 31.

Please understand that after the results of the survey are compiled, the



Editorial cartoonist Joe Heller is based in Green Bay. Comments: Hellertoon.com

Marion City Council will review the consultant's report along with the results of the citizens survey to further determine what the actual plaza amenities and changes to the present park

will include.

The caboose may or may not remain in the park, the installation of an ice rink may or may not occur and the green grass may stay or be removed for hardscape

items.

There's still time to save the grass in the park. I encourage all citizens to complete the survey!

**Charley Knudsen**  
Marion



CAL THOMAS | SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

# The many guns of Washington

"A standing military force, with an overgrown Executive will not long be safe companions to liberty." — James Madison

Conspiracy theories sometimes have at least a thread of truth in them, which is what makes them valid to some on the far right.

One of those theories is that the federal government is not on their side. Concern has been raised in conservative circles about the hiring of 87,000 new IRS employees as just one example. Trust in the IRS has been in decline for many years, ever since President Richard Nixon used the government as a weapon against his political enemies and Lois Lerner during the Obama administration denied tax-exempt status to many conservative political and religious organizations.

There is another reason some Americans on the right are just now becoming aware of the number of weapons associated with government entities, including some departments within the IRS.

I did not know until constitutional attorney John Whitehead, president of the Rutherford Institute, a conservative Christian public interest law

firm, sent me a list of federal agencies that have weapons we didn't know about.

The IRS has stockpiled 4,500 guns and 5 million rounds of ammunition in recent years, including 621 shot-guns, 539 long-barrel rifles and 15 sub-machine guns.

The VA purchased 11 million rounds of ammunition (equivalent to 2,800 rounds for each of their officers), along with camouflage uniforms, riot helmets and shields, specialized image enhancement devices and tactical lighting.

The Department of Health and Human Services acquired 4 million rounds of ammunition, in addition to 1,300 guns, including five submachine guns and 189 automatic firearms for its Office of Inspector General.

According to an in-depth Rutherford Institute report on "The Militarization of the U.S. Executive Agencies," the Social Security Administration secured 800,000 rounds of ammunition for their special agents, as well as armor and guns.

The Environmental Protection Agency owns 600 guns. And the Smithsonian Institution now employs 620 armed "special agents."

Should we be concerned? Congress

authorizes the budgets for these agencies. Have members asked their secretaries and directors why they need all this fire power? Why haven't the broadcast networks and major newspapers conducted investigations?

A 2017 Forbes magazine article reported "The Small Business Administration (SBA) spent tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars to load its gun locker with Glocks last year. The SBA wasn't alone — the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service modified their Glocks with silencers." Maybe they don't want to disturb the fish while taking down an angler.

Freedom is not easy to obtain, but it is easy to lose. Ask those who once lived in free societies that are now ruled by one-party dictators.

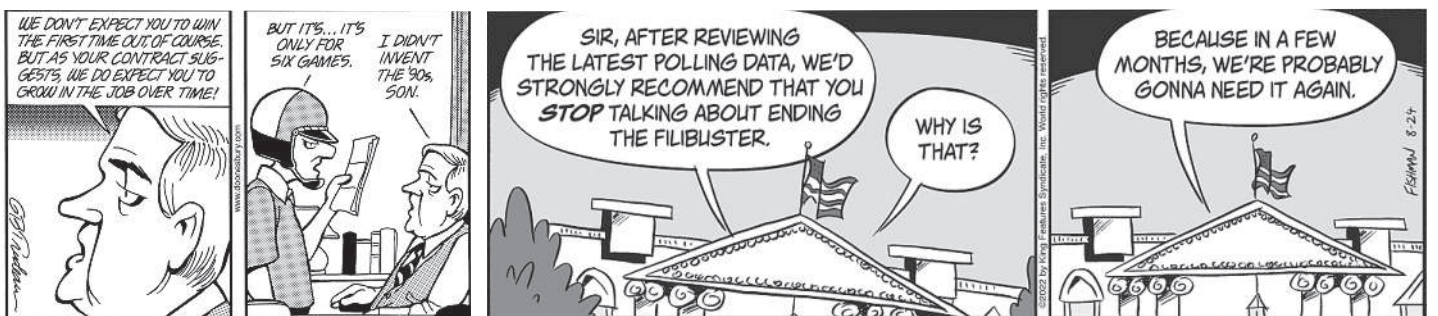
The buildup of weapons, the proliferation of cameras, the increasing fear among some that our government is no longer on "our side" reminds me of the lyric from a song by the Police: "Every move you make, every breath you take I'll be watching you."

Cal Thomas is a syndicated columnist distributed by Tribune News Service. Comments: tcaeditors@tribpub.com

## DOONESBURY | GARRY TRUDEAU



## MALLARD FILLMORE | BRUCE TINSLEY





Category	Platform	Metrics	July 2021	July 2022	% Change
Program Attendance	In Person and Virtual	Attendance at Library Programs and Videos	2449	3,004	18%
Digital Collection Use	OverDrive	eBook Circulation	6,699	6,448	-4%
		eAudiobook Circulation	5,913	6,274	6%
		New Users	515	301	-71%
	cloudLibrary	eBook Circulation	1,300	1,683	23%
		eAudiobook Circulation	938	1,051	11%
		New Users	26	47	45%
	Hoopla	eBook Circulation	718	996	28%
		eAudiobook Circulation	958	1,560	39%
		eMusic Circulation	92	152	39%
		eVideo Circulation	495	476	-4%
		New Users	56	100	44%
	Freegal	eMusic Downloads	988	1,003	1%
		eMusic Streaming	2,547	2,107	-21%
New Users		3	9	67%	
Kanopy	eVideo Circulation	1,093	1,261	13%	
Total	Total Digital Circulation	22,953	23,468	2%	
Other Online Use	Databases	Visits	21,893	23,823	8%
	CRLibrary.org	Visits	13,955	20,022	30%
	WiFi	Logins	6,979	7,586	8%
Social Media	Facebook	Followers	10,466	10,918	4%
	Instagram	Followers	3,661	3,865	5%
	YouTube	Views	4,706	6,340	26%
Meeting Room Use	Downtown	Number of Reservations	150	270	44%
	Downtown	Number of People	14,755	2296	-543%
	Ladd	Number of Reservations	62	77	19%
	Ladd	Number of People	743	828	10%
Number of Visitors	Downtown	Door Count - Downtown	19,507	21,618	10%
	Ladd	Door Count - Ladd	7,306	10,119	28%
	Total	Door Count - Total	26,813	31,737	16%
Curbside Holds	Total	Curbside Holds - Number of Patrons	168	116	-45%
*Number of items was not possible after Polaris transition					
Materials Circulation	Circulation	Print Circulation	49,449	47,456	-4%
		Total Circulation	66,614	70,924	6%
		MLN Circulation (Print only)	101,441	79,638	-27%



RESOLUTION  
IN THANKS OF WAYPOINT SERVICES

The Library Board of Trustees would like to formally thank Waypoint Services and the Madge Phillips Center Shelter for hosting a Library cooling station and pop-up computer lab when the downtown library temporarily closed. The partnership allowed essential services to continue for our community.

Passed this 1st day of September, 2022.

---

Monica Challenger  
Vice President



To: Monica Challenger, Finance Committee Chair  
From: Dara Schmidt  
Date: 8/23/2022  
Subject: **July 2022** Financial Report

### **July Monthly Analysis:**

**Library Operations 151XXX:** Here are items, concerns, and highlights that you should be aware of, or that need addressed:

- When reviewing budget to actual, we assume 1/12 of the expenditure budget is spent per month; likewise that 1/12 of revenue will be received per month. If we assume this, that means thru July actual revenue should be at least **1/12 or 8.33%** of budget and actual expenses should be no more than **1/12 or 8.33%**
- Actual revenues are expected to meet or exceed budgeted amounts.
  - **Total actual revenue (less Flood insurance transfer in) is 3% or \$22K of budgeted \$835K.**
    - Most of the significant revenues for the library come after the new calendar year, so we expect revenues to trail for the first several months of the fiscal year.
    - If we are short revenues at yearend, unspent expenditure budget cover.
- Regardless of funds/cash available, total actual expenses, excluding transfer out, may not exceed total budgeted expenses.
  - **Total actual expenditures are 7% or \$554K of \$7.5M budgeted. *Slightly under budget***
  - Personal Services is tracking at **8%** or **\$428K** of **\$5.5.69M** budget.
  - Discretionary is 11%. Total incurred is **\$91K** of **\$809K** budget.
    - Many typical expenses happen at the beginning of the fiscal year. These accounts will look overspent for the majority of the year. This is expected and not concerning.
    - \$104K annual expenditure for Integrated Library System not reflected in July, will come in August due to a timing error. No concerns.
    - Unspent non-discretionary costs can cover overage.

### **CIP:**

316 – 11% or \$57K spent of \$500K budget on circulation material. An additional 100K is budgeted from the Foundation for Downtown furniture updates.

### **Special Revenue:**

7010 – 12% or \$24K of budgeted revenues \$200K have been received and 5% or \$27K of budgeted expenses \$498K has been spent.

7020 – 0% or \$0K of budgeted \$25K expenses have been spent.

City of Cedar Rapids  
 151 Library  
 2022-07-31

Account Name	Account	Current Fiscal Year 2023 Adjusted Budget	Current Fiscal Year 2023 YTD Actuals	Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance	Percent of Budget Received Spent	July 2023 Actuals
<b>Revenue</b>						
<b>**Taxes**</b>						
**Total Taxes**		-	-	-	0%	-
<b>**Intergovernmental Grants**</b>						
State Operating	422001	115,000.00	-	(115,000.00)	0%	-
Local Govt Grants	423000	125,000.00	-	(125,000.00)	0%	-
**Total Intergovernmental Grants**		240,000.00	-	(240,000.00)	0%	-
<b>**Other Revenues**</b>						
Printing & Duplicating of Form	431006	25,000.00	358.65	(24,641.35)	1%	358.65
Admin Charges - External	431012	409,792.00	193.08	(409,598.92)	0%	193.08
Library User Fees - Not Fines	431201	5,600.00	1,014.59	(4,585.41)	18%	1,014.59
Library Fines	441001	-	-	-	0%	-
Building Rental	461001	43,455.00	9,360.70	(34,094.30)	22%	9,360.70
Contributions & Donations	471002	70,000.00	-	(70,000.00)	0%	-
Sale of Inventory	471003	2,000.00	185.10	(1,814.90)	9%	185.10
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	471005	3,500.00	-	(3,500.00)	0%	-
**Total Other Revenues**		559,347.00	11,112.12	(548,234.88)	2%	11,112.12
<b>**Proceeds of LT Liabilities**</b>						
**Total Proceeds of LT Liabilities**		-	-	-	0%	-
<b>**Transfers In**</b>						
Operating Transfer In - Inter	483001	36,000.00	11,000.00	(25,000.00)	31%	11,000.00
**Total Transfers In**		36,000.00	11,000.00	(25,000.00)	31%	11,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>835,347.00</b>	<b>22,112.12</b>	<b>(813,234.88)</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>22,112.12</b>



City of Cedar Rapids  
 151 Library  
 2022-07-31

Account Name	Account	Current Fiscal Year 2023 Adjusted Budget	Current Fiscal Year 2023 YTD Actuals	Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance	Percent of Budget Received Spent	July 2023 Actuals
<b>Expenditures</b>						
<b>**Personal Services**</b>						
Regular Employees	511100	4,121,814.00	324,939.25	3,796,874.75	8%	324,939.25
Temporary/Seasonal Employees	511200	34,694.40	1,721.40	32,973.00	5%	1,721.40
Overtime	511300	114,773.40	1,269.71	113,503.69	1%	1,269.71
Other Special Pays	511400	20,180.00	233.97	19,946.03	1%	233.97
Group Insurance	512100	513,159.00	39,856.27	473,302.73	8%	39,856.27
Social Security Contributions	512200	326,956.00	21,985.33	304,970.67	7%	21,985.33
Retirement Contribution	512300	404,672.00	27,496.41	377,175.59	7%	27,496.41
Workers' Compensation	512500	145,893.00	10,538.74	135,354.26	7%	10,538.74
Other Employee Benefits	512600	7,315.08	350.26	6,964.82	5%	350.26
<b>**Total Personal Services**</b>		<b>5,689,456.88</b>	<b>428,391.34</b>	<b>5,261,065.54</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>428,391.34</b>
<b>**Discretionary Expenses**</b>						
Advertising & Marketing	521100	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	0%	-
Consulting & Technical Service	521104	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	0%	-
External Contracted Labor	521105	105,466.00	-	105,466.00	0%	-
Health Services	521106	-	-	-	0%	-
Other Professional Services	521108	10,523.63	3,746.00	6,777.63	36%	3,746.00
External Banking/Financial Fee	521109	15,700.00	53.31	15,646.69	0%	53.31
Security Services	521110	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	0%	-
Computer Hardware	522100	35,000.00	24,999.00	10,001.00	71%	24,999.00
Computer Software Maintenance	522101	222,220.00	11,295.00	210,925.00	5%	11,295.00
IT Services - External	522102	75,500.00	2,730.05	72,769.95	4%	2,730.05
Building & Grounds Services	522104	15,000.00	-	15,000.00	0%	-
Equip/Furniture/Fixtures Serv	522105	9,000.00	-	9,000.00	0%	-
Phone Services	523107	26,500.00	2,499.92	24,000.08	9%	2,499.92
Rental of Equip & Vehicles	524101	500.00	-	500.00	0%	-
Printing, Binding, & Duplicate	525102	15,950.00	-	15,950.00	0%	-

City of Cedar Rapids  
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Account Name	Account	Current Fiscal Year 2023 Adjusted Budget	Current Fiscal Year 2023 YTD Actuals	Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance	Percent of Budget Received Spent	July 2023 Actuals
Awards & Recognition	531102	250.00	-	250.00	0%	-
Books & Subscriptions	531103	109,171.80	36,300.41	72,871.39	33%	36,300.41
Cleaning & Janitorial Supplies	531105	1,250.00	-	1,250.00	0%	-
Computer Supplies	531106	5,000.00	74.67	4,925.33	1%	74.67
Equipment/Furniture/Fixtures	531109	11,500.00	-	11,500.00	0%	-
Photography Supplies	531110	300.00	-	300.00	0%	-
Miscellaneous Supplies	531114	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	0%	-
Office Supplies	531116	15,320.00	1,527.36	13,792.64	10%	1,527.36
Program Supplies	531118	37,000.00	437.50	36,562.50	1%	437.50
Shop Supplies	531119	250.00	-	250.00	0%	-
Uniforms	531123	694.00	-	694.00	0%	-
Personal Protective Gear	531124	-	277.18	(277.18)	0%	277.18
Building & Grounds Supplies	533100	21,748.15	-	21,748.15	0%	-
Conferences, Training, Travel	542102	23,200.00	2,249.00	20,951.00	10%	2,249.00
Dues & Memberships	542103	10,000.00	4,500.00	5,500.00	45%	4,500.00
Postage & Freight	542108	17,500.00	-	17,500.00	0%	-
Mileage Reimbursement	542111	3,000.00	71.57	2,928.43	2%	71.57
Admin Charges - Inter Departments	521114	-	-	-	0%	-
Chemical Supplies - Non-Snow & Ice	531104	-	-	-	0%	-
Facility Services - Non-routine	522107	-	-	-	0%	-
Fleet Services - Abnormal Maintenance	522108	-	-	-	0%	-
Fleet Services - Non-Safety Modifications	522108	-	-	-	0%	-
Fleet Services - Accidents	522108	-	-	-	0%	-
<b>**Total Discretionary Expenses**</b>		<b>809,543.58</b>	<b>90,760.97</b>	<b>718,782.61</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>90,760.97</b>
<b>**Other Expenses**</b>						
City Accounting Services	521113	77,500.00	6,458.33	71,041.67	8%	6,458.33
City Information Tech Services	522109	5,878.33	489.86	5,388.47	8%	489.86
Electricity	523100	213,800.00	20,839.91	192,960.09	10%	20,839.91



City of Cedar Rapids  
 151 Library  
 2022-07-31

Account Name	Account	Current Fiscal Year 2023 Adjusted Budget	Current Fiscal Year 2023 YTD Actuals	Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance	Percent of Budget Received Spent	July 2023 Actuals
Natural Gas	523103	4,500.00	28.40	4,471.60	1%	28.40
Rental of Land & Buildings	524100	245,000.00	6,242.50	238,757.50	3%	6,242.50
Liability Insurance	525104	42,148.00	-	42,148.00	0%	-
Property Insurance	525107	100,110.00	-	100,110.00	0%	-
Vehicle Insurance	525108	1,200.00	-	1,200.00	0%	-
Gasoline Fuel	532101	498.58	-	498.58	0%	-
Chemical Supplies - Snow & Ice	531104	-	-	-	0%	-
City Inter Department Charges	521114	-	-	-	0%	-
Facility Services (Routine)	522107	313,107.55	1,279.80	311,827.75	0%	1,279.80
Fleet Services (Routine)	522108	1,400.00	-	1,400.00	0%	-
<b>**Total Other Expenses**</b>		<b>1,005,142.46</b>	<b>35,338.80</b>	<b>969,803.66</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>35,338.80</b>
<b>**Capital Outlay**</b>						
Vehicles, Equipment, Software	554000	50,000.00	-	50,000.00	0%	-
<b>**Total Capital Outlay**</b>		<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>**Debt Service**</b>						
<b>**Total Debt Service**</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>**Transfers Out**</b>						
<b>**Total Transfers Out**</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>7,554,142.92</b>	<b>554,491.11</b>	<b>6,999,651.81</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>554,491.11</b>
<b>Net Revenues over/(under) Expenditures</b>		<b>(6,718,795.92)</b>	<b>(532,378.99)</b>	<b>6,186,416.93</b>		<b>(532,378.99)</b>



### Special Event Alcohol Use Policy

**I. Purpose**

Alcoholic beverages are sometimes served in conjunction with special events held at the library. This policy clarifies how and under what circumstances alcohol can be served.

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**II. Policy**

- a. Permission to serve alcoholic beverages on library premises must be approved by the Board of Trustees at a board meeting prior to the event date.
- b. In seeking permission, the customer must include where the event will be held within the library. As such, alcohol may be sold and/or consumed as long as the service is provided by a licensed caterer or bar service.
- c. The applicant is responsible for all additional maintenance and personnel costs resulting from use of alcoholic beverages.
- d. Alcohol is not permitted at youth activity events or at public hearings, nor may alcohol be served to minors.
- e. No leftover beverages may be left on library premises.

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Adopted: 09/05/2013  
Reviewed: 11/2015, 7/2019  
Revised: 9/1/2022





### **The Library As Place: A Value Statement**

The Cedar Rapids Public Library seeks to be a beacon of literacy to all who seek knowledge and understanding. Our library buildings are the main platform where we connect people to information, experiences, and services that enhance their quality of life so our community can learn, enjoy, and thrive. We prize our facilities and are determined to sustain them as a legacy for future generations.

Adopted: 2/2011

Reviewed: 2013, 11/2015

Revised: 01/02/2020

## Department Updates

*Community Relations* has worked with the rest of the library to shift priorities since the fire, ensuring that communication regarding library services was as smooth as possible. We just completed the Fall *OPEN+* magazine, and are starting the work of highlighting the fall programs and promoting them to patrons as well. Additionally, work continues on the library's website to provide a more accessible and user-friendly experience for everyone. More to come on that later this fall!

With the downtown library closed and the rooms inaccessible, the Events team did a great job transitioning. They were responsible for reaching out to everyone who had an existing room reservation and let them know the unfortunate news and encouraged them to make alternative arrangements when there wasn't room available for them at Ladd. They have also been in continuous conversation with those who have made a reservation since the fire to keep everyone informed of our shifting reopening. Aside from that, they have been a great support to other departments such as programming with the end of Summer Dare.

This August, we welcomed Amber Wieland to the team. Amber is the Administrative Assistant for Volunteer Services and the Foundation. Prior to joining the Library, Amber was a paralegal with a law firm in Cedar Rapids. While her first week was fully virtual work due to the Downtown Library closure, she's been quick to jump in and get going in her new role. Volunteers for the Downtown Library have been placed on hold until the Library begins to reopen to the public. Ten volunteers assisting with the Summer Dare Celebration on July 30 quickly pivoted with us to Ladd Library. We appreciated their flexibility and dedication to the program in light of the challenges the fire presented. Volunteer Hours in July 2022: 393 hours

The *Materials* department has been focused on getting new material shipments out for circulation quickly so patrons have new materials while the Downtown collection is inaccessible due to the fire. Our shelving team has been spending time at Ladd to assist with their higher volume and taking in returns at the Downtown location. Most materials are being returned to Ladd, so the shelves there are more full than usual. This will all be rebalanced when the Downtown building can be reopened.

The *Technology Solutions* team has been busy coming up with temporary service solutions while the Downtown building is closed due to the fire. They set up computer access and printing solutions at the temporary cooling location at Waypoint, cleaned and readied self-checks and a small staff station at the 5th Ave entrance Downtown, and tested security cameras. This has postponed installing new printing options Downtown but this project should be up and running once the Downtown building is reopened and other technology services are stabilized.

*Programming* wrapped up the Summer Dare in August, and then immediately transitioned into planning for our Fall programs and events! Summer Dare was very successful, with 1,947 patrons reading nearly 700,000 minutes in 2022. Even more exciting was that we saw more than 7,000 patrons at nearly 200 programs that were held in both library, and at over a dozen locations around the city. Patrons were extremely receptive to the programs, and are eagerly awaiting their return next year. New programs, such as our Middle School STEM Camps, were very successful, and are already being adapted and improved for summer of 2023.

Fall programming will bring the return of some familiar events such as Trivia, Early Learning Story Time, and the Master Gardeners, as well as some new additions like a Walking Book Club, Tai Chi, and a new Movement, Music, and Parachute program on Saturdays for children and families. We are also greatly expanding our outreach into the schools, and will be visiting a number of K-2 classrooms on a weekly basis starting in the fall to supplement the literacy learning done by their amazing teachers and librarians.

*Public Service.* Public Service Manager Todd Simonson became a certified trainer for the Mandt System. Mandt is an empathy-based approach in working with patrons. The system supplements training staff have received over the past few years. Todd will work with library staff over the next several months to train staff on the Mandt System.



Many patrons have mentioned to staff appreciation for setting up a temporary computer/cooling center with our community partners at Waypoint. In the first 3 weeks, we had 290 people sign in to use a computer there. Patrons are also excited to be able to return and pick up materials at Downtown and appreciate staff working to provide continued access to materials.

### **Disaster Response**

Work continues on cleaning and restoration at the Downtown Library. Much of the cleaning work is complete and staff have begun to access the collections. Even as the majority of the work is complete, we are still awaiting clearance from the insurance company to begin work on the ceiling, light fixture, and first floor directly under the light fixture where damage occurred. We will need to reopen with that damage still present and close at a later date for 3 days to complete final restoration after the investigations have closed.

### **Great Stories**

This afternoon while I was working at Waypoint a patron that [Rebecca, Public Service Librarian] stopped in to compliment her on the work she put into his researching pamphlets he had from Korea. He told me about how [she] had sent the documents to the University of Iowa initially and when that didn't work [she] sent them to the Library of Congress. He was impressed with [her] tenacity and thoroughness in researching his documents and was fascinated to find out what they really said. - Heather Meyer-Boothby, Downtown Branch Manager

A great story from a volunteer's perspective sent to Jessica Link, Volunteer Coordinator:

*Jessica, you are right. Ladd was crazy yesterday morning. They were doing child testing, extra staff from downtown, lots of library patrons, and a holds list of 83 items. But wow, I was impressed with the activity level. The library is such a vital part of our community and I love being a part of it!*  
Sharon

