



2025 Rose Festival in Pictures
Section B

2025 Rose Festival Royalty



The 2025 Rose Queen is Riley Randall (left) and the Rose Princess is Rachel Randall (right), the twin daughters of Stan and Kristine Randall of Melbourne. Little Miss Rose Bud is Abigail Puffet, the daughter of John and Anna Puffet. Individual awards presented at the Rose Queen crowning ceremonies on Friday, June 20th, included: Talent winner- Riley Randall; Essay Winner- Rachel Randall; Rene's Rose- Riley Randall; Ray of Sunshine Award- Elise Streeter; and Blossom Award- Chloe Minser.

-photo by Christine Davis

Central Iowa Fair Queen Candidates



The new Central Iowa Fair queen will be crowned on the first evening of the fair, July 9th at 5:30 under the big top tent. We hope everyone will come out and support these beautiful ladies and to have a great time at the fair! Candidates are Hannah Frahm, Rachel Case, Taylor Thomas, Rylee Damman, Madelyn Thompson and Rory Piscitelli.

-photo submitted

67th Annual Rose Festival Review & Committee Chairman's Goodbye by Buffi Honeck

The Monday morning after the Rose Festival weekend tends to be a bittersweet day each year. Happy because we can look back over the past four days at all the memories made, smiles shared, and good times had by those who attended; slight sadness because it is over. Like any event you spend a lot of time planning, once it's done there is a certain feeling of relief but also letdown knowing there is nothing more to do for this year. With my experiences leading the Rose Festival though, the happiness it brings always outshines everything else! It is those memories that I spoke of in last week's paper that I hope those who attended were able to make. Whether it was the memory of being crowned the 2025 Rose Queen (congratulations to Riley Randall), crossing the finish line during the 5k, bringing home a full sack of candy from the parade, enjoying the more than 100 classic cars lining the streets at the car show, or seeing classmates for your 50th reunion...there were so many great opportunities to make the memories! Our ultimate goal as a committee is to uplift and promote our beautiful community and give everyone a weekend to celebrate...together. Thank you to all who showed up to help celebrate the successes! And a huge shoutout to so many of you who, in the moment, helped to solve an emergency issue when it's not your job to do so...it is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed!

A resounding comment I heard this past weekend (aside from could you turn on the air conditioning) is that we as a community should be so proud to sustain this tradition. Even though this year it fell a little later (with the first of the month falling on Sunday it doesn't make that a weekend we can count), the tradition of the third weekend in June and all that it brings is truly amazing that it's been going on for 67 years (aside from the COVID year). It is because of each of you in this community and the respective generations that have come before who have been dedicated to ensuring this event sustains. It is because each of you, as an individual or a business, commit to supporting the tradition through donations, attending a fundraiser event, sponsoring an activity, having your business open, or giving your time that we can continue. It is because we as a community are supportive of each other above everything else. We ARE lucky to have a community so supportive, so willing to give up their streets for all the visitors and minor inconveniences, so proud that so many return to help celebrate year over year.

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Fire Station Building Project Bid exceeds Estimate

by Chris Davis

It was not the news that those gathered at the State Center City Council June 17th meeting wanted to hear.

Matt Schroeder, Sr. Project Manager from Greiner Construction, presented a cost figure bid for the proposed fire station remodel/addition in the amount of \$2,689,970 to State Center city councilors along with Fire Chief Brad Pfantz and several members of the State Center Fire/EMS volunteer department present at the meeting.

An alternate bid that would not include the completion of the new addition (interior) and replacing PEMB insulation with all new brought the cost bid down to \$2,364,512.

Schroeder pointed out that the majority of the subcontract bids for the project came in higher than originally estimated. (A job cost of \$1.9 million figure had been the original estimated target cost of the project). He shared that costs for concrete, plumbing, masonry, and the steel construction for the new building had experienced increased costs since originally estimated. The only bid to come in less than originally expected was the demolition of the "Opera House". He felt that the complexity of the project along with current "tariffs" affected the prices quoted. Mayor Pfantz wondered if the timing of requesting bids had any affect on costs and if the project had been bid during the winter months if a more favorable bid(s) would have been received.

Council member Terry Shaffar questioned if the reason for the high bid submitted was due to "an overblown building design and the specifications for such things as ductwork".

The common shared comment from the council members was that the bid was "a lot of money." Fire Chief Pfantz said that it looked like they needed to "go back to the drawing board" with the architects from Studio Melee. Jamie Malloy, representing Studio Melee, was also in attendance, stated that it would take at least another couple of months to re-design and go out to bid for a revamped project.

The council ultimately voted

to reject the bid received. Schroeder was "pretty sure" that the bid would still be "good" for 45 days. Mayor Pfantz stating "we can't give up, we need to figure out something" reactivated the "fire station committee" with members Howard Darrow and Brett Nichols. Terry Shaffar declined to serve again so Shaffar will be replaced by Mayor Craig Pfantz.

Discussion briefly continued on the need to move forward with fundraising efforts for the project. The suggestion was made to send letters in an attempt to garner donations for the project.

Other highlights from the June meeting include:

- approve Rachael McAnulty as a member of the Fire & EMS Department.
- approve 3rd reading/adopt Ordinance 388 Sewer Rate Increase (read full ordinance on page 6).
- approve 3rd reading/adopt Ordinance 389 Prohibit Ground Solar Array (read full ordinance on page 6).
- noted that work will begin the last week of June to install the pickleball court at the Kauffman park.
- approve quick claim deed from J.G. Gutekunst Trust for parcel of real estate for \$1 for the purpose to create brush dump site.
- approve balance payment of \$9,160 for fencing for the brush dump site. A deposit of \$13,000 has already been made for this project.
- approve acceptance of the 6th Street NW public improvement project with the retainage fee of \$17,229.45 payable to contractor. It was noted that the street will be seal coated later this summer when other streets in town are seal coated.
- approve payment to WRH, Inc. in the amount of \$221,500 for pay application #1 for the Wastewater System Improvement Project (Lift Station).
- approve write-off of uncollectible utility accounts in the amount of \$443.45.
- approve 3% city employee pay compensation raises for 2025-26.
- approve the sale of the 2024 Tahoe Patrol Vehicle to the Howard County Sheriff's office for \$64,500.

STATE CENTER FIREWORKS INFO.

July 3: 9 am to 10 pm
July 4: 9 am to 11 pm
July 5 & 6: NOT ALLOWED