# Memory cafes at the National Comedy Center ignite laughter and connection for dementia patients

By Carolyn Thompson

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. — Side by side on a sofa inside the National Comedy Center, Gail and Mario Cirasunda chuckled at a clip from the 1980s sitcom "Family Ties" that was playing on a TV screen. The show's oldest daughter, Mallory, was introducing her unconventional artist boyfriend Nick to her bewildered television family.

"I think our daughter brought him home once. Maybe two of our daughters!" Gail said with a laugh over coffee and donuts

"Five daughters, two sons," her husband Mario, 85, chimed in. "Sometimes I'd wonder," he smiled, shaking his head at the memories of the couple's own family antics over their 59-year

Moments like this are what brought the Cirasundas to the comedy museum in western New York and the memory cafe taking place inside. The monthly events invite people with Alzheimer's, dementia, or other memory loss, and their caregivers, to spend time at the interactive museum. For visitors like Mario, who has dementia, and his wife, the scenes and artifacts from funny shows and comedians have a way of triggering shared laughs and connection, and, as comedy center staff have found,

Gail, 78, treasures the moments when Mario - who still vividly recalls his childhood route to school and the names of old friends — also recollects experiences from their shared life. A 1965 blind date after Mario got out of the Navy led to seven children, 24 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, careers and moves. However, memories made over a lifetime together have become increasingly elusive over the past several years, since about the time Mario started to get lost driving and forget whether he likes a particular

At a recent memory cafe, the Cirasundas, from suburban Buffalo, and others spent the morning walking through the museum that was inspired by "I Love Lucy" star Lucille Ball in her hometown of Jamestown.

Gail kept a guiding hand on her husband's elbow as they smiled through Johnny Carson bits from "The Tonight Show" in the center's late night studio, browsed standup comic George Carlin's personal notes and comedian Bob Hope artifacts, and laughed out loud at a display of classic comedy props like the banana peel and pie in the face.

During a break in the museum's restaurant, the "Family Ties" video evoked scenes from

"The moments are precious because he might not remember

it," Gail explained, "but when you're there talking about it, you're remembering. Five minutes later, it's gone — but you had that moment."

The Alzheimer's Association estimates 7.2 million Americans over the age of 65 are living with Alzheimer's dementia, and an even higher number of people care for an impacted friend or family member.

Memory cafes have emerged around the world in recent years as a way to connect and support individuals and caregivers, and provide information and resources. Many of the more than 600 cafes regularly running in the U.S. — often meeting in libraries and community centers - bring in speakers and engage participants with physical activity, music and art, all of which are good for the brain, experts

The National Comedy Center held its first one earlier this year. It seemed a natural fit after staff heard from patrons about the museum's impact on their loved

Spokesman Gary Hahn sees the center as a kind of time machine, with exhibits memorializing comedy from Vaudeville to viral memes that can transport visitors back, no matter their age. Even before the formal memory cafes began, a visitor told the center's staff that his wife with dementia seldom spoke —

but would become more verbal while walking through the museum and laughing alongside him.

"There was a stimulation of the part of the brain, whether it's because of the nostalgia or the comedy, that had an impact on her," said Journey Gunderson, the center's executive director.

Shelia Kennison, an author and psychology professor at Oklahoma State University, said humor positively affects physiology in many ways.

"It takes most of your brain to process what's being said or being shown to you and then to find the humor, and then once that happens, it sets off this cascade of brain activity and physiological changes that affects the whole body," said Kennison, who studies how humor is involved in cognition, memory and overall wellbeing. "So it really is a whole brain workout and a whole body workout when you get that really funny joke that makes you laugh and slap your knee and rock back and forth."

Laughter has always been important to Gail and Mario Cirasunda, whose children often gave their father Peter Sellers' "Pink Panther" movies as gifts so they could see him laugh.

"Keep a sense of humor in your marriage," Gail's boss told her before she got married. Even through the challenges, she said, she's followed the advice.

# FDA names former pharmaceutical company executive to oversee US drug program

By Matthew Perrone

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration on Monday named a longtime pharmaceutical executive to run the agency's drug program, the latest in a string of leadership changes at the agency.

FDA Commissioner Marty Makary announced that Dr. George Tidmarsh, a cancer and pediatric specialist, will direct the agency's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, which regulates the safety and effectiveness of all U.S. drugs.

His appointment comes a month after the center's acting director, Dr. Jacqueline Corrigan-Curay, announced her

As the agency's top drug regulator, Tidmarsh will be charged with following through on a number of commitments made by Makary and his boss, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., including reviewing the safety of the abortion pill mifepristone. The FDA is also scrutinizing certain uses of other long-established drugs, including antidepressants and hormone-replacement drugs for

menopause. Tidmarsh founded and led several pharmaceutical companies, including Horizon Pharmaceuticals, maker of an anti-inflammatory medication for arthritis. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Stanford University.

The FDA's drug center is the agency's largest unit, with nearly 6,000 staffers responsible for reviewing the safety and effectiveness of new drugs and monitoring the use and marketing of older drugs.

About 2,000 FDA staffers have been laid off as part of widescale cuts to the federal health workforce overseen by Kennedy. More than 1,000 others have taken buyouts or early retirement, while many others are reportedly searching for new jobs. The departures have threatened basic FDA operations, including the timely review of new drugs.

FDA's drug center hasn't had a permanent director since January, when Dr. Patrizia Cavazzoni stepped down days before President Donald Trump took office.

Nearly all of the FDA's senior leadership positions have turned over in recent months, either due to retirements, resignations or actions by administration officials placing them on administrative leave.

FDA center directors typically hold their positions for years or even decades, serving across multiple administrations, whether Republican or Democrat.

In May, Makary named Dr. Vinay Prasad, a prominent critic of the FDA's COVID response, to run the agency's vaccine center. He was also named to the post of FDA chief medical officer. Prasad joined the agency after his predecessor, longtime vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks, was forced out in March.

The head of FDA's tobacco center was also forced to step down in April. A permanent replacement has not yet been

## **WELLNESS CALENDAR**

Zimmerman Tree Removal

& Stump Grinding

Childhood Immunization Clinic — July 24, Aug. 7 and 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 1003 Gilbert Street. Immunization clinics at the Public Health Office are for children up to the age of 18 that have Medicaid (T19), that are under-insured (insurance doesn't cover immunization) or have NO insurance. You MUST call to set

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up an appointment, (641-257-6111) please call in-advance as clinic does fill up. If you do not have T19, we will ask for a \$19 donation fee for each shot Alzheimer's Support Group

> Thursday, Aug. 21, 4 p.m., at the Public Health Office, 1003

Gilbert St. Charles City, IA. The support group is aimed for family members and caregivers of those affected by Alzheimer's disease. The group is held the third Thursday of every month.

Ostomy Support Group — First Wednesday of the month. 6 p.m. in the FCMC Veteran's Room. For more information, call Lynee Wilkens, RN CWON, at 641-257-

a.m. to noon Wednesdays, noon to 3 p.m. Fridays, and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays; 102 N. Main St., Charles City, access at the rear of the building; for more information call 641-257-1119.

Messiah's Food Pantry - Open 9

**Childbirth Education Classes** For more information or to register

for a class, call the Birth Center at Floyd County Medical Center at 228-6830, ext. 2700.

Parkinson Support Group — For information call St. John Lutheran Church, Charles City, 1-641-228-

Alzheimer's Care-Giver Support Group - For information call Floyd County Public Health Home Care at 1-641-257-6124.

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# Legal Notice - Legal Notice

#### COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR SESSION

July 7, 2025 Charles City city council met in regular session on July 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Zastrow room at the public library. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: DeLaine Freeseman, Patrick Lumley, Phillip Knighten, Phoebe Pittman, and Keith Starr. Also present was city

Mayor Andrews welcomed everyone to

engineer John Fallis.

the meeting. Motion by Pittman, second Freeseman to

approve the agenda. Ayes- 4 Motion by Pittman, second Knighten to

approve the minutes of the June 11, June 16, and June 25 meetings. Ayes- 4

Motion by Knighten, second Pittman to approve the consent calendar. Ayes- 4 The consent calendar consisted of the following- approve filing the following liens for delinquent utility bills: acct 5021400003 \$531, acct 5010810000 \$156, acct 5026820000 \$128, acct 5000720007 \$198, acct 5010810000 \$156, and acct 5010760002 \$238; approve excavation bonds for Shovel 1. Inc. dba Crystal Heating & Plumbing, Inc., Young Construction Limited, and Steve Breitkreutz, and payment

of claims (including those approved by other boards): MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT GROUP .. .....\$2,197.28

CHARLIE BARRETT .. CC PAYROLL ENDING 6/14/25 ....\$110.290.97 ..\$2,492.84 DELTA DENTAL ..... VSP. ...\$523.68 MUTUAL OF OMAHA. ...\$1,284.66

CITY OF CHARLES CITY .\$842.87 CC PUBLIC EMP HEALTH PLAN ..\$38,099.71 EMC NATIONAL LIFE-SUPPLEM ....\$6.00 COOLEY PUMPING LLC .....\$222.50

D&M ASPHALT SERVICES INC ..\$17,520.35 FAREWAY STORE. ..\$60.64 IDOT-CASHIER'S OFFICE . .\$4,458.83 KINGLAND CONSTRUCTION.\$268,916.32 FIRST CITIZENS BANK......\$173,150.00 AGVANTAGE FS ... ..\$909.87 ALFIE PACKERS INC .\$135.00 ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY LLP ....\$643.41 ..\$3,477.00 BAYCOM INC. BITUMINOUS MATERIALS & SUPPLY ...\$2,225.99 CARQUEST AUTO PARTS. ..\$1,107.52 CC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

..\$61,738,93 CINTAS CORPORATION. ...\$68.01 \$388.63 CITY OF CHARLES CITY TRENT PARKER / COMPUTER PARKER

\$527.96
CONTINENTAL RESEARCH CORP
\$184.81
DIGITAL-ALLY INC\$755.00
DO IT ALL SERVICES LLC\$350.00
ETHANOL PRODUCTS LLC\$1,023.44
FAREWAY STORE\$1,168.89
FARMCHEM\$25.31
FIREHOSEDIRECT\$3,361.06
FLOYD CO MEDICAL CENTER CLINIC
\$1,040.00
FLOYD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT
\$1,725.00
GENERAL COLLECTION COMPANY
\$242.27

HEWETT WHOLESALE. .\$254.58 ..\$27.01 IDOT-CASHIER'S OFFICE .\$1,260.02 JENNIFER LANTZ .. .\$1.038.28 JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL ...\$176.39 L&J INDUSTRIES INC .\$14.95 LESSIN SUPPLY COMPANY .... .\$720.72 LYNN PEAVEY COMPANY... ...\$60.53 MAINSTAY SYSTEMS INC ..\$156.00 MERRITT COMPUTER SERVICE INC. ..\$7,510.00

MICK GAGE PLUMBING & HEATING ...\$16,046.69

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY ..\$1,410.39 MIKE MOLSTEAD MOTORS INC ..\$129.85 MIKE'S C&O TIRE INC \$1 098 17 MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES\$1,924.80 MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC..... ..\$972.00 NEWBAUER INC .. ...\$625.10 NORTH CEDAR AVIATION AUTHORITY

.\$23,358.73 NORTH IOWA LAWN & SPORTS ....\$19.96 PEPPERBALL \$2,974.00 PERRY NOVAK ELECTRIC INC \$5,275.89 POLICE LEGAL SCIENCES INC ....\$480.00 QUAD COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSN

..\$60.00 RILEY'S INC .. .\$110.95 SCHUETH ACE HARDWARE ......\$240.76 ED STIVERS FORD INC ......\$17,066.37 SWARTZROCK IMPLEMENT CO ..\$700.00

T&W GRINDING & COMPOST SERVICE ......\$6,739.00 UNITED STATES CELLULAR ......\$148.40

UTILITY EQUIPMENT COMPANY ..... ...\$1,375.32

VOGEL TRAFFIC SERVICES INC\$6,820.00 WOODRUFF CONSTRUCTION LLC.. ..\$92,244.24

PAYROLL ENDING 6/28/25.....\$129,217.40 CITY OF CHARLES CITY.....\$842.87 CC PUBLIC EMP HEALTH PLAN ...\$38,100.01 EMC NATIONAL LIFE-SUPPLEM .....\$6.00

AGVANTAGE FS ..\$2,169.26 AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONSE. ....\$17,810.42 ATCO INTERNATIONAL CALHOUN-BURNS & ASSOCIATES...

...\$15,384.00 CARRICO AQUATIC RESOURCES\$273.02 CENTURYLINK ..... ....\$487.90 CHARLES CITY PRESS INC .\$411.89 CHATFIELD BROTHERS REPAIR LLC. ...\$54,250.00

CIRCLE K COMMUNICATIONS INC. ..\$5,918.00 MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH...\$222.84 OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE...\$304.90 OTTO'S ENTERPRISES LLC......\$1,978.08 PAWS HUMANE SOCIETY ......\$1,550.00 PERRY NOVAK ELECTRIC INC ....\$105.00 RIVER CITY FENCE.....\$12,18 ROTARY CLUB OF CHARLES CITY... ...\$12,189.00

ROTART CLUB OF CHARLES CITT
\$115.00
RUDYS SALES & SERVICE LLC \$9,600.00
SCHAEFFER MFG CO\$1,327.00
SJE RHOMBUS\$71,521.00
T-LINE EV LLC\$92,925.00
UNITED STATES CELLULAR\$947.52
UNITYPOINT HEALTH AT WORK \$957.25
VERIZON\$120.03
WEX BANK\$7,471.61
WOODRUFF CONSTRUCTION LLC
\$18,371.33
AFLAC\$1,517.25

FGP MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENTS

JULY 2025 FGP STIPEND.

..\$6,716.00

..\$2.049.16

GHD SERVICES INC ..\$908.45 .\$1,540.65 .\$2,298.50 HAWKINS INC. MARCO-BUS OFFICE ... ....\$82.19

MICROBAC LABORATORIES, INC. .\$171.50 MISSISSIPPI LIME COMPANY..\$10,483.09 USA BLUEBOOK..... BANCORPSV..... DISH .. ....\$97.10

IA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT..

.\$762.44 KABRICK DISTRIBUTING CO ....\$1,625.30 LE-USA TECHNOL ..... ..\$14.10 ..\$641.84 MEDIACOM . UNITED BEVERAGE-MC .. ..\$1.564.65 ..\$162.13 AUXIANT ... BUSINESS CARD .... .\$5,564.47 PITNEY BOWES SUPPLIES .... ...\$206.31 US POSTAL SERVICE..... ..\$1,000.00 POSTMASTER..... .\$1,265.42 EFTPS (PAYROLL TAXES) ......\$59,644.46

ICMA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS .. .\$6,001.41 ...\$545.53 IA PUBLIC EMPLOY RETIRE....\$29,450.80 MUNICIPAL FIRE & POLICE.....\$28,129.60 TREASURER STATE OF IOWA...\$6,687.07

....\$1,547,947.51 Business of the Mayor- Mayor Andrews recommended the reappointment of Rachel Mack and Stephanie Williams to the Charles City Public Library Board of Trustees. Motion by Lumley, second by Knighten. Ayes- 4. Councilmembers expressed their thanks towards Rachel and Stephanie for their willing-

ness to serve. Brent Hinson of Hinson Consulting presented the city administrator search position profile. The Council reviewed it, making minor additions and corrections. They discussed mileage stipends versus reimbursement and city cell phones versus phone allowances, with Hinson advising that these details should be based on candidate preference. Hinson also reviewed the organizational survey and analysis, expressing satisfaction with the city's current state and giving it a "clean bill of health." Lastly, an updated search schedule was discussed. Due to scheduling conflicts with councilmembers, the schedule was changed to ensure full participation. Motion by Pittman, seconded by Freeseman to approve the position profile with revisions, as well as the schedule adjustment as discussed. Ayes- 5.

A street closure request for National Night Out was received from Charles City police officer Duane Ollendick. The event will be held on August 5 and he is requesting to close North Jackson from Kelly St to Blunt, Kelly St from N. Main to N. Jackson, Blunt St from N. Main to N. Jackson, and the parking along Central Park on N. Main St from 1:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Motion by Pittman, seconded by Knighten to approve the request. Ayes- 5.

Council reviewed the submitted street closure request from Emily Kiewel for Art-a-Fest on August 16. She has requested that Kelly and Jackson Streets along Central Park be closed for the event. Motion by Pittman, seconded by Freeseman to approve the request as submitted.

Mayor Andrews opened the public hearing concerning Ordinance 1193 VACATING AND CONVEYING A PORTION OF CEDAR STREET IN CHARLES CITY, IOWA. Affidavit of publication dated 6/24/2025 was informally filed. Mayor asked for written comments. There being none, he then asked

for oral comments. There were none. Motion by Pittman, seconded by Knighten to close the public hearing. Ayes- 4, Abstain- Freeseman. Engineer Fallis explained that this section of Cedar Street right-of-way extends from Riden Circle to the south boundary line of Riden's First Addition. This ROW provides access to a land-locked parcel owned by the Freeseman's south of Riden's First Addition and north of the Charley Western Trail. The planning and zoning commission met on May 7 and is unanimously recommending the council vacate this ROW. Motion by Pittman, seconded by Knighten to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1193. Ayes: Starr, Lumley, Pittman, and Knighten. Nays: none. Abstain: Freeseman.

Councilmember Pittman read the ordinance. The public hearing concerning a proposed amendment to the Riverside Urban Renewal Area was opened by Mayor Andrews. Affidavit of publication dated 6/24/2025 was informally filed. Mayor asked for written comments. There being none, he then asked for oral comments. There were none. Motion by Pittman, seconded by Knighten to close the public hear-

ing. Ayes- 5. City Clerk Lentz reported that for the Riverside urban renewal area Charles City Area Development Corporation- \$31,077, Mainstreet Charles City- \$81,000, and the city will collect \$18,000 for admin and professional fees to help offset the expenses incurred for city staff to administer the program, all over the three-year period. Councilmember Freeseman introduced Resolution 67-25 entitled, "RESOLUTION TO APPROVE URBAN RE-NEWAL PLAN AMENDMENT FOR THE RIVERSIDE URBAN RENEWAL AREA" and moved for adoption. Seconded by Pittman. Resolution duly passed on roll call vote as follows: Freeseman, Pittman, Knighten, Starr, and

Mayor Andrews opened the public hearing concerning a proposed amendment to the South Grand Urban Renewal Area. Affidavit of publication dated 6/24/2025 was informally filed. Mayor asked for written comments. There being none, he then asked for oral comments. There were none. Motion by Knighten, seconded by Pittman to close the public hearing. For the South Grand urban renewal area.

City Clerk Lentz announced that funding over the next three years will include \$51,057 to the Charles City Area Development Corporation and \$60,000 for the Economic Development Local Business Support Program. The city will also collect \$18,000 in administrative fees to help offset staff expenses for program administration. Councilmember Knighten introduced Resolution 68-25 entitled, "RESOLUTION TO APPROVE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN AMENDMENT FOR THE SOUTH GRAND URBAN RENEWAL AREA" and moved for adoption. Seconded by Freeseman. Resolution duly passed on roll call vote as follows: Knighten, Starr, Lumley, Freeseman, and Pittman. Nays: none.

The public hearing concerning a proposed amendment to the SW Bypass Urban Renewal Area was opened by Mayor Andrews. Affidavit of publication dated 6/24/2025 was informally filed. Mayor asked for written comments. There being none, he then asked for oral comments. There were none. Motion by Knighten, seconded by Pittman to close the public hearing. Ayes- 5.

City Clerk Lentz reported the funding structure for the SW Bypass urban renewal

area over the upcoming three-year period. Contributions include \$139,851 to the Charles City Area Development Corporation and \$60,000 for the Economic Development Local Business Support Program. The city will also collect \$18,000 in administrative and professional fees, helping to recover costs associated with program oversight by city staff. Councilmember Lumley introduced Resolution 69-25 entitled, "RESOLUTION TO APPROVE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN AMENDMENT FOR THE SW Bypass URBAN RENEWAL AREA" and moved for adoption. Seconded by Pittman. Resolution duly passed on roll call vote as follows: Lumley, Freeseman, Pittman, Knighten, and Starr. Nays: none.

Councilmember Freeseman introduced Resolution 70-25 entitled, "RESOLUTION SETTING A DATE AT WHICH IT IS PRO-POSED TO APPROVE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AGREEMENT WITH CHARLES CITY AREA DEVEL-OPMENT CORPORATION, INCLUDING ANNUAL APPROPRIATION TAX INCRE-MENT PAYMENTS" and moved for adoption. The hearing on the agreement with CCADC will be held on July 21. Seconded by Pittman. Resolution duly passed on roll call vote as follows: Freeseman, Pittman, Knighten, Starr, and

We have made an offer and received acceptance from Dan Gifford, retired Spencer, IA city administrator, to fill the interim city administrator position. Gifford will start employment on July 8 at a starting salary of \$2,000 a week, plus \$200 a week mileage stipend. He will be in the office three days a week with availability offsite the other two days a week via zoom or phone. Councilmember Lumley introduced Resolution 71-25 entitled, "AP-PROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT" and moved for adoption. Seconded by Freeseman. Mr. Gifford stated that he is happy to help out in the interim to keep things on track and going in the right direction until council can fill the seat permanently. Resolution duly passed on roll call vote as follows: Pittman, Knighten, Starr, Lumley, and Freeseman. Nays: none

Chief Deverell updated the council on the timeline of the refurbishment of engine 252 which should be completed around January 2026, and the building of the 2006 Pierce Dash with arrival date being one year out; as well as the decrease in cost estimates. Motion by Pittman, seconded by Freeseman to officially approve the quote from Chatfield Brothers Repair, LLC to refurbish fire engine 252 and sales contract from T-Line Emergency Vehicles to sell engine 251 and purchase a 2006 Pierce Dash pumper per the memorandum of understanding with St. Charles Township. Ayes- 5.

On May 19, June 2, and June 16, the city council held readings, culminating in a public hearing and adoption of Ordinance 1191 on June 16. This ordinance officially vacates a section of the abandoned Thirteenth Avenue in Charles City, Iowa, and was subsequently published in the Charles City Press on June 20. Councilmember Freeseman introduced Resolution 72-25 entitled, "APPROVING CONVEY-ANCE OF A PORTION OF 13TH AVENUE' to CCLP Enterprise, LLC and moved for adoption. Seconded by Freeseman. Resolution duly passed on roll call vote as follows: Starr, Lumley, Freeseman, Pittman, and Knighten.

Woodruff Construction completed the

pool renovation project for a total cost of \$367,426.52. JEO Consulting Group, the consultant on the project, has provided the city with a notice recommending final payment, so the council can now accept the completed project and authorize final payment of \$18,371.33. Councilmember Pittman introduced Resolution 73-25 entitled, "RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE CHARLES CITY POOL RENOVATION PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING FINAL PAYMENT" and moved for adoption. Seconded by Freeseman. Resolution duly passed on roll call vote as follows: Lumley, Freese-

man, Pittman, Knighten, and Starr. Nays: none. Councilmember Pittman introduced Resolution 74-25 entitled, "SETTING A DATE OF MEETING AT WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO APPROVE AN ECONOMIC DEVEL-OPMENT SUPPORT AGREEMENT WITH MAIN STREET CHARLES CITY, INCLUD-ING ANNUAL APPROPRIATION TAX INCREMENT PAYMENT" and moved for adoption. Seconded by Lumley. The hearing on the agreement with Charles City Mainstreet will be held on July 21. Resolution duly passed on roll call vote as follows: Freeseman, Pitt-

man, Knighten, Starr, and Lumley. Nays: none. The SW Bypass TIF area will remain active but will no longer be managed jointly with the county. This change will simplify how the Iowa Department of Management tracks and classifies the urban renewal area. Moving forward, the SW Bypass Urban Renewal Area will operate similarly to the city's other existing urban renewal areas, such as Riverside and South Grand, with direct council oversight. Councilmember Freeseman introduced Resolution 75-25 entitled, "TERMINATING THE JOINT AGREEMENT AND THE JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE SW BYPASS URBAN RENEWAL AREA" and moved for adoption. Seconded by Pittman. Resolution duly passed on roll call vote as follows: Pittman, Knighten, Starr, Lumley, and Freeseman. Nays: none.

City Clerk Lentz reported that the next planning session will be held on July 16, with the regular council meeting to follow on July 21, and the last planning session of July on the 30th. She also updated the council on the roll over to the new online utility payment platform called FrontDesk. Migrating of all utility accounts to the new platform will be starting soon by the city's software company gWorks, and she is hopeful that city hall staff can be trained around the beginning of August. This has been an ongoing issue since the end of May, and staff has been communicating with citizens in person, online, on utility bills, and via signage around the city. Once fully migrated letters will be going out to all utility customers with instructions on how to create a new account on FrontDesk. The utility drop box will also be moving to 507 Clark Street the week of July Mayor Andrews announced that the post-

card mural on the YMCA building is being started by the artist. Pittman stated that Friday from 5-7pm there will be an open house at the Art Center to meet the mural artist. Motion by Freeseman, seconded by Pitt-

Dean Andrews, Mayor Attest: Brittney Lentz, City Clerk

> No. 25062 07/22/25 Charles City Press

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