

Farmers market faces parking challenges

By Winona Whitaker,
Hometown Current

WILLIAMSBURG — The Williamsburg Farmers Market will have to wait until noon to block off parking spaces each Friday, the Williamsburg City Council decided Monday.

Signs for parking on the square during farmers market season say parking is prohibited in six spaces on the north side of the square from 3-6 p.m., said City Manager Aaron Sandersfeld, but the farmers market has been blocking off six spaces on the north side and six spaces on the east side beginning at 7 a.m.

David Fetzer, with the farmers market, and Erin Eichhorn, director of the Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce, explained the situation to the city council.

Tony Curtis had run the farmers market for 14 years. With his exit this year, a group of residents started a five-member committee to run the farmers market: Fetzer, Tanya Clowers, Tom McGarry, Joel Thornburg and Carol Rogers.

“Carol puts out parking cones for us every Friday,” said Fetzer. But having only six spots on State Street presents a challenge for the growing farmers market, he said.

“It has attracted a lot of people,” Fetzer said. With nearly 70 vendors, the market needs the 12 spaces its been blocking for unloading of goods by vendors, and it needs them before 3 p.m.

It would be impossible to get all the cars moved in time for vendors to begin unloading if the spaces can’t be blocked off until 3 p.m. Fetzer said. By putting the cones out at 7 a.m., before anyone parks in the spaces, no one has to find owners of vehicles and ask them to move before vendors can unload.

“We are all arriving about the same time, and with 70 vendors and only 12 unloading spots, patience is required. Especially when a food truck is taking some of our unloading spots,” said Fetzer.



Colleen Carey, left, of Iowa City, sells cookies during Third Fridays in Williamsburg June 20. (Winona Whitaker/Hometown Current)

Eichhorn said that last year the manager of Total Rehab contacted her about clients needing to park on the east side of the square. Eichhorn said the farmers market and Total Rehab worked out an agreement allowing the Total Rehab clients to park between the cones that are set up on Fridays.

“So we kind of took care of those problems,” said Eichhorn.

She’s also sent emails to businesses asking that employees park behind their businesses. She’s arranged parking for vendors — after they unload — at the library and the Presbyterian Church.

“So we’re trying to be proactive,” Eichhorn said. She knows 12 spaces are a lot, but getting 70 vendors unloaded is challenging. It’s hard enough to make the spaces available at noon, but at 3 p.m. is nearly impossible.

“We have a very healthy square,” said Eichhorn. If the farmers market or police started moving cars at 3 p.m., vendors won’t have time to unload. Sometimes finding the drivers is difficult, she said It takes an hour to an hour and a half to get all the cars moved.

According to Williamsburg Code, the police chief can restrict parking for events. “I’ve had no complaints with the cones being set up,” said Police Chief Jason Mochal.

“It’s really up to you guys how to define this,”

Sandersfeld told the city council. The signs say parking is not allowed from 3-7 p.m., he said. The signs were put in when the farmers market first started.

The council could add signs to the other six spaces on the east side of the square and change the hours, said Sandersfeld.

“I think what the farmers market is doing for the town is great,” said Councilwoman Anne Zalenski. But she understands the need for parking for Total Rehab.

The council voted to change the signs to prohibit parking in 12 spaces on the north and east sides of the square beginning at noon on Fridays from May through October. Councilmen Tyler Marshall and Jake Tornholm were absent.

Currently the market runs June through September, but Fetzer said it plans to expand to May through October.

The farmers market also now requires that all product sold at the market be created by the vendors, said Fetzer. “A lot of farmers markets are resale events,” he said, but Williamsburg Farmers Market tries to adhere to the standards of the best farmers markets.

In addition to the parking changes, the council granted permission for the market to put up a vertical sign on the northwest corner of the First Square Park every Friday to advertise the market.

Iowa crop conditions good following hot, wet week

By Cami Koons,
Iowa Capital Dispatch

Corn rated nearly 90% good to excellent during the reporting period from July 21 through July 27, while wet conditions limited farmers’ activities in the field, according to the latest crop progress and condition report.

Iowa crops continue to progress slightly ahead of schedule while above-average temperatures and precipitation caused humid conditions and in some cases, excessive soil moisture.

Across the state, topsoil moisture went from 21% surplus last week to 30% surplus this week. Subsoil moisture conditions also increased to 24% surplus, up from 17% last week.

According to State Climatologist Justin Glisan, the weekly average precipitation was 1.58 inches for the reporting period, which is 0.61 inches above the normal. Some regions of the

state, however, received as much as 7.2 inches during the reporting period and southeastern Iowa had between 3 and 5 inches.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig said with only a couple of days left in July, it “could rank among the top 10 wettest Julys on record.”

“Last week was hot and muggy as a heat dome settled over the Midwest, producing some sweltering heat and humidity,” Naig said in a statement.

The average temperature for the week, at 77.5, was more than 4 degrees above normal. Temperatures throughout the period were between 2 and 6 degrees above the 30-year average.

Tim Kaldenberg grows corn, soybeans and raises cattle north of Albia and said his farm has had good growing conditions and has not been hit by the “extreme rainfall” that other areas have had.

“We even hate to say this out loud, but it has been very nice growing conditions,” Kaldenberg said.

Kaldenberg said in an interview with Iowa Capital Dispatch July 22, the crops in his region “had the nicest looking grow.”

“We’re so used to that not being the case,” Kaldenberg said. “So we’re just very thankful for that this year.”

Kaldenberg and his family were awarded the Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in early July for their operation’s dedications to soil health, water quality and community engagement.

Kaldenberg said the majority of his corn has been pollinated and his soybeans are flowering. He also said pasture conditions were good, and the main challenge he’s had is getting his hay to dry.

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July 17, 2025
The Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present: Jacki Bolen, Jason Roudabush, and Jeff Tindle. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve agenda. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve July 14, 2025, board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve July 18, 2025, payroll for \$328,339.71. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Marty Wymore, Region 6, met with the board to request annual appropriation for FY27. Wymore stated \$912,000 has been spent on funding housing repairs. This is funded by county and state funding. There has been a total of 19 projects, of which 4 were for multi-family properties and 15 were for rehab projects on single-family dwellings. Wymore stated he currently has 35 applications for single-family rehab projects. Region 6 is requesting \$22,890 for county contribution in FY27. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve Resolution #2026-5 Region 6 Housing Trust Fund contribution for FY27. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-5
A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE REGION 6 HOUSING TRUST FUND POWESHIEK COUNTY CASH CONTRIBUTION FY27
WHEREAS the Region 6 Housing Trust Fund can apply for \$455,199 of Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) State Housing Trust Funds if the trust fund secures \$113,800 of local contributions, and WHEREAS the per capita state share for Poweshiek County is \$91,560 if \$22,890 of local assistance is secured, and

Attest: Melissa Eilander, County Auditor
Board received request from Treasurer, Jennifer Anderson, to appoint Jen Stowell as her compensation board representative to serve a term until July 1, 2026. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve the appointment of Jen Stowell as Poweshiek County Treasurer compensation board representative. 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Board received a request from the District Court Administrator to utilize a room on the second floor of the courthouse, which houses all court services, for a new law clerk, and requested the county to install a lock on the door to this room. Board looked at the room & door on the second floor and felt the county would be able to install said lock as requested. Board will work with maintenance to get this work completed.
Bolen stated last Friday that she attended a meeting for workforce and housing in Poweshiek County. This group will work on collecting data on housing needs and plan to meet once per month to discuss the data collected and how to improve the housing in the county.
Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush at 10:07 a.m. to adjourn.
Melissa Eilander,
Poweshiek County Auditor
Jeff Tindle, Chairman

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Probate No. ESPR020001
THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT POWESHIEK COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN CASEY PIERCE, Deceased.
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of **John Casey Pierce**, Deceased, who died on or about July 15, 2025: You are hereby notified that on the 23rd day of July, 2025, the last will and testament of John Casey Pierce, deceased, bearing date of the 25th day of October, 2021, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Charlotte Ann Pierce was appointed executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.
Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.
Dated This 23rd day of July, 2025.
/s/ Charlotte Ann Pierce
Charlotte Ann Pierce,
Executor of Estate
301 Carl St.
Deep River, IA 52222
AT0005175
ICIS PIN No:

Tim D. McMeen, ICIS PIN No: AT0005175
Attorney for executor
Firm Name: Harned & McMeen
Address: PO Box 267
Marengo, IA 52301
Date of second publication the 8th day of August, 2025.

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