



March 2016

Board of Supervisors



Paul Toot
Chair



Rick Sanders
Vice-Chair



Wayne Clinton

Story County, Iowa

900 6th Street
515-382-7200
Nevada, Iowa 50201

Our Story

Volume 3—Issue 1

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State of the County

Paul Toot, Chair of the Board of Supervisors

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve you as a member of the Story County Board of Supervisors. As Chair of the Board this year, I am afforded the opportunity to work with two committed and dedicated colleagues in Wayne Clinton and Rick Sanders. Both Rick and I are in our second terms as Board members. Wayne is nearing completion of his fourth and what will be his last term since he has decided not to seek re-election this year. For nearly 16 years, Wayne Clinton has brought his unending energy and dedication to Story County and has, and will continue to, shape our future. His leadership both locally as well as throughout the state and nationally will leave some pretty big shoes to fill.

Together, the three of us know that good policy and responsible governance is important, and we come together for the good of Story County. Collectively, we focus our energies to making this County a great place for all of us to live, work, and play.

2015 brought another year of significant progress and milestones for Story County. Our 250-plus employees are highly talented and dedicated, serving the citizens of Story County with over 2,500 years of combined service. While we have mandates from the State that we must provide, we continue to look for innovative solutions to provide these services at the highest quality possible. We make strategic decisions that increase our ability to provide services in line with priorities that we've identified, not simply business as usual. We tackle our challenges and make major investments to provide the foundation of our next generations.

The Board of Supervisors has both legislative and administrative powers and is the policy-making body for Story County government. We adopt legislation and policies for department operations, set priorities, allocate resources and maintain budgetary control. In this capacity, we held 52 total meetings last year, considering nearly 900 items before the Board. Presenting the inaugural Citizen of the Year Award to Mayor Wallace Loney of McCallsburg and former YSS CEO George Bellitsos highlighted one of our best meetings of 2015. Given annually, we developed this program to award to Story County residents who perform meritorious service above and beyond what would be expected of a citizen. Their efforts demonstrate creativity, vision, leadership, and citizenship by providing service to programs and activities that positively impact the welfare of the citizens in Story County.

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Visit us online at www.storycountyiowa.gov

Elected Officials



Sheriff
Paul Fitzgerald



Recorder
Stacie Herridge



County Attorney
Stephen Holmes



Treasurer
Renee Twedt



Auditor
Lucy Martin



Property Taxes Due in March

A Message from Treasurer Renee Twedt

Story County Treasurer, Renee M. Twedt, would like to remind Story County property owners that the second half of the fiscal 2015 – 2016 **property taxes are due on or before March 31, 2016. Penalty of 1½% attaches April 1, 2016.**

Property tax statements were mailed out in August 2015. By law, all property owners are mailed a tax statement – even if they pay taxes through an escrow account. Property owners who pay taxes through escrow accounts or other third party arrangements can consider the tax statement FYI. Anyone with doubts about their property tax obligation should check with their bank or mortgage company, or call this office at 515-382-7330.

Mailed payments must be post marked on or before March 31, 2016. Remember dropping it in the mail box does not guarantee a postmark. **It is very important that the payment coupon from the property tax statement accompany all payments.**

For the convenience of commuters and others unable to make it to our office during normal business hours, the Story County Treasurer's Office will have extended hours on Thursday, March 31, 2016. **We will open at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 6:00 p.m. Our office now has an outdoor drop box outside the Administration Building at 900- 6th Street, Nevada, IA, for your convenience. However payments placed in this after March 31st will require penalty.**

Anyone with questions can call the Treasurer's Office at 515-382-7330 or visit our websites at **www.storycountyiowa.gov** and **www.iowatreasurers.org**.

Paying on line only costs \$0.40 cents when you pay by E-check!!

The cost is less than a postage stamp!!

We are pleased to offer payments by Discover Card, MasterCard and Visa or debit card in our office as well as on line at www.iowatreasurers.org . Additional fees will apply-but you know the fee before agreeing to the payment. Other Websites with useful information for Story County property owners include www.storyassessor.org and www.storycountyiowa.gov.

Visit us online at **www.storycountyiowa.gov**



Election Officials Wanted

Elections are only possible because of people like you. If you're interested in serving as an Election Official, now's the time to sign up. We're currently looking for community-minded citizens ready to roll up their sleeves and help make a difference by working at the polls on Election Day. Would you like to earn some extra money? When there is an election in Story County, we need people to staff the polling places. We are always looking for individuals who would be interested in being election officials.

Iowa state law requires each election official to be a registered voter. You must also be a resident of Story County. Election officials are typically registered with a party but this is not a requirement, except in the case of precinct chairpersons.

Qualified high school students may also be appointed as election officials. To qualify, you must be a US citizen of 17 or older, enrolled full-time in high school, and have the written permission of both your principal and your parent/legal guardian. For more information, please contact the Auditor's Office.

Election officials attend a school of instruction before each election which usually lasts two to three hours. These sessions are normally held the week prior to the election. Additional training is available.

On election day, election officials arrive at a polling place about an hour before the polls open and remain at the polling place for about an hour after the polls close. There are at least three election officials at every polling place. The election workday ranges from 10 to 16 hours depending on the election. In some instances, there is also the option of working a half-day.

Qualifications

- ◆ Registered to vote in Story County
- ◆ Not be an opposed candidate or closely related to any opposed candidate on the ballot
- ◆ Have energy and stamina
- ◆ Have good reading and listening skills and legible handwriting
- ◆ Enjoy people and service to others
- ◆ Willing to attend a training
- ◆ Willing to accept a small payment for a BIG service

What Does an Election Official Do?

Set up the polling place before the polls open

- Set up the voting equipment
- Check that voters are qualified to vote
- Instruct voter how to properly use the voting equipment
- Close the polling place
- Report the votes electronically after the polls close
- Complete paperwork and clean up polling area

Compensation

Election officials are paid **\$10.00/hour** for their work at the polls and for time spent at the school of instruction. Election officials who chair polling places are paid **\$10.50/hour**. Mileage is also paid at 50 cents per mile when travel exceeds five miles. Use of personal cell phones for election business on Election Day is reimbursable.

Upcoming Scheduled Elections

2016

June 7: [Primary Election](#)

November 8: [General Election](#)

For More Information

To apply online, visit Story County's website at:

<https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/index.aspx?nid=559>

Or if you are viewing this as a .pdf online you can click [HERE](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the Auditor's Office at (515) 382-7210.



April is National County Government Month

Come help
Story County
celebrate National
County
Government
Month in April!

Tuesday, April 6th

Open House

9 am until 10 am (900 6th Street,
Nevada)

Board of Supervisors Meeting
Story County Administration Building
from *Proclamation Establishing April
as National County Government
Month and County Day of
Recognition for Service*

Check us out on Facebook and
Twitter for our weekly facts
throughout the month of April!

Story County will celebrate National County Government Month (NCGM) during the month of April to showcase how the county is building a safe and secure community by managing justice systems, bolstering economic opportunities, responding to natural disasters and facilitating emergency management response. The theme for this year's celebration of NCGM is "Safe and Secure Counties." Story County is proud of the programs and services provided to our residents. Counties across the United States help keep American communities safe and secure.

We encourage all county residents to take advantage of National County Government Month outreach events to learn how the county can assist you and your loved ones. Since 1991 the National Association of Counties (NACo) has encouraged counties across the country to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of counties.



NATIONAL

COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
MONTH



April • 2016

Celebrate...

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

April 10 - 16, 2016

The Story County Sheriff's Office Communications Division is commanded by Dina M. McKenna with eleven telecommunicators supervised by Operations Manager Nic Briseno. The communications center is the primary answering point for law enforcement, fire and medical calls in the 576 square mile county.

Telecommunicators are skilled professionals handling calls for service from citizens as well as 13 fire/medical agencies, four law enforcement agencies and five ambulance services. They handle incoming calls from the six law enforcement lines, four land based 911 lines and three wireless 911 lines. Telecommunicators are trained as emergency medical dispatchers providing pre-arrival medical assistance in advance of medical personnel arrival and receive continuing education to ensure the best possible service to the citizens of Story County.

The Story County Sheriff's Office is part of a multi-agency public service network with Ames Police Department and the ISU Department of Public Safety. This partnership between agencies allows interoperable communications and a shared commitment to citizens through continuous upgrade and maintenance of equipment with radio, phones (administrative and 911), an CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch). Some future plans on the horizon are upgrades to the public safety network text to 911 and researching radio systems.



Telecommunicators are some of the most dedicated, hard working, caring and compassionate people! They have very difficult stressful positions. Please take some time to reach out to them during Telecommunicators Week to celebrate THEM!

Each year, the second full week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. It was first conceived by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County (Calif.) Sheriff's Office in 1981 and was observed only at that agency for three years.

Members of the Virginia and North Carolina chapters of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) became involved in the mid-1980s. By the early 1990s, the national APCO organization convinced Congress of the need for a formal proclamation. Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) introduced what became H.J. Res. 284 to create "National Public Safety

Telecommunicator Week." According to Congressional procedure, it was introduced twice more in 1993 and 1994, and then became permanent, without the need for yearly introduction. The official name of the week when originally introduced in Congress in 1991 was "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week." In the intervening years, it has become known by several other names, including "National Public-Safety Telecommunications Week" and "International Public Safety Telecommunicators Week."



Citizen of the Year Award

Nominations for 2016 Citizen of the Year Award Now Being Accepted!

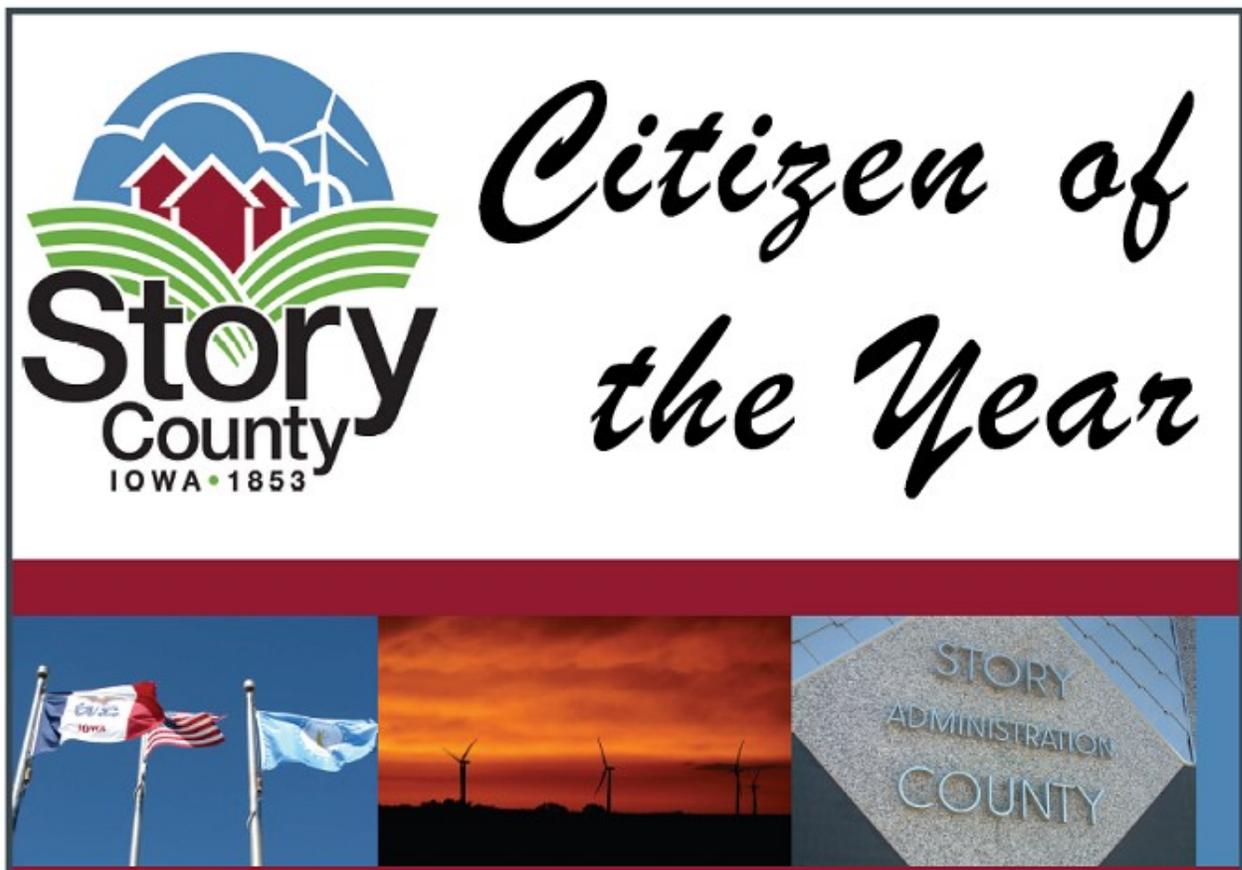
The Story County Citizen of the Year Award is given annually to residents of Story County who perform meritorious service above and beyond what would be expected of a citizen.

Their efforts demonstrate creativity, vision, leadership, and citizenship by providing service to programs and activities that positively impact the welfare of the citizens of Story County, Iowa. This extraordinary service is either through their regular vocation or in the community outside their vocation, or a combination of both.

Nominations are being accepted through March 18, 2016.

Nomination forms are available at www.storycountyiowa.gov or by contacting Story County at 515-382-7247 or email at lharter@storycountyiowa.gov. Please submit nomination forms to Citizen of the Year Award, c/o County Outreach and Special Projects Manager, Story County Administration, 900 6th Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201.

Current County employees and County Elected Officials are not eligible.



Visit us online at www.storycountyiowa.gov

Important Resources



24-Hour Crisis Line 844-258-8858

A 24 hour crisis phone line is now available within the Central Iowa Community Services (CICS) Region including the counties of: Boone, Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jasper, Madison, Marshall, Poweshiek, Story, Warren. The provider of this service is Foundation 2 located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The crisis line phone number is 844-258-8858. This service is available to anyone in the CICS Region.

Foundation 2 will assist the caller in addressing their immediate crisis and will provide callers with information to access emergency services, inpatient behavioral health services, and outpatient mental health services as needed. Foundation 2 will also contact local law enforcement via law enforcement's non-emergency phone number if immediate assistance is needed. Feel free to distribute the crisis phone line number. Story County's local contact about this service is Karla Webb with Central Iowa Community Services - Story County Office. Karla may be contacted at 515-663-2945, and is located at the Human Services Center in Ames—126 South Kellogg Avenue (Suite 001).



**Central Iowa
Community
Services**

- Serving the Counties of
- Boone
 - Franklin
 - Hardin
 - Hamilton
 - Jasper
 - Madison
 - Marshall
 - Poweshiek
 - Story
 - Warren

**24 HOUR
CRISIS LINE
844-258-8858**

www.cicsmhds.org



**Youth & Shelter
Services, Inc.**

Helping the Next Generation Soar to a Brighter Future!

WEBSITE: <http://www.yss.ames.ia.us/>



Central Iowa

WEBSITE: <http://www.namici.org/resources/>



MID-IOWA COMMUNITY ACTION

Helping People. Changing Lives. Building Communities.

WEBSITE: <http://www.micaonline.org/>

Community Resource Guide

www.storycountyresourceguide.org

Visit us online at www.storycountyiowa.gov

Story County, Iowa Alerts Registration



Story County has transitioned from the Code Red emergency alert system to Story County Iowa Alerts. To get these critical messages on your cell phone and email, you will need to register devices at the Story County Alert website. Story County Iowa Alerts has loaded phone numbers from the white pages, but we don't have your cell phone numbers or email address.

Get connected by using the link below to register these devices and personalize what you get for messages. Once you've got your devices registered, then you get to decide from which communities you want to get messages. Don't forget to get messages for the town where you work, where your children go to school, or where you may have elderly relatives. Finally, you can identify special needs you may have to emergency responders or register to get messages directly from participating school districts.

It's easy, just go to the link below and fill-in or check the boxes.

Follow this link to Story County Iowa Alert registration:



**Register for Story County, Iowa Alerts.
Watch this YouTube video for step-by-step
instructions!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XjxvCc0cEM&feature=youtu.be>

News from Veterans Affairs



Brett McLain Appointed to Mental Health and Disability Services Commission

Governor Terry Branstad has re-appointed Brett McLain to serve on the Mental Health and Disability Services Commission. He will start his second term on May 1, 2016.

The Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) Commission is the state policy-making body for the provision of services to persons with mental illness, intellectual disabilities or other developmental disabilities, or brain injury.

The Commission currently consists of eighteen voting members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. Commission members are appointed on the basis of interest and experience in the fields of mental health, intellectual disabilities or other developmental disabilities, and brain injury, and to ensure adequate representation from persons with disabilities and individuals who have knowledge concerning disability services. The Commission is required to meet at least four times year.

Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense Commemorate Vietnam War

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs is partnering with the Department of Defense to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. They will be recognizing and thanking Vietnam Veterans for their service and sacrifice by providing two events each year.



The first recognition ceremony will be conducted on Tuesday, March 29th, 2016. It will begin at 2pm, at the US Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System Auditorium, Building 4, 2nd floor. The medical center is located at 3600 30th Street.

This ceremony will recognize all attending Vietnam Veterans who will be presented with a

Vietnam Veteran commemorative lapel pin. The ceremony is being conducted in conjunction with the quarterly Veterans Town Hall (2pm – 4pm).

Following this kick-off event, Vietnam Veteran commemorative lapel pins will be available anytime for Vietnam Veterans at the Des Moines VA Central Iowa Healthcare System and the Des Moines VA Regional Office. We are inviting all Vietnam Veterans to be recognized during this Department of Defense 50th year Vietnam War Commemorative Period.

Presentation of Second Army Good Conduct Medal

Brett McLain Director of Story County Veterans Affairs presented Gary Boekhout with his second Army Good Conduct Medal on Tuesday March 8, 2016 at the Story County Veterans Affairs Office in Ames.

Gary Boekhout served in the US Army from 1995 to 2001 a 2nd Good Conduct Medal was earned in 2001. Because he received an early out he just never received this medal until now. On behalf of the president United States and the United States Army Brett McLain thanked Gary Boekhout for his service in the United States Army and to our country.

Please contact Brett McLain, Director of Story County Veterans Affairs 956-2626 if you feel you're entitled to a medal you earned from the US Military but for one reason or another you just never received it.



For more information on these events, please contact Brett McLain, Director Story County Veterans Affairs at 515-956-2626 or bmclain@storycountyiowa.gov.

National Flood Insurance Program

Information for Property Owners



What is a Flood?

Flood insurance covers direct physical loss caused by "flood." In simple terms, a flood is an excess of water on land that is normally dry. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) defines a flood as:

A flood is: A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of two or more acres of normally dry land area or of two or more properties (at least one of which is your property) from:

- ◆ *Overflow of inland or tidal waters;*
- ◆ *Unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source;*
- ◆ *Mudflow*²; or*
- ◆ *Collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or similar body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels that result in a flood as defined above.*

* Mudflow is defined as "A river of liquid and flowing mud on the surfaces of normally dry land areas, as when earth is carried by a current of water..."

My bank said I'm in the floodplain and have to buy insurance.

I don't believe it. What can I do? If a lending institution is federally regulated or making federally-backed loans, it must review the NFIP maps to determine if the building is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The SFHA is the area expected to be inundated by a 1% annual chance flood. If the bank makes such a determination, it must require the borrower to purchase flood insurance. Please note, these determinations are purely in/out and do not involve the vertical elevation of the structure. If you disagree with the lending institution's determination, you may request that FEMA review the lender's determination. FEMA will then review the information that the lending institution used, and issue a letter that states whether we agree with the determination.

Your request must be postmarked no later than 45 days after the lending institution notifies you of the flood insurance requirement and the submittal must be complete. The request must include all of the information and fees listed in the Letter of Determination Review (LODR) information sheet. If

your request is postmarked after the 45-day limit has expired, or if we do not receive all of the information within the 45-day limit, FEMA will not be able to review the determination and the flood insurance requirement stands.

FEMA's responses to these requests are called LODRs, and offer two basic dispositions: (1) the lender's determination stands or (2) it is overturned. FEMA's determination is based on the technical data submitted. If the

lender's evidence is inconclusive or the request is incomplete FEMA can disagree with the lender's determination. FEMA's response does not amend or revise the NFIP map for your community. It only states that FEMA agrees or disagrees with your lender's determination. Occasionally a lending institution may require insurance if it determines that a part of your lot is in the SFHA. The NFIP does not insure land. However, even if you submit evidence that your building is out of the floodplain, the bank may still decide to require insurance on your building.



For more information about the floodplain in the unincorporated areas of Story County, please contact the County Outreach and Special Projects Manager at 515-382-7247 or email at lharter@storycountyiowa.gov.

Maps are available for viewing in the Administration Building and also available (in general format) on the Story County Assessor's website at www.storyassessor.org.

Other flood-related information is also available both at the County and on the website at www.storycountyiowa.gov. We also have Elevation Certificates available for new development (for the unincorporated areas of Story County) and older Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) from 1983.

A great resource to find an official flood map, access flood hazard products and understand flood risk is [FEMA's Flood Map Service Center](https://msc.fema.gov/portal) at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>.

On that site, you can search by address and use other tools to find your property.

Visit us online at www.storycountyiowa.gov

Flood Insurance Deadline



Upcoming Deadline for Purchasing Flood Insurance Coverage Using The Newly Mapped Procedure (NMP)

If a person owns a property that has been “newly” mapped into a special flood hazard area by a FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that became effective between October 1, 2008 and March 31, 2015, they may potentially be eligible to purchase flood insurance using the Newly Mapped Procedure (NMP) rating option.

The benefit of the NMP option is that rates are equal to those for the lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) rates for the first 12 months following the map revision. After the initial year, the rate begins to transition to a full-risk rate with an annual rate increase of no more than 18% each year.

The NMP rating option may be especially beneficial to those who own their home (and are therefore not subject to a lender requirement to purchase flood insurance) but are thinking of selling it in the next few years. That is because, in addition to the lower rates, a policy written under the NMP is assignable to new owners as long as it is in-place and there is no lapse in coverage.

In order to take advantage of this option, the policy must be effective by April 1, 2016. Because most flood insurance policies have a 30-day mandatory waiting period, new policies would need to be submitted before March 1 (i.e., February 29th or sooner). Note that, in order to be eligible for this option, the property must not currently be covered by a flood insurance policy.

More information can be found in a fact sheet on the Newly Mapped Procedure (<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/104200>) and Section 10 of the Flood Insurance Manual, (<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/110085>).

For more information about flood insurance or to locate an insurance agent who sells flood insurance in their area, go to www.FloodSmart.gov.

POLICIES FOR BUILDINGS NEWLY MAPPED INTO A HIGH-RISK AREA RATING OPTION INFORMATION FOR INSURANCE AGENTS TO EASE THE TRANSITION >>>



FEMA



New Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) can show that the risk of flooding has changed. And for some property owners, a change in risk means new flood insurance requirements. In recent years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has sought to ease the financial impact of a map change by extending eligibility for a lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) if a building outside of the high-risk area called a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is newly mapped into the SFHA.

Visit us online at www.storycountyiowa.gov

State of the County

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To increase efficiency and streamline communication channels, we created two new positions in the Board of Supervisors' office. The position of Director of External Operations and County Services was filled with the transfer of Deb Schildroth from her position as Community Services Director. Alissa Wignall's responsibilities were increased as she assumed the position of Director of Internal Operations and Human Resources.

As we started budget discussions a year ago this time, we were made aware that the long-standing flex benefit allowing employees to "cash out" the money put towards the cost of insurance could not legally continue as it did not qualify as meeting the affordability test. We re-evaluated the practice, amended our policy, and offered a more cost-effective insurance plan for employees and their families.

In early 2015, Story County started work on our first comprehensive plan looking forward to 2036. With the help of a consulting team to guide us through this planning project called From Cornerstone to Capstone, or simply the C2C Plan, we started by gathering public input early last spring. We asked – what are the important reasons you choose to live and/or work in Story County, how will our quality of life change over the coming five years, and much more. Thank you to all of you that have taken time to complete surveys, attend open houses, read draft documents, and more over the past 12 months. The schedule brings the C2C Plan to the Board for action in June this summer. It will serve as Story County's living guide for growth and change in Story County and the involvement of residents, business owners, and other stakeholders is essential to the overall creation and implementation of the Plan.

This past fall, the Board of Supervisors responded to the Iowa Department of Transportation's proposed alternatives for the US Highway 30 Planning Study for the stretch of that road from Ames to Nevada. We expressed strong opposition to the DOT regarding potential permanent closures of crossings at 580th, 590th and 600th Avenues and continue to encourage the DOT to retain access points for businesses

and the farming community that use the corridor on a daily basis.

Our economy remains strong and growing. Throughout 2015, we continued to identify programs and to positively impact Story County, whether that meant building our workforce, helping communities plan for future investments, or provide financial assistance to special projects. We forged collaborative partnerships to ensure Story County remains economically viable, sustainable, diverse and welcoming.

Governor Terry Branstad recognized Story County as a Home Base Iowa community in 2015. We designed the Welcome Home to Story County relocation package to supplement efforts of the State's program, providing up to \$2,500 in relocation assistance for a Veteran moving to Story County.

The Board of Supervisors formally adopted the Façade Improvement Grant Program in 2015. This is one of several programs we have put in place to help Story County's smaller communities. In August, Roland was awarded \$892 for a \$4,460 project working on a vacant building, and in Zearing received nearly \$2,000 to help with a \$15,000 project. Over the past three years, we have been able to provide nearly \$650,000 in financial assistance through our Urban Renewal Area program to communities and schools in Story County. Funding for these programs comes from the tax increment financing program we put in place in 2012 with the construction of the 120-plus wind turbines throughout Story County. In Story County, we also provided assistance for several special projects, including:

- Contributing \$10,000 for construction of the pool project in Story City;
- Committing \$80,000 to the Story County Fair Association for the Community Building project;
- Funding \$33,000 to help Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency purchase two new buses; and
- Providing \$100,000 in funding towards improvements at the Ames Municipal Airport.

Upcoming Events

Story County Conservation



As spring approaches, Story County Conservation is pleased to bring you a number of events for all ages and interests. More information on our programs and facilities can be found on the Story County website at www.storycountyiowa.gov. Also keep an eye on our website for Nature Camp information – they fill quickly!

Reptiles

Wednesday, March 16, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
McFarland Park

Come and learn about Iowa's reptiles. We'll discuss the fears and myths that surround the scaly creatures people love to hate. Live animals will be used during this program! Program is family friendly. This program is free and no registration is required.



Make an Animal Mask!

Wednesday, March 16, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
McFarland Park

Looking for a family-friendly activity over spring break? Explore the importance of biodiversity and gear up for the second annual All Species, One Earth event by creating cardboard animal masks with Artist Molly Nagel. Each person will leave with a unique creation showing off a favorite species that we hope you bring to the All Species One Earth event on Saturday, April 23. All Species One Earth is a celebration of biodiversity that will include educational exhibits at the Ames Public Library and a parade in Bandshell Park. Contact Story County Conservation to learn more. This program is co-sponsored by Story County Conservation Partners. Fee of \$7 with registration is required by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 11.

Partners Photo Contest Submissions

March 7 - 25
McFarland Park

Do you enjoy taking pictures in Story County parks? Story County Conservation Partners sponsors an annual photo contest to encourage the public to visit and photograph the beauty and recreational activities in SCC parks and natural areas. Categories include landscape, flora and fungi, fauna, and connecting people and recreation. A complete list of rules and the entry form is available at www.storycountyconservation.org or at the conservation center. Contest photos may be submitted March 7 - 25 at the conservation center; each photographer may submit up to three entries. Youth entries (18 years or younger) will be judged separately. Prizes will be awarded at the Partners Spring Festival at McFarland Park on May 1! Photos from last year's contest can be found on our Facebook page.

O.W.L.S.: Sacajawea and the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Beverly Hinds, Sgt. Floyd Tri-State Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail Foundation
Tuesday, May 3

Sakakawea, Sagagawea, "Bird Woman", or "Janey": Shoshoni Girl/Woman of History - however you pronounce it or spell it, this strong young woman had a unique place in the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803-1806. What is myth? What is fact? What is fiction? One Sacagawea, or two? Guide, interpreter, wife, or slave? A picture of a fascinating young woman emerges from what the past 200 years of records have told the world about her. *Register for lunch by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 29. Menu: Taco bar, rice, beans, and watergate salad.*

Story County, Iowa

900 6th Street
Nevada, Iowa



Story County, Iowa
or
Joseph Story



@storycountyiowa



Story County, Iowa



Visit us at
www.storycountyiowa.gov

State of the County

From Page Twelve

While quality of life is often measured by our economic prosperity, our natural resource assets also significantly affect our quality of life in Story County. Natural resources are of value to our communities, the county, region, state, and nation. So, it was with much excitement, after planning for decades, that we celebrated the grand opening of the redesigned, redeveloped and expanded Dakins Lake in northeast Story County. Dakins Lake is now a 103-acre park with nearly 40 campsites ranging from sites with full hookups to primitive camping sites and it is one of many exciting projects happening in and around Zearing.

For a number of years, we have been working to plan and complete improvements in key watersheds throughout Story County. In 2015, we began implementation of the first phase of strategies identified to positively affect the watershed draining into Hickory Grove Park. This first phase of the watershed improvements focused on stream channel maintenance and stabilization, pond construction, and culvert replacement. More work continues this year and into next. We remain a member of the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority, and I'm still serving in the capacity of the chair of that group. We are very proud of the projects and funding opportunities stemming from the 2014

management plan we developed. We are collaborating with the ISU Research Park and the City of Ames with current expansion plan. With the phenomenal growth of the Research Park, Story County, through Conservation, plays a key role. We will own and maintain the green spaces and trail systems and create a state-of-the-art national model to demonstrate best management practices.

Much of our success can be attributed to the step we took nearly four years ago to put together a strategic plan. This past August, we adopted our newest strategic plan to guide us over the next three years, serving as our roadmap to define our priorities, strategic directions, and concrete goals and objectives. Looking forward to 2016, Story County remains strong and committed to providing sound and sustainable service delivery that promotes quality of life for all our residents. We are guided by a great foundation set forth by our strategic planning efforts, and in June, we will place the capstone as we consider the C2C Plan, with projects to prioritize and work to implement to continue to achieve our goals.

I am confident that, all of us, working together, will respond to the challenges that 2016 and beyond may bring. And, our strong spirit will continue to build a better Story County for today and even greater for our future generations to come.

