



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Administration Building
900 6th Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201
Phone: (515) 382-7200
Web: www.storycountyiowa.gov



ANNUAL REPORT | 2017

SERVICE DELIVERY PROMOTING QUALITY OF LIFE

FIRST

THANK YOU

FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR

On behalf of Supervisors Chitty and Olson, as well as all of Story County's Elected Officials and Staff, I am pleased to present the 2017 Story County Annual Report.

Over the last 12 months we have continued to make good progress on our strategic goals and work programs while maintaining our sound financial footing. In 2017, we produced our fifth balanced budget in a row and continue to find efficiencies and cost saving measures, maintaining our spot as Iowa's lowest per capita spending County.

But, it is important to note that our focus on controlling spending and growth of government has not negatively impacted our services. In fact, the opposite is true. By prioritizing our needs and services, we have substantially increased our funding of the ASSET process (our social safety net), road and bridge maintenance and repair, conservation lands and practices, public safety and economic development activities. We continue to strive to make Story County the most livable area in the Midwest.

Thank you for your interest in our activities. As always, please call me if you have questions or concerns.



Rick Sanders

Chair, Story County Board of Supervisors

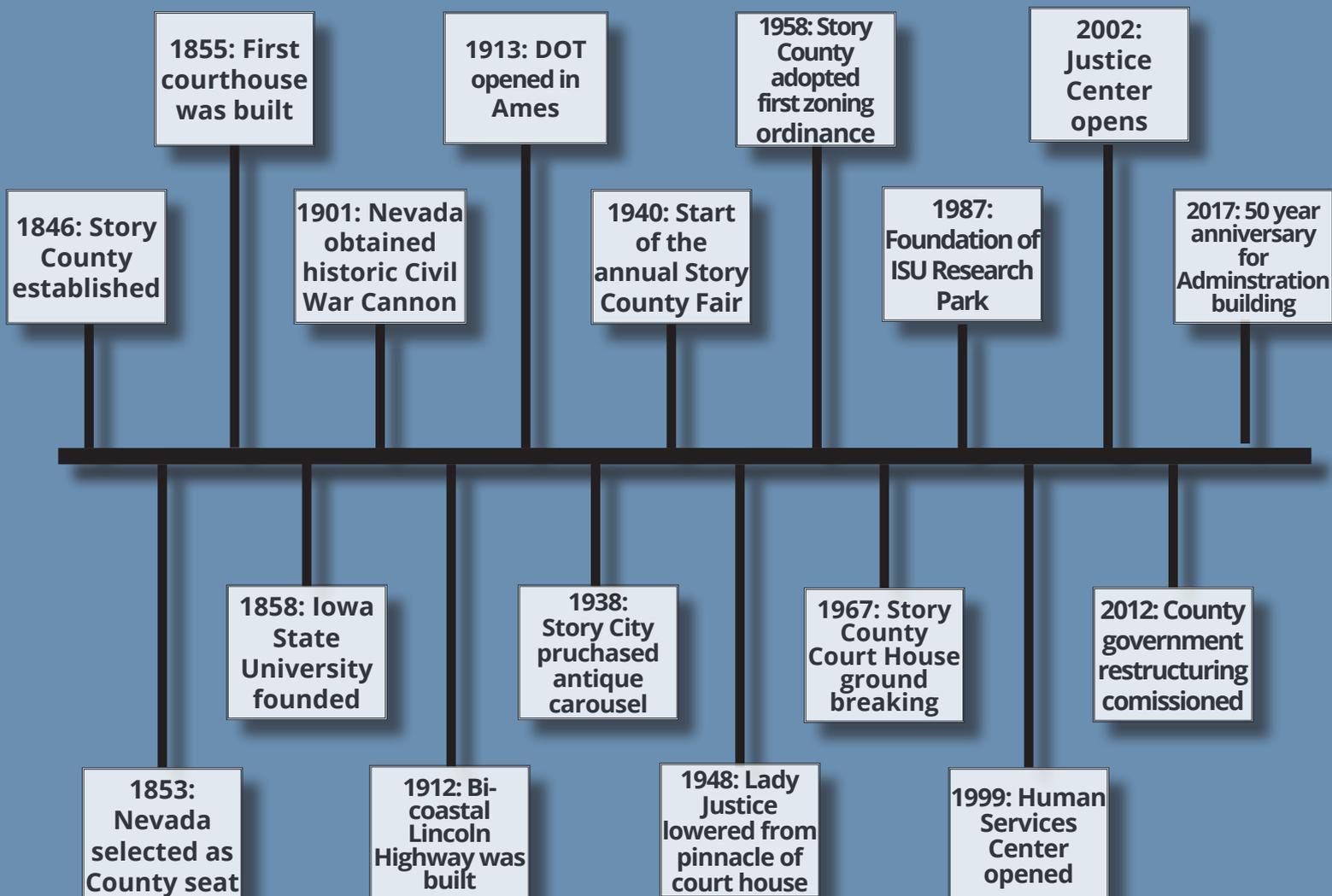
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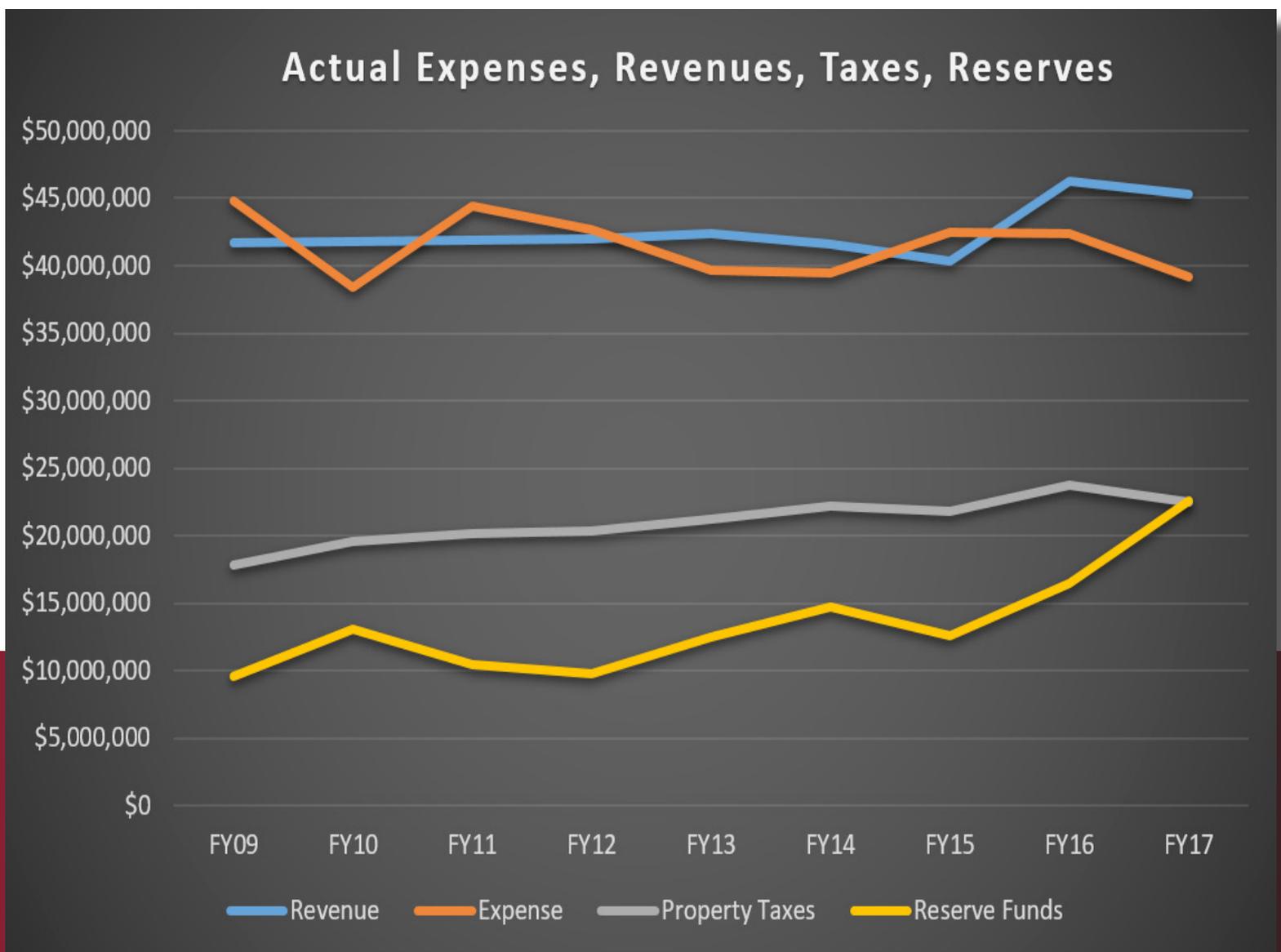
OUR STORY

... SO FAR



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Story County's fiscal position remains outstanding after five consecutive years of approving a balanced budget, controlling actual spending, growing our reserve funds and maintaining a consistent tax base. This has been achieved while increasing funding for the ASSET process; Secondary Roads; addressing futures purchases, necessary building improvements and maintenance projects through annual review and adoption of the County's Capital Improvement Plan; and continuing to invest in our communities with stronger and more robust economic development programming activities. We continue the practice of annually reviewing our Strategic Plan to assure our priorities and budgeting policies remain aligned to continue to achieve success.



Annually, the Story County Auditor's Office prepares a budget summary document to summarize the budgeted revenues and expenses. The report may be viewed online at [Your Government > Board of Supervisors > Budget Information \(www. http://www.storycountyiowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6782\)](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6782).

SUPERVISORS' ACTIONS

REGULAR-SCHEDULED MEETINGS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| TOTAL MEETINGS | |
| 56 | |
| Proclamations and Recognitions | 23 |
| Claims | 26 |
| Consent Items | 524 |
| Public Hearings | 48 |
| Additional Items | 254 |
| Agency Reports | 44 |
| Departmental Reports | 32 |
| Other Reports | 57 |
| TOTAL ITEMS | 1,008 |



Lauris Olson

Rick Sanders

Marty Chitty

OTHER MEETINGS OF THE BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Board of Canvassers | 4 |
| Drainage District Trustees | 15 |
| TOTAL MEETINGS | 19 |



GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD

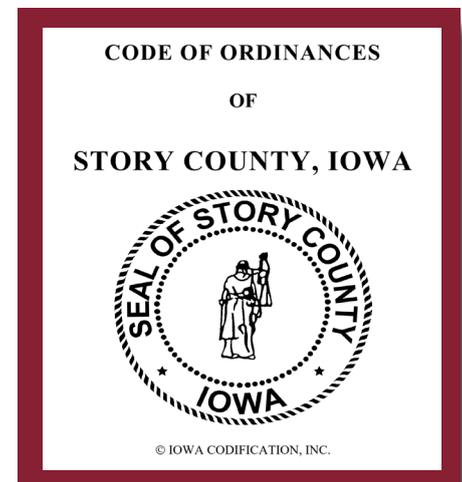
The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) Golden Eagle Award was created to recognize and honor individuals who have provided extraordinary public service to county government. In August 2017, former Supervisor Wayne Clinton, was awarded the Golden Eagle Award. Wayne, who served Story County for 16 years, was nominated for the Golden Eagle Award by former County Supervisor Paul Toot shortly before he passed away in 2016.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ACTION

The Board of Supervisors serves as both the legislative and executive branch of county government, setting policy and administering various county programs.

In 2017, the Board began implementing the C2C Plan, Story County's first comprehensive plan, adopted in 2016. The C2C Plan and Implementation Matrix included a number of action steps addressing regulations and policies under the purview of the Board of Supervisors. Story County enacted new regulations addressing special events and solar farms, and addressed modifications to several areas of the Code of Ordinances. Some of the areas of the code amended include:

- Chapter 83 - Special Events
- Chapter 90 - Adding Human Services Facilities to Conditional Uses
- Chapter 85 - Definitions
- Chapter 86 - District Regulations
- Chapter 90 - Adding solar farm regulations
- Chapter 92 - Administration (C2C Plan Amendments)
- Agritourism Regulations
- Process Submittal and Review Procedures for Subdivision Plats, Conditional Use Permit Applications, and Variance Applications



The Board of Supervisors also adopted revisions to Chapter 45 Animal Control and Welfare. The revised version of Chapter 45 includes new language for animal hoarding. The adopted changes also included new definitions for animal cruelty and neglected and suffering conditions.

To provide assistance to departments and offices when drafting and processing amendments and modifications to the Code of Ordinances, the Board of Supervisors approved the Ordinance Development and Review Guidelines in November 2017.

Every five years, the Code of Iowa requires jurisdictions to re-adopt the Code of Ordinances. During 2017, Story County started on this process, contracting with Iowa Codification to work through this process but also take the next step to provide the County's regulations in a searchable and easy-to-use manner on the County's website.

The Board revisited several internal policies in 2017, including:

- Distracted Driving Policy
- Driver's License and Insurance Coverage Verification Policy
- Revised HIPAA Policies and Procedures and Recovery Plans
- Story County Acceptable Use Policy
- Story County Employee Recognition Policy
- Story County Credit Card Policy
- Revised Violence in the Workplace Policy
- Public Access Defibrillation Policy and Procedures for Administration Building
- Password Policy

CRESTVIEW MOBILE HOME PARK

Crestview was a mobile home park that was developed in the 1950s and is located just outside the Ames city limits on west Lincoln Way. Issues around solid waste, water quality, and titles and taxes have been the focus of several Story County departments especially within the past 24 months. As a result, the Crestview owners decided to close this past fall. Residents were provided assistance to help meet short-term needs as well as locating longer term, stable housing. The next steps of the mobile home park involve proper clean-up and removal of the abandoned mobile homes. The County departments involved are Animal Control, County Attorney's Office, Community Services, Environmental Health, Planning and Development, Sheriff's Office, and Treasurer's Office. Also involved with providing direction and decision-making are the governing boards including the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Health.

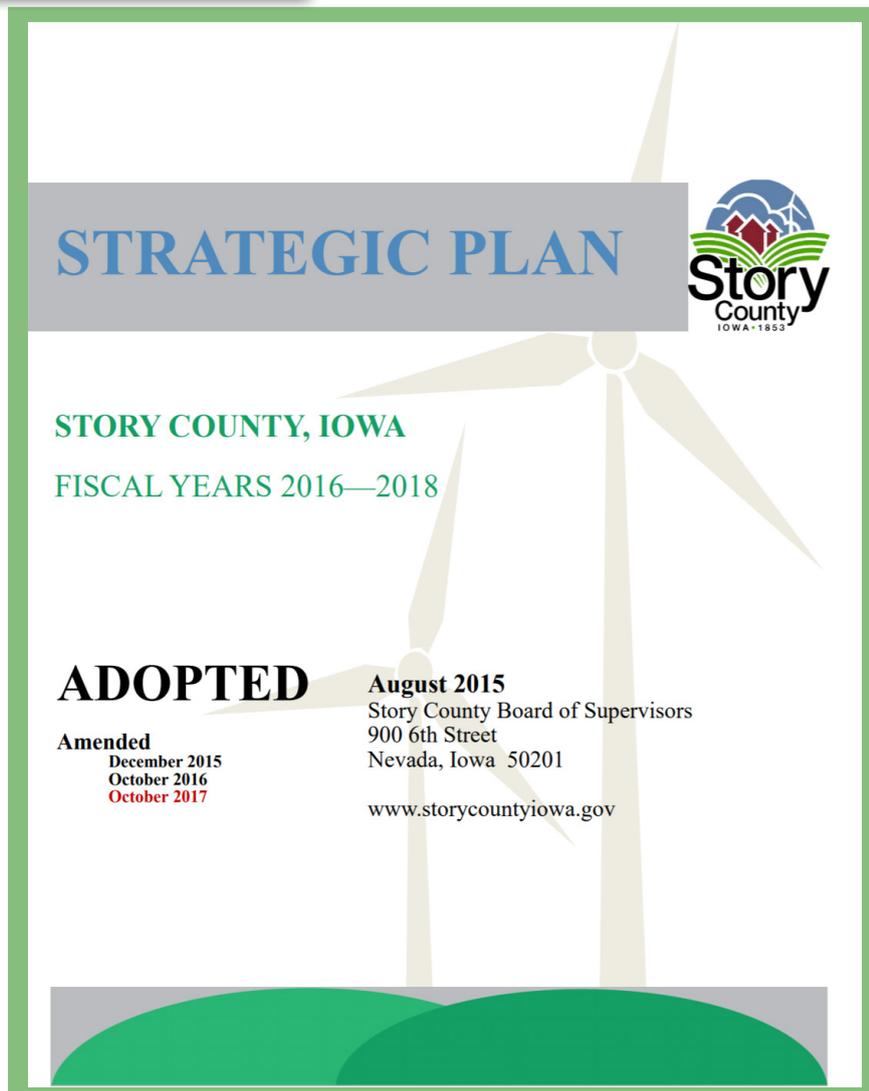


STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

The County's Strategic Plan runs on a fiscal year, with the current Plan guiding us through June 30, 2018. As completed annually, the Board reviewed the Strategic Plan in the fall of 2017 to "check-in" on the roadmap of our priorities, strategic directions and goals and objectives.

Collectively, we are achieving our goals and objective. With this last annual review, we achieved many of the action steps and, for those items not yet realized, work is progressing towards successful implementation.

Story County is set to begin looking forward for the next few years, revisiting the Strategic Plan during spring of 2018.



CORNERSTONE TO CAPSTONE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Looking forward to 2036. That's what the Cornerstone to Capstone (C2C) Plan is all about. Story County has built a solid foundation - the Cornerstone - with planning dating back to the 1950s. In 2016, the Board finished the blueprint - the Capstone - for how we grow and develop over the coming 20 years. In 2017, the Board started working towards goals focused on four core areas identified by County residents.

Story County completed the first annual review of the C2C Plan in 2017. The vast majority of action items identified on the Implementation Matrix are well underway and some were achieved during the first year of the Plan.



Conservation of Natural Resources and Recreation

Aim to conserve natural resources and recreation areas while educating residents on how they affect natural resources.



Land Use

Aim to preserve agricultural land, the County's historic and cultural resources, natural areas, economic and financial health, and open spaces.



Economic Prosperity

Aim for economic growth including recruiting, retaining, and expanding businesses, reviewing regulations to determine their impact on development and providing infrastructure and other resources to promote new development.



Transportation

Aim to maintain roads and bridges before investing in new networks, and improve transportation services for roads, rail, air, and public transportation.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Story County continues the sound practice of planning for capital investments that was implemented in 2014. The Board of Supervisors adopted the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) in March concurrent with adoption of the Fiscal Year 18 budget. The CIP serves as a planning tool and presents meaningful long-range perspective of the County's long-range capital needs. It is an implementation tool for the acquisition, construction, maintenance, and renovation of public facilities, infrastructure, and capital equipment.

A few of the projects undertaken in 2017 include:

- Architectural/Engineering design for Secondary Roads building improvements to be located in Kelley and Roland
- Architectural/Engineering design for improvements at the Story County Animal Shelter
- Construction of the Hickory Grove Campground Shower/Storm Shelter building
- Paving of Grant Avenue from 190th north to Gilbert city limits
- Core switch replacements for IT infrastructure improvements
- Tandem truck purchases
- Praeri Rail Trail extension – purchase of land from Union Pacific Railroad in Zearing
- Paving of 600th Avenue from US Highway 30 north to Lincoln Highway
- Vault toilet at Dakins Lake
- Architectural/Engineering design work for building improvements associated with locating the Crisis Stabilization – Transitional Living Center Program in Ames



COMMUNITY BETTERMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

HOME BASE IOWA

Story County became a Home Base Iowa community in 2015. In 2017, the County reviewed the program guidelines and modified the program to encourage participation. The Welcome Home to Story County Relocation Assistance Program allows up to \$2,500 in relocation assistance to cover items such as moving expenses, purchase of appliances, utility deposits, down-payment assistance (for home purchase), rent deposits, and rent for temporary housing while waiting for permanent housing. Students through DMACC's SCALE (Story County Active Learning Experience) reviewed various incentive packages offered throughout Iowa's HBI communities and provided recommended program modifications approved by the Board of Supervisors.



SCALE AND BEC STUDENTS



Story County recognizes the importance of engaging local businesses with our education system. Programs such as Story County Active Learning Experience (SCALE) and Ames High School's Business Engagement Collaborative (BEC) offer high school students (our future workforce and leaders) opportunities to develop skills and core competencies that will allow them to succeed in future education and workplace endeavors. Story County Conservation and the Story County Board of Supervisors partner with both programs and, as a result, benefit from students' contributions in the following areas:

- Home Base Iowa – program redesign and outreach package development.
- Board of Supervisors – create time links within the weekly Board of Supervisors meeting video that is posted on YouTube.
- Content development and fan base build proposal for YouTube, Instagram and Twitter (reach ages 25 and below).
- Create a partner brochure for businesses/ individuals for volunteer opportunities.
- Promo videos - volunteer program, seasonal staff needs, overview/snapshot of park; create an additional video promoting the high school backpacking trip to play at area high schools.
- Propose and develop other ways to promote Fall Festival beyond Facebook.

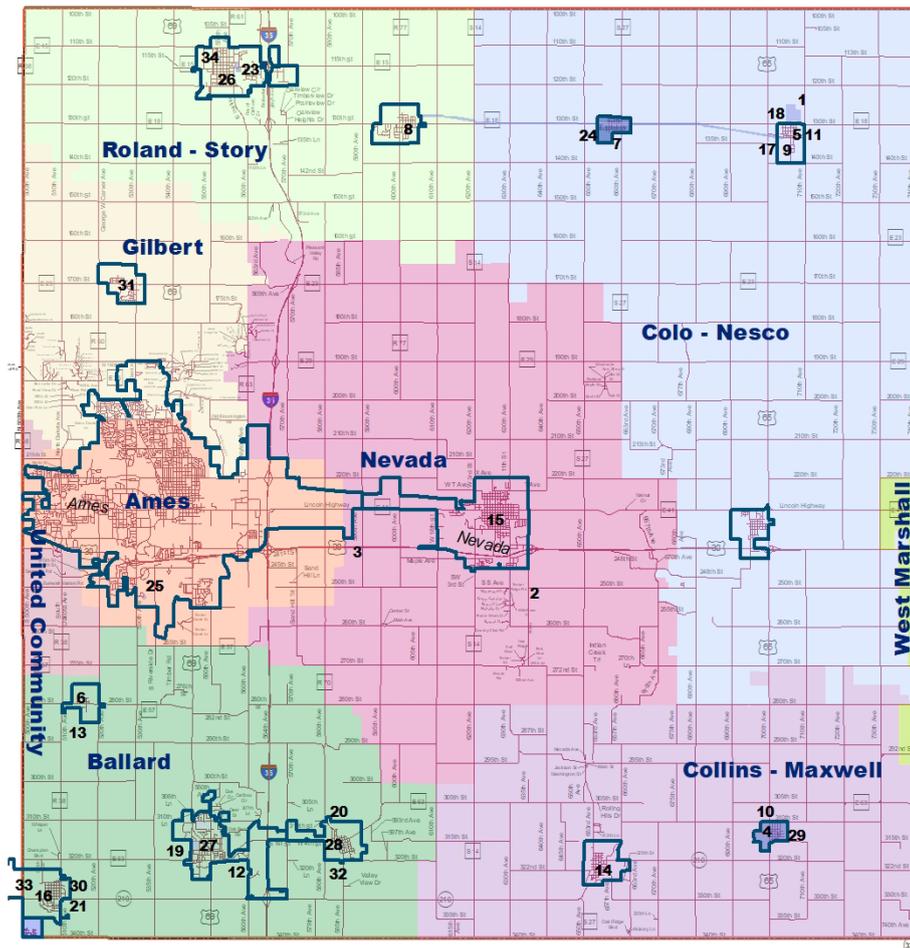
URBAN RENEWAL AREA PROGRAM

Story County established the Urban Renewal Area Program as the formal mechanism in which to receive applications and determine funding awards as applicable using the tax increment financing (TIF) tool. The overall goal of the program was to achieve community improvement.

In 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved awards to the following projects:

- City of Gilbert: Main Street paving and utility reconstruction from Mathews Drive to 545' north of 2nd Street
- City of Cambridge: Utility re-location
- City of Slater: Main Street Revitalization—north and south side of Main Street from Story Street to Marshall Street

- City of Story City: Proposed improvements:
 1. boulevard gateway signage;
 2. new benches and trash receptacles;
 3. addition of bike racks;
 4. building lights; and
 5. history plaques.



Story County Urban Renewal Plan



Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
| Ames School District | County Boundary |
| Ballard School District | Roads |
| Collins - Maxwell School District | City Limits |
| Colo - Nesco School District | |
| Gilbert School District | |
| Nevada School District | |
| North Polk School District | |
| Roland - Story School District | |
| United Community School District | |
| West Marshall School District | |

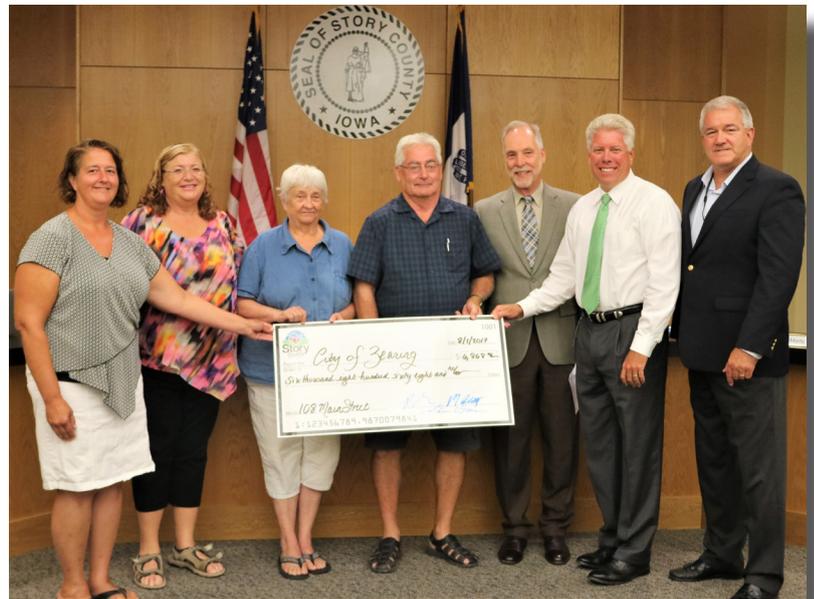


Map amended on July 25, 2017, by the County Outreach and Special Projects Manager.

Since 2013, the Story County Board of Supervisors has invested nearly \$1.3 million in communities and projects throughout Story County through the adopted urban renewal program.

FACADE GRANT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Story County Façade Improvement Grant Program provides financial assistance to the city governments for communities under 2,000 persons (according to the 2010 US Census), working in collaboration with private commercial businesses within their city limits, for façade improvements. In 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved funding requests from the City of Zeoring and City of Cambridge. Story City made a special request to consider their application, and the Board agreed to fund improvements in that community as well.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Story County contracts with the Ames Economic Development Commission to provide economic development planning and workforce development services. To this end, staff with AEDC attends meetings throughout the county to achieve the goals set forth in the contract.

| | YTD – April – November 2017 |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Total Community Contact/Connections | 180 |
| Number of community visits | 82 |
| Number of Project Mtgs. | 37 |
| Supervisor Meetings | 25 |
| City Council Meetings | 25 |

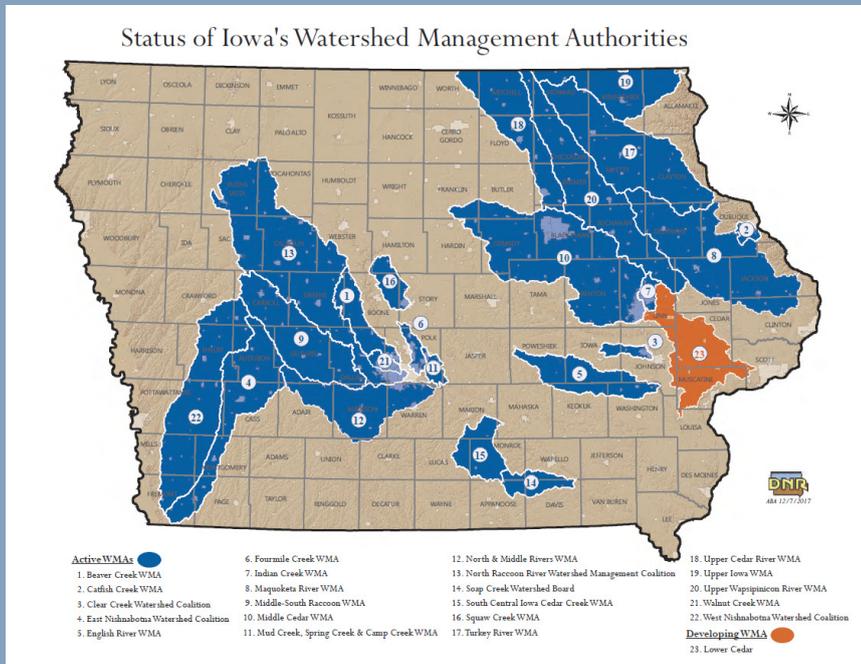
WATER AND CONSERVATION

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

Story County remains active in Watershed Management Authorities (WMA), specifically sitting at the table of the board of directors for the Squaw Creek WMA and the Four-Mile Creek WMA. The Board of Supervisors initiated discussions with jurisdictions lying within the Keigley Branch watershed regarding formation of a new WMA specific to that watershed. Jurisdictions continue to sign on to the endeavor, and a new WMA has emerged from the Board's leadership.

COUNTYWIDE WATERSHED ASSESSMENTS

In early 2017, the Board of Supervisors developed a Request for Proposals to solicit proposals to hire a consulting firm to develop countywide watershed assessments throughout Story County. Through that process, Story County selected EOR to guide Story County through development of comprehensive watershed analysis at the HUC 10 and 12 watershed levels, looking at nutrient loading modeling and implementation strategies. The assessment, expected to be completed in early 2018, is intended to identify watershed-specific goals and develop implementation strategies addressing education, outreach, and water quality improvement goals, and more specifically the water quality improvement objectives dealing with nutrient reduction. Story County is the first county in the state to look at watersheds at the county-wide level.



IOWA HIGHWATER SIGN INITIATIVE

As part of Story County's ongoing efforts to educate citizens about the floodplain, we applied for the Iowa Highwater Sign Initiative, an effort led by the Silver Jackets and the Corps of Engineers to place signage in prominent locations to build local awareness of flood risk and encourage the public to be risk ready. Story County's application was positively received and the County will begin placing signs in 2018.



OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Annually since 2014, the Board of Supervisors approves a Communications Plan serving as a roadmap to encourage participation and focus on what, how, where, and when we communicate so we can inform, educate and engage citizens in Story County. It allows us to better coordinate our messages and tell our stories, and present a cohesive identity to the public. During 2017, Story County took the following steps to achieve the goals in the Communications Plan:

- Celebrated National County Government Month in April
- 50th Anniversary Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Quarterly publication of Our Story newsletter in The Sun
- Citizen of the Year Recognition – Dr. Erwin Klaas
- Booth during the Story County Fair in July
- Ames Day at the Capital Booth in March
- Leadership Nevada – County Government session in December
- Website Refresh project – kicked off in summer 2017 with expected new website beginning April 2018
- Annual quadrant meetings (spring and fall) with local elected officials from school district, city councils, and township trustees
- Monthly radio updates on KHOI



50th Anniversary Groundbreaking Ceremony



2017 Citizen of the Year - Dr. Erwin Klaas



Jeff Scott donating blood at the August 2017 Red Cross Blood Drive.



Cemetery Training



2017 Story County Fair

Story County continued employee recognition and wellness programs, recognizing that the contributions of our employees make the County government serve the citizens in the successful manner in which it does.

Throughout 2017, the Wellness Program offered monthly and quarterly programs and competitions to encourage well-being of employees, and some of these spilled out into the community such as the Red Cross Blood Drives held in May and August, and the Annual Healthiest State Walk.

Employees and their contributions were recognized monthly by the Board at Elected Office/ Department recognition events and county-wide occasions.

The Board of Supervisors supported resources and staff to several special projects

throughout 2017 as well, including:

- Cemetery Training for Township Trustees
- City of Maxwell Comprehensive Planning (Technical Assistance by County and Ames Economic Development Commission staff)
- Financial contributions towards bus shelter in unincorporated Fernald

LOOK FOR US AT THE

★ STORY COUNTY FAIR ★

JULY 21-26
220 H Ave. Nevada, IA 50201
Right next to the Rabbit/Poultry Barn

Come stop by our booth! We are here to answer any questions you may have, as well as provide information about what we do for Story County.

Share your pictures with #ourstory2k17

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Preparing for disasters is something that most jurisdictions talk about doing, but they never get around to it. Story County is different. On April 26, 2017 Story County staff supported a Story County Emergency Management exercise simulating the activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Over the past six years Story County Emergency Management and Story County worked together to build a well-equipped EOC and provide approximately 360 staff hours of training to Story County employees. These efforts were taken to ensure the capability to coordinate a disaster response amongst multiple agencies and jurisdictions is ready to go at a moment's notice and the April 26th exercise was designed to test this capability.

The exercise simulated the first phases of an EOC's response to a disaster: activation, one operational period, a shift change, and a second operational period. Participants were given limited information on the situation at first to simulate the uncertain and fluid nature of disaster command and control. As the exercise progressed, exercise controllers provided inputs simulating a tornado had hit Huxley, overturned a truck with hazardous materials on I-35, and damaged a hog production facility. Staff even viewed realistic news flashes developed with the help of KCCI TV news. These inputs pushed staff to work together to develop solutions to the problems presented.

After the exercise, the participants commented on how it brought together the hours of EOC training and helped them see the 'big picture'. Story County Emergency Management also collected suggestions from participants on how they can improve training, equipment, and procedures to make the EOC better. Story County administration and Story County Emergency Management are already looking ahead to see how they can collaborate to enhance training and EOC resources to make Story County a safer place.



EOC Exercise shift change



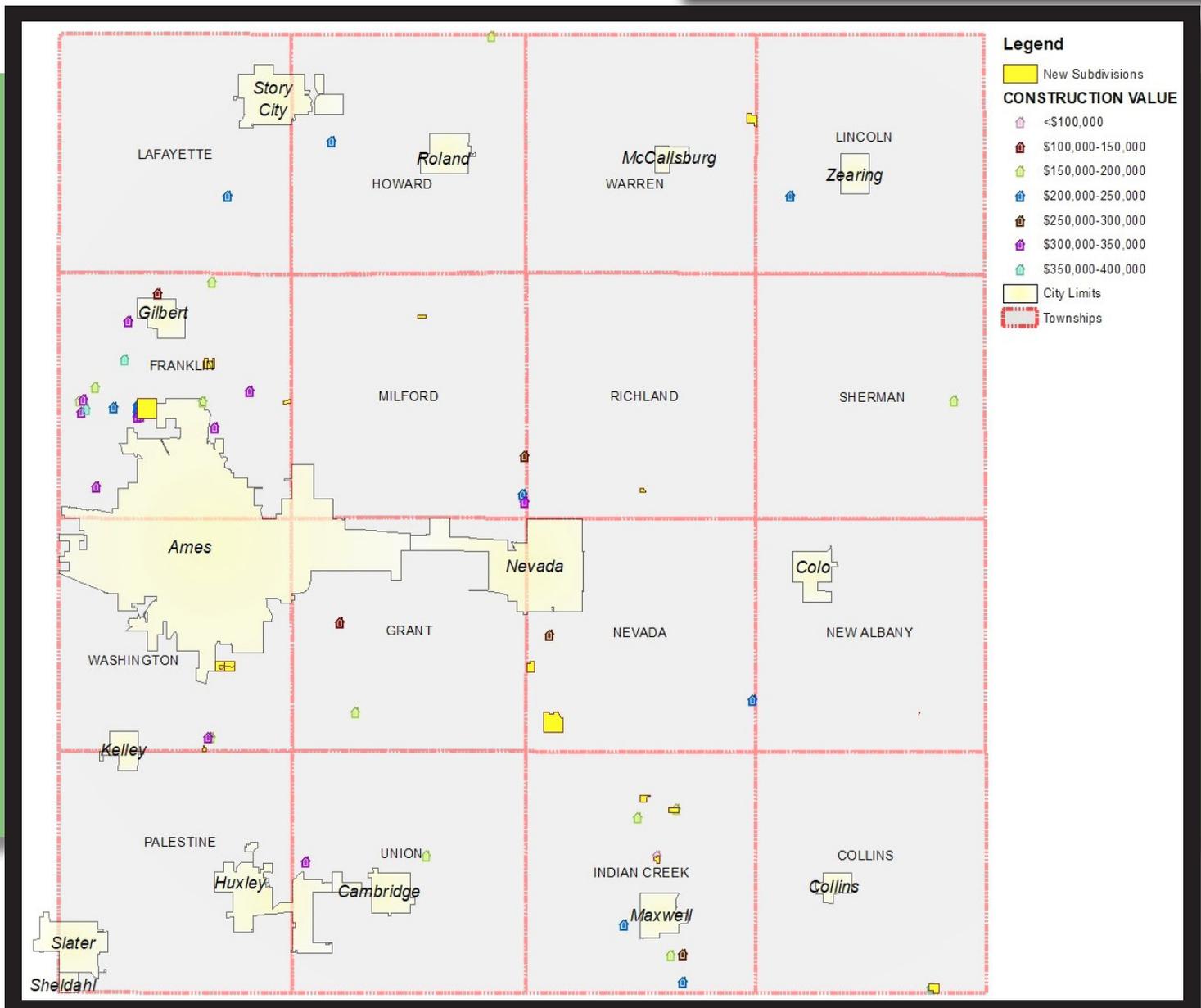
Press briefing for EOC Exercise

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Development activity in unincorporated Story County remained active in 2017. The Planning and Development Department brought forward 20 subdivisions (18 completed, 2 withdrawn) for approval by the Board of Supervisors and 8 rezoning cases. Total zoning permit activity for the year included the issuance of 153 permits, of which 51 were for construction of new single family dwellings (approximate locations in the map below) with the average valuation of \$244,840. Additionally, the Board of Adjustment took action on 12 conditional use permits and considered one variance application.

SUBDIVISIONS APPROVED IN 2017

| SUBDIVISION NAME | LOCATION (TOWNSHIP/CLOSEST CITY) |
|--|------------------------------------|
| J & S | Nevada Township/Nevada |
| Mud Creek Estates | Collins Township/Collins |
| Huhn Agriculture Subdivision, Third Addition | Richland Township/Nevada |
| The Irons | Franklin Township/Ames |
| Orchard View | Nevada Township/Nevada and Maxwell |
| Spruce Ridge | Franklin Township/Ames and Gilbert |
| Vanderwal | Indian Creek Township/Maxwell |
| Brown's Acres | Milford Townships/Roland |
| Rolling Hills Plat 4 | Indian Creek Township/Maxwell |
| Morning Dove | Warren Township/McCallsburg |
| Dayton Ridge | Franklin Township/Ames |
| Gordy's Subdivision | Indian Creek Township/Maxwell |
| Timber Creek Acres, Plat 1 | Washington Township/Ames |
| Timber Creek Acres, Plat 2 | Washington Township/Ames |
| Timber Creek Acres, Plat 3 | Washington Township/Ames |
| Timber Creek Acres, Plat 4 | Washington Township/Ames |
| Schnur Farms Subdivision, Second Addition | New Albany Township/Colo |





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Lauris Olson

LAURIS OLSON

Rick

RICK SANDERS

Marty Chitty

MARTY CHITTY



This publication along with other reports from the County can be viewed online in PDF format at the Story County website:

www.storycountyiowa.gov