

## SERVICE DELIVERY PROMOTING QUALITY OF LIFE

### State of the County Address

**Rick Sanders**  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

### STAY CONNECTED!

Sign up for Notify Me at [www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov)

### Upcoming Events

- Story County Conservation Annual Photo Contest - March 5-March 23
- Citizen of the Year Nominations Due - March 23
- Property Taxes Due - March 31
- Red Cross Blood Drives
  - April 26 - Human Services Center (Ames) from 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
  - April 27 - Administration Building (Nevada) from 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Partners Spring Festival - May 6 from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Story County Offices will be closed Monday, May 28th, in observance of Memorial Day.

Story County Board of Supervisors meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Public Meeting Room - 2nd Floor - Story County Administration Building, Nevada.

For more Story County events and classes through Story County Conservation, please visit:

[www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov)

### PROPERTY TAX REMINDER

Story County Treasurer, Renee M. Twedt, would like to remind Story County property owners that the second half of the fiscal year 2017 – 2018 property taxes are due on or before **March 31, 2018**. Penalty of 1½% attaches April 2, 2018. Anyone with questions can call the Treasurer's Office at 515-382-7330 or visit our websites at:

[www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov)  
and  
[www.iowatreasurers.org](http://www.iowatreasurers.org)

Watch for Story County's updated website coming later this spring!

### Citizen of the Year Nominations Sought

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 and positively impact the welfare of all citizens in Story County.

If you know someone who gives back, goes above and beyond, and makes Story County a great place, consider nominating them for Citizen of the Year. The Board of Supervisors will be accepting nominations through March 23rd. They will announce the recipient during National County Government Month in April. Forms are available at on the County's website under the "Board of Supervisors" tab at:

[www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov)

#### Please submit forms to:

Citizen of the Year Award  
Board of Supervisors  
Story County Administration Building  
900 6th Street  
Nevada, Iowa 50201



**2017 Citizen of the Year Recognition**  
From left: Lauris Olson, Dr. Erwin Klaas, Rick Sanders, Marty Chitty

### Home Base Iowa



Story County is proud to be a Home Base Iowa (HBI) Community. We established the "Welcome Home to Story County Relocation Assistance Program" when designated a HBI community in 2015 as part of our overall initiatives.

The "Welcome Home" program allows up to \$2,500 in relocation funds for military veterans making Story County home. Funds can be used for items such as moving expenses, appliance purchases, utility deposits, down-payment assistance (for home purchases), rent deposits and rent for temporary housing while waiting for permanent housing. The one-time grant (up to \$2,500) is paid on a reimbursable basis. Additional information is available on Story County's website at [www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov). For more information, please contact the County Outreach and Special Projects Manager at (515) 382-7247.



Joseph Story or  
Story County, Iowa

@storycountyiowa

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## April is National County Government Month

### Severe Weather Preparedness Tips

Although it's early March and the roar of thunder and flash of lightning seems a long way off, now is the time to start getting ready for potential severe storms and flooding. You may think it's not going to happen to you, but at least once a year we have flooding or a high-wind event somewhere in Story County. So where do you begin?

Start outside. It's great that you've got big trees shading your house in the summer, but how healthy is that tree? Have branches grown so they hang over your home or outbuildings? Have someone look at your trees and prune them in early spring. While outside, look at your gutters. Do they need to be cleaned out? Do downspouts push the water away from your foundation?

Moving inside. Register all phones for Story County Iowa Alerts. Sign-up for Story County Iowa Alerts at <http://www.storycountyiaowa.gov/alert>. Test your weather radio to confirm it receives a strong signal and change out the batteries. Check weather alert apps on your cell phone. Are they up to date and working? While inside go down to your basement and pour water into your sump pumps to test that they function properly. If you have a battery back-up sump pump, test to see if it works.

While it's still too cold to spend all day outside, take the time to revise your household insurance inventory. Write down a description of the really important and high value things you own. Include any serial numbers or other identifying information to prove it belongs to you. Walk your house and digitally document your belongings. Save the video or pictures in a safe place like the 'cloud', in a safety deposit box, or with a relative that lives in a different town. While inside, it's a good time to refresh the contents of your 'go bag' for times you might have to quickly leave your home. Copies of important documents and items (Social Security cards, driver's licenses, banking data, prescriptions, and extra prescription glasses) all can go in the 'go bag.' Don't forget to put together 72 hour and pet survival kits.

Put together a family disaster plan. It should have two parts: what to do if the family is at home and what you'll do if you're spread out in multiple locations. Check out [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for tools and talking points to start the discussion. A little planning now can reduce a lot of stress during a disaster!

Want to learn more about preparedness? Go to <https://www.storycountyiaowa.gov/ema> and or give us a call at (515) 382-7315.

### New Crisis Stabilization Transitional Living Center

Story County is partnering with Mary Greeley Medical Center and the Central Iowa Community Services (CICS) region to establish a center in Ames to offer a safe, non-hospital environment to adults needing short-term mental health crisis and transitional living services.

The new Crisis Stabilization – Transitional Living Center will be located in a building that Story County owns on South Hazel Avenue in Ames. The building currently is being used as a residential group home by an area social services agency, but will be renovated to host the stabilization and transitional living services to be provided by Mary Greeley Medical Center. In an effort to keep the program costs low, Story County is renting the building to Mary Greeley for \$1 per year.

CICS, an inter-governmental organization that funds mental health and developmental disabilities in a 10-county area, is providing start-up dollars for the stabilization and transitional living services. CICS also provides funding for individuals accessing these services.

Crisis stabilization services generally are used for up to five days to stabilize an acute mental health crisis. Transitional living center services provide a safe, stable environment for a person to care for his or her mental health and develop a plan to move into or return to a safe living environment. Transitional living center services can be accessed for up to 90 days. Staff at the center also will coordinate services and assist in developing treatment teams. The target month to being offering services is August 2018.



Riparian buffer located along Calamus Creek at 640th

### Watershed Assessments

In early 2017, the Board of Supervisors brought on the consulting firm of Emmons & Olivier Resources (EOR) to develop countywide watershed assessments throughout Story County. Looking at watersheds at the smaller level – technically, the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 10 and 12 watershed levels – we are developing a comprehensive assessment that identifies watershed-specific goals and develops implementation strategies addressing education, outreach and water quality improvement goals.

Pat Conrad from EOR noted that his firm was interested in being involved in the project because water quality has been a hot topic across the state of Iowa in recent years. "We've seen two WMAs formed in the County, with another being proposed. The County wanted to be at the forefront of watershed management and saw this project as a way to gain an understanding of all the watersheds within the County, rather than looking at them piecemeal," Conrad explained.

Story County is leading the state as the first county to look at watersheds at the county-wide level. We hope this project helps define the health of our watersheds. Conrad noted this presents opportunities to identify "where problems exist in streams; what areas are important to protect; and how to prioritize water resources and financial resources."

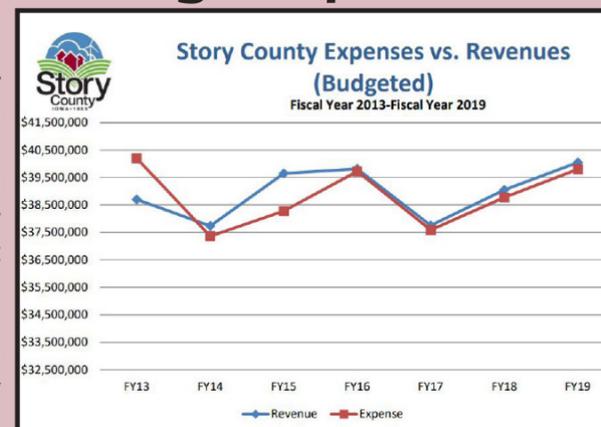
This is the first step in a comprehensive approach to water quality improvements county-wide. Rick Sanders, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, says, "it is allowing us to know what we don't know...it sets the stage for how we go forth in an impactful way."

Conrad knows this will help Story County positively impact water quality, stating that this project "will make suggestions for improvements to operations that range from reviewing existing ordinances, to more direct action like beefing up erosion control practices with ditch improvement projects." Release of the final report is anticipated for Spring 2018.

### Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Update

Planning for Fiscal Year 2019 which begins July 1, 2018, is well underway. The Board of Supervisors will consider the proposed budget at a public hearing scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 13 in the Public Meeting Room, located on the second floor of the Story County Administration Building at 900 6th Street in Nevada.

For the 6th consecutive year, Story County looks forward to adopting a balanced budget, making us the only county out of Iowa's 99 to do so.



### Revision of the Story County Hazard Mitigation Plan is Starting!

The Story County Hazard Mitigation Plan must be reviewed and revised every five years. The planning committee is kicking off the revision process this spring and wants your input. Please take a few minutes and go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Story-CO-IA> and share your thoughts and suggestions.

Together, we can reduce disaster risks for our schools and communities.

**Administration Building**

Phone: 515-382-6581

**Animal Shelter**

Phone: 515-382-3338

**Engineer and Secondary Roads**

Phone: 515-382-7355

**Human Service Center**

Phone: 515-663-2930

**Justice Center Attorney**

Phone: 515-382-7255

**Justice Center Sheriff**

Phone: 515-382-6566

## STORY COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

County Attorney  
Jessica Reynolds

County Sheriff  
Paul Fitzgerald

County Auditor  
Lucy Martin

County Treasurer  
Renee Twedt

County Recorder  
Stacie Herridge

Supervisor  
Lauris Olson

Supervisor  
Rick Sanders

Supervisor  
Marty Chitty

Visit us online at [www.storycountyiaowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiaowa.gov)