

COURTHOUSE NEWS: 2/4/2010

UNION COUNTY RECORDER-Paula White 782-1725

The Recorder's office records all documents pertaining to Union County property; files all Union County birth, death & marriages; processes marriage applications; issues certified copies of birth, death & marriages; processes passports; issues hunting & fishing licenses, ATV/Snowmobile/Boat registrations; and records military discharges.

Boat registrations are now on a 3 year rotation and current boat registrations expire April 30, 2010. **You can now renew your boat.**

If you plan to buy a boat you will need a **Bill of Sale from the seller, registration and a title if the boat is 17' or longer.**

Passports are taking between 4-6 weeks for normal processing. If you cannot come to the office between 8:30-4:30, please call for an appointment. Go to www.travel.state.gov for additional information. Please apply early to avoid expedite fees.

Renewals for ATV & Snowmobiles are now available. Current registrations expired December 31, 2009. Effective July 1, the State of Iowa added sales/use tax to casual sales of ATV and snowmobile transactions. This involves sales between individuals.

Effective July 1, a new law concerning Septic systems went into effect. Contact Union County Sanitarian Louie Boeckman at 782-7803 for additional information.

The Union County Website is www.unioncountyiowa.org. Forms are available to request a vital record, marriage application, passport application or bill of sale form. If you have a problem with any of these services, please call the office so we can help you.

UNION COUNTY AUDITOR-Sandy Hysell 782-1701

The County Offices will be closed on February 15, 2010 to observe President's Day. A reminder to the County Townships, the deadline to have your budgets completed is March 15, 2010. Dog licenses are available, and the cost is \$1.00. Please bring a copy of the rabies vaccination for your dog. Shannon City will be having a SIRWA Franchise Election March 2, 2010. They will be voting at the Arispe Methodist Church and the polls will open at 12:00P.M.

UNION COUNTY TREASURER-Kelly Busch 782-1710

Drivers License (hours 8:30-4:00) Visit us online at www.IowaTreasurers.org

The Union County Treasurers Office provides the following services: property tax collections, issuance of vehicle titles & registrations, and drivers license issuance.

Property Tax:

The Senior Citizen/Low Income property tax credit forms and Rent Reimbursement forms are now available in our office. You need to file the property tax credit forms in our office before June 1, 2010.

Delinquent property tax notices have been mailed, if your September 2009 payment or any prior payments were unpaid, you should have received a notice from us. The notices include the payment plus penalties through February 2010 and also the amount due by March 31st, 2010.

Vehicle Titles/Registrations:

Reminder if you register your trucks for over 28 tons you will be required to submit the Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Form 2290 at the time of renewal.

Drivers Licenses:

Your Iowa license expires on your birthday. It is valid for driving for an additional 60 days. It can be renewed within one year of the expiration date without having to take the knowledge test. You can also renew your license 30 days prior to your birthday.

You will have to pass the vision screening test each time your license is renewed. If your license has been expired for more than one year, you will have to take the driving test as well as the knowledge test and vision screening.

Our office provides drivers licenses issuance between the hours of 8:30- 4, Monday thru Friday. Drive tests require an appointment and are scheduled on Wednesdays and Fridays upon the completion of all necessary written tests. Written testing can be done Monday thru Friday between 8:30-3:30.

UNION COUNTY ASSESSOR-Gene Haner -- 782-1735

Please check and make sure you have a current Homestead and Military Exemption on your property. If you have purchased a different home, make sure you have signed up for these exemptions.

The qualification for any honorably discharged member of the United Armed Forces has been changed to be eligible for the military exemption on your property taxes. Now if you have served eighteen months or more in the armed forces irregardless of when you served, you are now eligible for a Military Exemption or if you have served for twenty years in the Reserves or the National Guard you are also eligible for the military credit. What is required to sign for this credit is either a DD-214 from the regular service or a complete listing of years served from the Guard or Reserve.

You are also required to inform this office if you have removed or built any new buildings or dwellings or if you have remodeled any buildings or dwellings.

Family Farm Credit is now a one-time sign up and can be signed at any time for qualifying owners.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS-Mike King, Chairperson, Ron Riley, Vice-chair, Bob Brown, Bob Jansen, Tom McCann—782-1720

UNION COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT-JO DUCKWORTH-782-1622

January brought more snow, ice, cold, and power outages. County and City Officials met with State and Federal officials to determine if we would qualify for Public Assistance in the wake of the Christmas snow storm. We were not among the Counties that the Governor asked for Presidential Declarations from, although our snow amounts were at or near record levels. This process is ongoing, and there is a slight chance we may still be included. I also received the first Flood Forecast for Spring. It does look very good. The Thompson River is expected to be one of the problem spots in the state. It will affect mostly agriculture land in Union County. The problem comes from already saturated soils, heavy snow pack in places, and additional moisture from Spring rains.

The Union County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) met for the first time in years. This committee has several roles to play within the community. LEPC's were created under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) by federal statutes. Their role is to Improve community preparedness, promote cooperation, increase public awareness, and build information database in respect to hazardous materials in the community. Anyone or group interested in participating in this vital committee please contact my office and I will put you on the mailing list. Our next meeting is scheduled for sometime in the later part of April.

CodeRED was used twice during our winter storms to inform of sheltering and any additional assistance. If you haven't registered all your phone numbers with CodeRED, you may do so by going to www.unioncountyiowa.org/emergency, where you will find the CodeRED registration logo.

The Union County Community Emergency Response Team or CERT will be heavily promoted in the next couple of months. Those of you willing to volunteer for this community project or have questions about CERT, please let me know.

Skywarn (Storm Spotter) Training has been scheduled with the Des Moines National Weather Service for March 23, 2009 at 6:30 PM.

I would like to take some space to thank my Commission and the Board of Supervisors for their support during this year of tight budgets, many changes, and challenges.