

## **COURTHOUSE NEWS:**

### **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 and takes passport pictures; issues hunting & fishing licenses, ATV/Snowmobile/Boat registrations; and records military discharges.

We are now doing Passport pictures at the office. We will process the pictures at the time of application or for renewals. 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](http://www.travel.state.gov) for additional information. Please apply early to avoid expedite fees.

Boat registrations are now on a 3 year rotation and current boat registrations expire April 30, 2010. **You can now renew your boat.** We are in the process of sending out renewal notices. Please take note if you received a notice for a HIN# check: we are now required to verify the HIN #.

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.**

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](http://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**

Dog licenses are available at the Auditor's Office for \$1.00, (in compliance to the County Ordinance). Please bring a copy of the rabies vaccination for your dog.

March 15, is the deadline for the townships to have their budgets done and turned into the Auditor's Office. If you have any questions or need any help, feel free to give us a call.

The Primary Election will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Nomination papers can be picked up at the Auditor's Office or you can go on line at <http://www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/candidates/index.html>. The papers need to be turned into the Auditor's Office starting March 8<sup>th</sup>, and last day to file is March 31<sup>st</sup> by 5:00 P.M. If you are running for a County Office you will need to have 56 signatures if running on the Republican ticket and 60 signatures if running on the Democrat ticket.

Anyone interested in becoming a poll worker, please let me know by calling the office 641-782-1701.

**UNION COUNTY TREASURER-Kelly Busch 782-1710**

**Drivers License (hours 8:30-4:00)** Visit us online at [www.IowaTreasurers.org](http://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.

Second half real estate and mobile home taxes are due by March 31, 2009. There are several options to pay your taxes. You may come into our office, pay online at

[www.iowatreasurers.org](http://www.iowatreasurers.org) , mail your payment as long as it gets a postmark of March 31 or before, or use the drop box located in the hall outside our windows. Please remember to include the stubs from the statements we sent you in August. It is the taxpayer's responsibility to see that you have all of your parcels paid.

***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:***

We are changing from an "over-the-counter" issuance system for DL and identification (ID) cards to a "central issuance" system.

The primary purpose of this change is to prevent persons from obtaining DLs or IDs fraudulently, meaning either in the identity of another person or under a fictitious identity. People may attempt to do this for a number of reasons — to cash forged checks, to have a license to drive when their own license is revoked, to appear to be "legal age" to drink, or to secure employment when they are an undocumented immigrant, to name a few. Central issuance protects against this by allowing for security checks before the final DL or ID card is issued, and by protecting the means and materials by which DL and ID cards are made from being stolen or otherwise accessed by persons not authorized to produce a DL or ID card.

Under the new system:

- Iowans will continue to go to the DL station or participating treasurer's office most convenient to them to receive services.
- A customer will leave the station with his or her existing DL or ID card and a paper temporary permit or ID card good for 30 days. If an individual does not have an existing DL or ID card, he or she will leave with only the paper temporary permit or ID card.
- The new, actual DL or ID card will be issued at a central issuance facility and will be mailed to the applicant. The new DL or ID card will arrive, before the temporary permit or ID card expires, typically within two weeks.
- Delivery by mail is consistent with other important documents Iowans receive, such as credit cards, car titles, birth certificates, and passports and will be undertaken with unmarked envelopes that do not suggest or reveal the contents.

- Central issuance only affects the way DL and ID cards are issued. It does not affect the application process or any requirements for obtaining a DL or ID card, such as proof of age and identity or required testing.

A great advantage of central issuance is that it allows for a security check, known as image verification, to be undertaken and completed before the actual DL or ID card is issued and delivered to the applicant. Image verification compares the digital photo of the applicant with other digital photos to determine whether it matches other photos in the database. A match may suggest that the person is attempting to establish another identity that is a false identity or is trying to use another person's identity.

If a match is found, delivery of the actual DL or ID card will be diverted to the Iowa DOT. A fraud investigator will then review the application and DL or ID card to determine whether it may be delivered to the applicant or withheld as a product of fraud. This process prevents the actual DL or ID card from reaching the hands of someone attempting to achieve a DL or ID card by fraud or deception. This process cannot be completed in the amount of time that a customer would reasonably be expected to wait to receive the DL or ID "over-the-counter," and accordingly requires the DL or ID card to be mailed to the applicant once clear of the security checks.

Central issuance also allows physical security precautions for the means and materials by which cards are produced to be applied to one physical location rather than the 100 issuance locations that currently exist in Iowa (19 Iowa DOT DL stations and 81 county-issuance sites). The move to central issuance helps protect against theft and misuse of those items. Central issuance also helps Iowa maintain compliance with federal U.S. Department of Homeland Security rules that address protection of items used to produce DL and ID cards that may be accepted to enter federally controlled facilities and to board federally regulated aircraft.

### **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**

Union County Emergency Management, like all of you has been dealing with the snow and ice this past month. It has been nice to see the sun shine for a few days in a row, soon temperatures will be warming up and we should see our snowpack melting.

Unfortunately, that also could mean some flooding.

March is Flood Awareness Month. The National Weather Service has released the second Spring Flood Forecast on February 19. The news was not good. With our unusually wet fall, early and large snows, the impact of a lot of spring rain could be a huge concern as spring arrives. Additionally, unlike 2008, the largest snowpack is north of us, so what happens upstream will affect us. If you want to keep up with the flood forecasts, go to [www.weather.gov/desmoines](http://www.weather.gov/desmoines). The next forecast is slated for release on March 5, 2010 and the final one on March 19, 2010. The Weather Service also has numerous links to preparedness.

Another Spring and Summer concern is Severe Thunderstorms and Tornadoes. The SKYWARN (Spotter) Class is scheduled at Southwestern Community College on March 23 at 6:30 PM. Everyone is encouraged to attend. I would like to have many residents at this training. Being forewarned is vital and if you can call in storm reports from your home - as they develop, our eyes and ears are greatly multiplied. The Fire Departments, City and County Officials have been working on a cohesive siren policy for the entire County. This policy will address sustained straight-line winds and hail, as well as funnel clouds/tornadoes. The process has been somewhat slow-going, but I am confident that by the time the Spotter Class gets here, we will have it worked out. We have also spent a lot of time talking about advanced advisories. Look for more on these topics in the next few weeks. Again, having a plan and being prepared is vital to your success as a survivor. This would also be a good time to check that weather radio to see if it needs a new battery or re-programmed.

One more news item. I will be working hard to get the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) up and going again this month and next. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact my office or visit the website :

[www.unioncountyiowa.org/emergency](http://www.unioncountyiowa.org/emergency) . There will be a few hours of training, including how to use a fire extinguisher, shutting off gas supplies, First Aid, CPR, and light search and rescue. Additional training will be provided to those who want to assist with Shelters, Pet Shelters, the Emergency Operations Center, and donations management.

CERT is based on the principle - Family is first, then your neighbors, and then your community. Watch for further announcements on CERT.