

## **COURTHOUSE NEWS:**

### **UNION COUNTY RECORDER-Paula White 782-1725**

The Recorder's office records 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 sent 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.**

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**

We will have the absentee ballots ready on April 19<sup>th</sup> for the Cromwell Franchise Election that will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The polling place, which will be at the SWCC student center, will open at 12:00 p.m. (noon) and close at 8:00 p.m.

On April 26<sup>th</sup> the absentee ballots will be ready for the June 8, 2010 Primary Election.

If you have any questions about either of the up coming elections please feel free to give us a call @ 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 were due by March 31, 2010. It is the taxpayer's responsibility to see that you have all of your parcels paid. Any parcels not paid by May 1<sup>st</sup> will receive a delinquent notice.

### ***Vehicle Titles/Registrations:***

The new DNR deer and trout plates are now available in our office. The other new plates pending are Drake, Grandview and Buena Vista.

### ***Drivers Licenses:***

We are changing from an "over-the-counter" issuance system for DL and identification (ID) cards to a "central issuance" system. Central Issuance is schedule to begin on April 19, 2010.

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.

## **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**

Storm season has started. I know I sound like a broken record, but I really believe that being prepared is of utmost importance for our residents and businesses. Part of being prepared is developing a plan, practicing it and hoping you never have to use it. However, I learned a long time ago, it is not if, it is when you have to use it. Much ado has been made about the change in storm siren activation. I researched the issue thoroughly and found that at the most we would be sounding sirens on the average 1 more time a year based on the historical data. Recent events have been unfortunate. I have great respect for Fire Chief Jackson and each and every member of the FD, both paid and unpaid. We just don't happen to agree on this one point. During March we added to the disaster declaration list for the January 20 – 26 ice storms, unfortunately it was for governmental and certain non-profits (like the REC's) only. Look for a big push for the Community Emergency Response Team in early May. Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> is the first potential date for a meeting. CERT stresses Family First, then neighbors, then the Community as a whole. Possible roles include light search and rescue, medical assistance, volunteering at both people and pet shelters, donation management and host of other duties that would go unattended to during a community crisis, simply because we lack the first responders to attend to all of it. Anyone is welcome to apply as a volunteer from age 16 to 104. Some tasks will need good organizational skills, others, data gathering, while other are physical in nature. So the areas you can contribute to are widely varied. The assets in our County are tremendous! You all have special talents and volunteering those skills and knowledge is what it will

take to get the job done if we are ever faced with a crisis. The CERT team will meet monthly until training is completed, then bi-monthly or quarterly following that. Stay safe and plan, plan, plan.