

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 for additional information. Please apply early to avoid expedite fees.

Remember it now takes a passport card or passport book to travel across the border into Canada or Mexico. Please plan ahead for your summer fishing trips.

Boat registrations are now on a 3 year rotation and current boat registrations expired April 30, 2010. There will now be a \$5.00 penalty to renew. 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. 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

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.

The annual tax sale will be held on Monday, June 21st. Any items that have not been paid prior to the sale will be offered for sale. Anyone interested in bidding at the tax sale may find tax sale bidder packets on the website at www.iowatreasurers.org or pick one up in our office. You must have your registration in by Thursday June 17th in order to bid at the tax sale. Purchasing a tax sale certificate does not immediately give you deed to the property. The certificate holder would need to hold the certificate for 1 year and 9 months before serving the 90 day expiration notice and then receiving a Treasurer's Deed. During that time, the certificate holder may pay any subsequent taxes that become delinquent on that property thus adding them to the tax sale certificate. If the property owner comes in to redeem the property, they must pay all taxes and penalties paid by the certificate holder along with 2% interest per month. The 2% interest is paid to the certificate holder along with the taxes and penalties they previously paid.

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

The Union County Community Emergency Response Team had their first class on May 24. The next class is slated for Thursday, June 4, then Monday, June 10, and 2 more after that. All classes begin at 6:30 PM and last 2 hrs or so. Anyone interested is encouraged to join the class. Gary Thompson, Creston Fire Department and Robin Sevier, Greater Regional Medical Center/Union County Public Health are our instructors for the classes. Last week we talked about what CERT is, how to prepare ourselves and

families for emergencies, and how to shut off the gas to our residences, in case of a broken gas pipe.

June 10, 2010 is Heat Awareness Day in Iowa. Here are some tips to remember:

- Drink plenty of water or other non-alcohol fluids.
- Slow down during the heat of the day.
- Dress in light colored, light weight clothing.
- Spend more time indoors.
- Don't get sunburned
- Check frequently on the elderly, youth, and pets during heat waves.

For more information check the web at

<http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/about/heatguidebook.html>

June is normally a very active month for severe weather in Iowa. Everyone needs to keep in mind the following:

Sirens are outdoor warning devices, they are not meant to be heard inside your home. For indoor warnings there are a couple of options available to you; have a NOAA weather radio with SAME encoding for specific area messaging, and/or listen to our local radio and television stations. Stay safe and be prepared!