

COURTHOUSE NEWS:

UNION COUNTY RECORDER-Paula White 782-1725

Iowa Department of Natural Resources has set June 6-8 as free fishing days for Iowa Residents.

Passport changes effective Feb. 1:

1. A New Passport Card for land & sea travel to Mexico, Canada, Bermuda & the Caribbean can be applied for, but will not be processed until late spring.
2. Fee changes for passports also went into effect. The federal fee went up \$8.00 and the county share went down \$5.00. The net result is a \$3.00 increase. Processing times are still 4-6 weeks.
3. Now children under 16 will require two parent consent.

Log onto the federal website: travel.state.gov for additional information or call our office.

The Iowa Recorder's Association has a new website available to search land transactions at no fee. www.iowalandrecords.org.

Boaters Take Note: Casual sales (sales between individuals) are subject to Iowa Sales Tax and depending on the point of delivery, local option tax. You need a Bill of Sale from the seller, registration and a title if the boat is 17' or longer.

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

Don't forget to vote in the June 3rd Primary Election. The Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Because of the new law in the voting process this will be the last time that we will be using the DRE's, and the first time for same day voter registration.

Our fiscal year ends June 30, 2008. We will be busy closing out the old and getting ready for the new fiscal year.

The County Offices will be closed July 4, 2008 to observe Independence Day.

UNION COUNTY TREASURER-Linda Marley 782-1710 **Drivers License (hours 8:30-4:00)**

As I am preparing my last edition of Courthouse News, I just want to say thanks to everyone for all the support I've been given through the years.

The office will be short staffed for a few weeks until the new Treasurer is appointed. Please be patient with the staff during this transition. There may be days when the office will be closed to the public for their lunch break.

The annual tax sale will be held June 16, 2008. The registration information is available in our office or on the website www.iowatreasurers.org. In order to bid at the tax sale, you need to be registered by Thursday June 12th. The unpaid parcels will be published in the paper on Friday June 6th. You may also obtain a delinquent list from our office for a fee of \$35.00.

www.iowatreasurers.org
www.getyourtags.com

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, Don Irelan, Tom McCann—782-1720

ROCK ROADS

Union County Secondary Roads Department is in the process of contracting for road rock to be hauled by Schildbergs, Inc. Due to the harsh winter many roads were left with little or no rock on them and in many spots the road crews have been battling frost boil areas all spring long. So far this spring road crews have been patching the worst spots through out the county and have not yet started to haul permanent rock on roads. The Union County Engineer and the Board of Supervisors have agreed to contract approximately 30 miles of roads to be rocked by Schildberg crews. The cost for 30 miles of contracted

rock is approximately \$170,000. These dollars will come from the Secondary Roads Fund.

SEAL COAT ROADS

The harsh winter was also hard on the seal coat roadways. The roads department is planning on repairing bad spots with asphalt patching, and will re seal approximately 10 miles of roadway. This is a yearly maintenance item for the county as there are over 27 miles of seal coat roadways and they require resealing every 3 years. The County's seal coat budget last year was \$180,000. But due to rising oil prices and more areas to repair this year's budget could be upwards of \$250,000. This money will also come from the Secondary Roads Fund. The board is working with Mr. Nixon and bonding council to look into ways that we can change seal coats to asphalt pavement to help with the yearly maintenance on these roads.

BRIDGES

The department is in the process of replacing the bridge on the High and Dry Road next year. The project is still in the planning state and will be let for bids in the winter of 08/09. The new bridge will be a little longer, and much wider than the existing bridge and is anticipated to cost around \$600,000. Eighty percent of this cost will come from the County's federal bridge replacement fund. Union County receives approximately \$180,000 a year in federal aid for bridge replacements. This money is only to be used on federally approved routes. The remaining twenty percent will be paid out of the County's Farm to Market fund. Union County receives approximately \$540,000 a year to be spent on reconstruction projects on Farm to Market routes.