

Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

April 15, 2013



Employee Spotlight!



Let's get to know our County employees!

The March Newsletter featured the picture of the little boy to the left. Did you guess Charles Vidgal? Charles has worked for Dickinson County since 2007.

The following is a little personal information provided by Charles.

Start date with Dickinson County:

October, 2007 as a Naturalist for the Dickinson County Conservation Board

Where born: Corning, Iowa but moved to Spirit Lake when I was 1yr

Places Lived: Spirit Lake (currently) Okoboji, Milford, Ames

Hobbies, talents, special interests: Anything outdoors, Disc golf, live music and craft beer

Favorite Travel Spots: South America

Favorite Food: Anything Mexican

Least Favorite Food: Onions

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): Solar still, tent, and my survival pack!

Something Few Know About Me: I love Marvel Comics

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: Hiking/kayaking and exploring wild areas



Move over Eagles, the Okoboji Osprey

are back: (information provided by Charles Vidgal & the Dickinson Co Conservation Board website)

The Okoboji osprey landed in their nest outside the Dickinson County Nature Center on Monday, April 7.

The osprey usually return in April, although this year was slightly earlier than usual. This will be the fourth nesting for the banded male and wild female, who raised three successful babies last year.

The babies that hatched in 2013 will stay in South America this season and should return in 2015. Osprey usually return to nest within 100 miles of where they learned to fly, although the banded male in the nature center nest is about 170 miles from where he fledged.

Come to the Dickinson County Nature Center in Okoboji to view the nest through binoculars, or the pair can also be viewed via live web cam.

Dickinson County Community

Gardens:

(Please note, these gardens are not owned by Dickinson County)

Does growing your own food sound perfect but impossible?

You can grow your own garden in the Dickinson County Community Gardens!

Since 2009, the Community Gardens have offered families and individuals the chance to plant and

harvest healthy produce while offering education to our communities, offering food to those in need and now providing opportunities for individuals to implement Blue Zone, Power 9 Principles into their lives.

Besides a membership fee as explained on the Community Gardens' webpage www.dccgardens.com, responsibilities include contributing a small amount of time throughout the five month season to assist with planning, planting, weeding, watering, harvesting, and cleaning up sites. No gardening experience is required! From spinach and lettuce, cucumbers and tomatoes, sweet corn, watermelons, pie pumpkins and more, members have access to all the healthy produce grown.

Any surplus produce is donated to charitable organizations within Dickinson County such as The Community Table, Discover House, Cherish House, and others.



Treasurer's Office:



As of April 7, 2014, 97% of the property taxes for this fiscal year have been paid! In

March the office took in \$14,238,832.57 in real estate taxes, \$246,751.00 in Gas and Electric taxes, \$1060.00 in grain taxes, \$16,628.00 in mobile home taxes, \$199,899.00 in Utilities and \$283,512.93 in Homestead state credits, totaling \$14,986,683.50.

Delinquent payments are now being collected until the Annual Tax Sale held on June 16th. On the day of the tax sale, registered investors gather in the Community Room and "win" the opportunity through a lottery to pay the taxes that are still unpaid for fiscal year 2014. They pay the taxes that same day, filling the budgets for the fiscal year for all

the taxing authorities. Property owners "redeem" their property taxes by paying back the investor the amount paid at the tax sale plus \$20 for a certificate fee, plus 2% interest per month for each month till paid off. There are some circumstances where the property if left unredeemed for 2 to 3 years can be transferred to the tax sale investor for the price of the taxes but these do not occur very often.

9 Things Happy People Don't Do:

This article was given to me and suggested that it be shared in the county newsletter. Although some of the article might be condensed for the newsletter, one thing happy people don't do will be in each of the next 8 newsletters. The article was written by Dan Baker, PhD of the Bottom Line Publications.

NUMBER 2: Happy people DON'T overreact to the present moment. Many unhappy people are prone to thinking, This is horrible or My life is ruined, when something bad happens to them. Happy people typically do a better job of remembering that unhappiness usually mitigates over time. **Better:** If you catch yourself fearing that a recent negative event is devastating or permanent, ask yourself, *What can I learn from this? And How can I become wiser and /or stronger from this?*



April Employee Spotlight:

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Find out more about this Dickinson

County employee in the May issue.

In the meantime, can you guess who this is?

Motivational quote for the month:

“The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.”

— [Chief Seattle](#)