



Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

September 18, 2013

Employee Spotlight!

Let's get to know our County employees!



The July Newsletter featured the picture of the little girl to the left. Yes, you guessed it. The picture is of me, Mardi Allen. I had asked someone else to provide their picture but he forgot and then went on vacation when it was time to put this newsletter together. Anyway, I have worked for Dickinson County as a Supervisor since 2003.

The following is a little of my personal information.

Start date with Dickinson County:

January 1, 2003

Where born:

San Angelo, Texas

Places Lived:

Besides Texas & California, Ames, Dubuque, Harlan, Clive and Dickinson County, Iowa

Hobbies, talents, special interests:

I really enjoy adlib traveling by car, golf, reading and I enjoy my job - I have no special talents

Favorite Travel Spots:

Countryside of the USA, Boston, Park City, All of Utah, Maui, the Seattle area and San Francisco

Favorite Food:

Steak

Least Favorite Food:

Liver

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things):

My 3 grandkids

Something Few Know About Me:

I am adopted. You also might not know that I am the one putting the Courthouse newsletter together. If you have anything you feel should be added or changed or if you have any ideas for articles, please contact me.

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County:

Relax on or off but around the lakes for sure.

Recorder's Office:

At the 9-17-13 Board of Supervisors' board meeting, Recorder, Ann Ditsworth, reported the quarterly stats for her office. Among those presented were the following boat registration statistics. These stats show the extraordinarily high volume of boat registrations in Dickinson County and how well the staff handles those numbers in comparison to other Counties with high volume.

Boat renewal year has meant a huge additional workload this year -- as of 8.8.13 the DNR was crediting Dickinson County with over 5,400 registrations/renewals.

That places us 7th in the State of Iowa, the only "non-metro" county in the top 10 and ahead of Adel (Dallas Co - 73,000 pop), Council Bluffs (Pottawattamie Co - 93,500 pop), Nevada (Story Co - 91,000 pop), Sioux City (Woodbury Co - 102,000 pop)!

	County	City	# Registrations processed	# FTE	# Reg processed per FTE
1	Polk	Des Moines	16,403	26	631
2	Linn	Cedar Rapids	11,178	15	745
3	Black Hawk	Waterloo	8,657	9	962
4	Scott	Davenport	8,035		
5	Dubuque	Dubuque	5,971	5	1,194
6	Johnson	Iowa City	5,693	8	712
7	Dickinson	Spirit Lake	5,418	4	1,355
8	Pottawattamie	Council Bluffs	4,788	7	684
9	Woodbury	Sioux City	4,537	7	648
10	Clinton	Clinton	4,256	4	1,064

After the Board of Supervisors' meeting, Ann was asked to write up a paragraph about the new Eagle software that has been installed for the Recorder's office. Below are her comments:

"WOW...we've been busy! In addition to registering/renewing over 5,400 boats, our office has successfully made the conversion to Tyler's Eagle Recorder software!

This new software program provides an on-screen image/land record combination which significantly improves records research and maintenance. Previously this involved two separate software programs and a daily, physical book-making process. The efficiency achieved is obvious.

Beyond efficiency, Eagle also provided me with the opportunity to achieve a goal of cross-training all office staff in recording. Everyone in the office attended Eagle training and now, rather than focusing on segmented duties, there is a team approach of meeting the customer needs - whatever they may be.

What's next? A continued focus on the customer (naturally), this time by way of historic preservation and a partnership with the Engineer's office and the IT department. 'Stay tuned.'"

Provided by Ann Ditsworth, Dickinson County Recorder

County Courthouse Maintenance Planning:

Over the years, there have been discussions related to contingency planning for the Courthouse. A capital expense plan is in the works which estimates the life of most capital expenses and estimates their future costs. This week, at the Supervisors' Board meeting during a maintenance renewal proposal, Clark Reekers and Corey Ulrickson from Trane, presented the idea of contingency planning for the Courthouse chiller. The chiller runs all year but is most important for the cooling of the courthouse in the heat of the summer. The discussion centered around preparing for the ability to get the courthouse up and running in a matter of hours. All infrastructures like electrical and plumbing for a temporary chiller placement would have to be in place in the courthouse prior to any break down. If the infrastructures were in place, Trane would hall in and set up a loaner in a matter of hours. Having that chiller available would be of no cost to the County until the time it was needed but the estimated cost for the infrastructure is \$80,000 to \$100,000. It would be a safety net or insurance policy, per say, for something that may or may not happen. However, if the chiller did fail without preplanning the cost to the County would be many times that amount. Mr. Ulrickson shared stories of an Argosy Casino and a Holiday Inn chiller break down that happen in the heat of the summer. Neither had any contingency done so they both lost many many days of business and paid high overtime and emergency prices to remove the old one, repair it and get it re-installed. In the case of Dickinson County, if the chiller breaks down, it would have to be disassembled in order to remove it from the courthouse to be shipped for repair. It has not been determined how long it would take to get a chiller up and running if the County's current chiller did fail without the infrastructure in place. It also has not been determined how many days the Courthouse offices could afford to be down. There was discussion about providing a questionnaire to each office that would help determine those estimated numbers. Trane has such a questionnaire and will be sending it to the County Auditor. The Auditor also has a similar questionnaire that would be useful in both determining those estimates and completing the Dickinson County Disaster Plan.



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Find out more about this Dickinson County employee in the October issue. In the meantime, can you guess who this is?