

Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

August 18, 2014



Employee Spotlight!



Let's get to know our County employees!

The July Newsletter featured the picture of the little boy to the left. Did you guess Clark Reekers?

The following is a little personal information provided by Clark:

Contract date with Dickinson County: July, 2004

Where born: Sheldon, Iowa

Places Lived: Sheldon, Sanborn, Sibley, Sioux City, Kingsley, Hawarden, Atlantic, Hull, Orange City, Arnolds Park, and Lake Park, Iowa.

Hobbies, talents, special interests: Fishing, Gardening, Cooking, especially smoking meats and grilling.

Favorite Travel Spots: Orlando, Florida area

Favorite Food: Any kind of steak

Least Favorite Food: Oysters

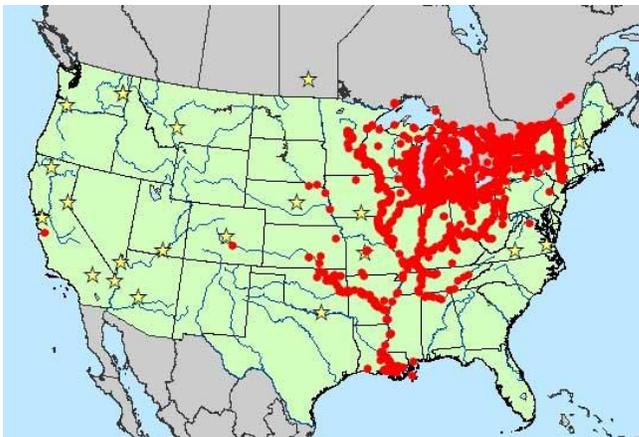
If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): My best friend – ROXIE, a really good tent, my fishing equipment.

Something Few Know About Me: Roxie and I ran two successful restaurants in Hawarden and Maurice, Iowa.

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: Fish and boat with family and friends

Zebra Mussel Report: (Sources of information – internet and Iowa Great Lakes Zebra Mussel Report)

Since Zebra Mussels have most recently been in the local news again and the news is not good, I thought pictures would be, as the old saying goes, worth a thousand words:



STATES WITH ZEBRA MUSSEL INFESTATIONS

This information comes from the USGS National Map. Note that in Iowa, this map has not been updated to include the Iowa Great Lakes area but Zebra Mussels *have* been discovered here.

WHAT DO ZEBRA MUSSELS LOOK LIKE?





The Iowa Great Lakes

Association prepared a report on Iowa Great Lakes Zebra Mussels. To quote the report, “there is no “silver bullet” to eradicate zebra mussels. Once they become established in a lake, little can

be done to completely eliminate them. Although low water, drying, and freezing can kill some – the reproduction rate of those left behind is tremendous.”

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Educate yourself
- Support your legislators to do more to control the spread
- Provide financial support
- Be sure your boat and trailer are clean
- Do not move your boating equipment from infested waters to uninfested waters.
- Keep your boat in the hoist completely out of the water
- Report any new signs of Zebra Mussels to the DNR, 712-336-1840
- Do your internet research

Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation Update

The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation (formerly the Great Lakes Corridor of Opportunity) was organized in 1992 to foster encourage, promote, assist or otherwise aid economic growth and development in the Iowa counties of Clay and Dickinson. In late 2005, Emmet County became a part of the region and in January 2006, Buena Vista County joined the region.

The collaboration of these four counties since 1999 has resulted in:

- Over 3,000 new jobs
- Over 1,100 jobs retained
- 40 new companies
- \$180+ million of new capital investment
- 84 projects completed
- 145 existing industry interviews conducted
- 10 spec buildings constructed; 9 sold
- \$32 million of new federal/state funds received for priority projects
- 760+ students involved in entrepreneurial training
- 1,075 students involved in Junior Achievement (JA) programs
- Regional events – Okoboji Entrepreneurial Institute; regional high school business plan competition; Be Your Own Boss seminar; Middle School Entrepreneurship Academy; Junior Achievement programming in elementary & middle schools; regional job fairs; internship training; Club E (entrepreneur networking events); and



entrepreneurial training programs such as the Kauffman FastTrac NewVenture program and recently the new "Prepare to Launch" program. In 2014 the ILCDC also launched Manufacturing 101 training for adults. Two high school academies - manufacturing and construction trades - have been formed and will begin in 2015.

On Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors' meeting, Kathy Evert of Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation presented an update of specific accomplishments in Dickinson County for FY2014.

Some FY'14 Dickinson County accomplishments include:

- 5 business development projects were completed in Dickinson County
- 244 new jobs were created in Dickinson County
- 11 acres were sold as a result of the new business development
- 16,500 square feet of new space was occupied
- \$16,600,000 of new investment in Dickinson County
- \$1,694,000 of state and local funds were invested in the new business projects
- 1 new company was located in Dickinson County

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 3 newsletters. The article was written by Dan Baker, PhD of the Bottom Line Publications.

Number 6 : Happy people DON'T spend more time than necessary around unhappy people. Naysayers, can't-do types and other chronically unhappy people can make the people around them less happy, too. When you must spend time among them, treat it as a learning opportunity.

July Spotlight:



Get to know more about those who work for Dickinson County!

Find out more about this little boy in the September issue.
In the meantime, can you guess who this is?

Motivational quote for the month:

Being kind to one another brings many good things your way.