

Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

August 15, 2015



Let's get to know those that work in the Courthouse!



The July Newsletter featured the picture of the little girl to the left. Did you guess Kris Andera?

The following is a little personal information provided by Kris.

Start date with Dickinson County: June 22, 2015

Where born: Rock Rapids, Iowa

Places Lived: Rock Rapids, Rapid City SD, Vermillion SD, Yankton SD, Worthington MN, Spirit Lake IA

Hobbies, talents, special interests: Reading and spending time with my family

Favorite Travel Spots: DisneyWorld

Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo

Least Favorite Food: Fish

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): Blain (my husband), Kindle to read, laptop so I could Skype with the rest of my family that I couldn't bring along to the island!

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: In the summer I enjoy going to the concerts on Preservation Plaza – especially around the 4th of July.

Favorite Recipe: I'm not a great cook. If it can't be ordered, come from a box or frozen we usually don't eat it....

County Benefits:

What are all the benefits currently offered to the Dickinson County employees and where do you find out more about them. Starting with the February newsletter, all the current benefits will be listed here and then each newsletter thereafter will have a more detailed explanation about at least one benefit. **For any additional information about these benefits, please stop by the Auditor's office.**

- Health Insurance – Blue Cross/Blue Shield through Iowa Association of Counties – featured in the February 2015 issue
- Dental Insurance – Delta Dental – featured in the April 2015 issue.
- Retirement benefit – Iowa Public Employee Retirement System (IPERS) – featured in this issue.
- Deferred Compensation Plan – Nationwide through National Association of Counties – featured in the March 2015 issue.
- Advantage Flex Plan- pretax offerings
- Personal Accident Insurance Program through Iowa Association of Counties (ISAC) - for those electing to take County Health Insurance
- Voluntary Accident Insurance Plan – CHUBB Group offered through Iowa Association of Counties – paid for by the employee

- Cancer Insurance – Short Term Disability & Hospitalization through AFLAC
- Cancer Insurance through American Heritage.

Voluntary Accident Insurance Program:

No one wants to think about the possibility of having a life-threatening accident, but the fact is, thousands of people are seriously injured or killed every year.

Iowa State Association of counties provides all eligible employees with insurance coverage for themselves as soon as they begin employment with the County. Eligible employees may select benefit amounts in increments of \$25,000, subject to a minimum of \$25,000 and a maximum of \$250,000. Law Enforcement employees may select any amount from \$25,000 to \$250,000 in increments of \$25,000. This insurance is voluntary and paid by the employee. There are three plans to select from and range from \$1.35 per \$25,000 to \$2.00 per \$25,000.

If you are interested or need additional information, stop by the Auditor's office.

Courthouse Security:

It will never happen to me?????

MAQUOKETA (KWVL) – September 9, 2014

A former city manager who came to a Jackson County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday to dispute his property taxes opened fire, resulting in his death, according to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office.

Francis "Gus" Glaser, 71, a former Maquoketa city manager and Maquoketa resident, was dead after a shot to the head, according to Jackson County Sheriff Russ Kettmann in a Tuesday afternoon press conference.

Sheriff Kettmann said Glaser used a handgun and fired two shots just before 11 a.m. Tuesday. It was unclear if Glaser meant the second shot for himself or if the gun was discharged in a struggle with another county supervisor.

Glaser apparently tried shooting at Jackson County Assessor Deb Lane, but missed, according to officials. That's when Sheriff Kettmann said Supervisor Larry Koos tackled Glaser to prevent him from shooting again.

We all tend to think, "it will never happen to me or it will never happen here." Well it does. So what is Dickinson County doing to prepare employees and customers for such an event?

In November of 2014, at an Iowa Association of Counties meeting in Des Moines, discussions were held on Security in Iowa Courthouses. Attendees were made aware of a State committee working on Security Guidelines for Courthouses and Public Buildings in Iowa. Then again in January at the Statewide Supervisors' meeting, the Guidelines were discussed and a draft copy was handed out. The Dickinson County Supervisors had already decided to combine the responsibilities of Courthouse security with the responsibilities of the Dickinson County Safety Committee and had been conducting a security review of the Courthouse even prior to the publishing of the final Guidelines in April of this year.

The Safety/Security Committee has provided State and County employees with A.L.I.C.E. training twice over the last couple of years. There has been training on how to break out a courthouse window if that is the determined to be the best escape route. Each office has had an inspection by an A.L.I.C.E. trainer and held discussions of the best way to protect the office employees from an armed intruder. Offices also have been equipped with panic buttons and the glass-breaking tool.

Additional cameras have been installed in the hallways and will be installed in the courtrooms. These cameras make it possible for the Sheriff's office to ascertain what is actually happening and if the perpetrator is armed and with what.

The Committee is planning additional training for employees. Things like shooting exercises by the Sheriff's office are being considered to allow employees to recognize the sounds of arms being fired in various areas of the Courthouse. Methods to give employees phone alerts are being considered. Ways to report to all where the event is taking place is being looked at so the employees and customers can decide what their best defensive action is. Reports are being worked on so that each office has its own checklist of safety and security items to go over with a new employee.

And - the first County Courthouse & Public Building Security (CPBS) Committee Annual Fiscal Year Report on Courthouse Security has been completed and submitted to the State.



August Spotlight:

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

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

Your only limit is you.