



Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

August 20, 2013

Employee Spotlight!



Let's get to know our County employees!

The July Newsletter featured the picture of the little girl to the left. She is Alissa Julius. Alissa is the Dickinson County IT Director.

The following is a little personal information supplied by Alissa.

Start date with Dickinson County:

May 2005

Where born:

Orange City, Iowa

Places Lived:

Orange City, Chicago, Okoboji

Hobbies, talents, special interests:

Cross fit, Golf, biking and playing the violin

Favorite Travel Spots:

Australia and the Bahamas

Favorite Food:

Bacon

Least Favorite Food:

Celery

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

Friends, matches, cards

Something Few Know About Me:

I started playing the violin when I was 5. When I was a senior in high school I was selected to play on a basketball team that traveled to Australia.

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County:

Ride my bike on the trails and boating.

Dickinson County Treasurer's Office News:

The Dickinson County Treasurer's office is now offering **Dwolla** payments for the public through the Tax and Tag website. The Office will also be offering Dwolla payments soon for people at the counter utilizing an iPad. For those of you not familiar with Dwolla payments, here is how it works in general:

(Source – New York Times) How does it work? Users sign up online for a Dwolla account, which involves entering personal information like date of birth and Social Security number. Dwolla says it uses the information to make sure you are old enough to open an account (you must be 18 or older) and to verify your identity.

Then you fund the Dwolla account by linking it to a bank account and transferring money to Dwolla (this differs from other kinds of payment services — like, say, Google Wallet — which are typically funded with a credit card). Formalizing the setup can take a couple of days. During that time, Dwolla makes one or two small test deposits, which you must verify, to make sure you are authorized to have access to the bank account. Dwolla itself is not a bank, so once the Dwolla account is funded, the money actually sits in a credit union in Iowa. Then, when you shop at a merchant that accepts

Dwolla like the Dickinson County Treasurer's office, you can get access to the system via a phone or iPad; find the merchant, enter an amount and click to pay.

Below is a view of the Dickinson County Tax and Tag website with the choices of payments and the associated fees:

Dickinson County Property Tax Payment Service

[1 Select County](#)

[2 Find Your Property](#)

3 Select Payment Method

[4 Verify and Submit Payment](#)

Select Payment Method

Non-refundable fees are determined by the payment type selected. 

Dwolla 

You will pay \$0.40 in fees.



Electronic Check 

You will pay \$0.40 in fees.



Credit Card 

You will pay fees in an amount calculated according to the taxes being paid.



Debit Card 

You will pay \$5.45 in fees.



Dwolla /də'wɑ:lə/ is a United States-only e-commerce company that provides an online payment system and mobile payments network by the same name. The company was founded in 2008 with services based only in Iowa. After raising US\$1.31 million in funding, Dwolla launched in the United States on December 1, 2009, with founders Ben Milne (CEO) and Shane Neuerburg (CTO), in Des Moines, Iowa, and with initially just a few small banks and retailers. Transactions using Dwolla surpassed \$1 million a week and its Iowa user-base was overtaken in mid-June 2011, with 20,000 users. The company began with two employees and had approximately 15 employees as of mid-June 2011. (*information source – Wikipedia*)

The name *Dwolla* is a conjunct of "dollar" and "web".

Veteran Affairs News:

The Veteran Affairs office is always looking for more van drivers. With that the office was happy to report that another volunteer driver for the DAV van has passed his physical and is scheduled for orientation to receive his badge and approval to drive to the VA Medical Center in Sioux Falls.

The Office also reports that effective the first of July 2013, all qualified veterans in Iowa are allowed to purchase a driver's license with the "Veteran" designation. A new Iowa law will allow veterans to have a "veteran" designation put on their driver's license (DL) or nonoperator identification card (ID).

Governor Branstad signed Senate File 2112 into law on April 19, 2012; it requires the veteran designation provision of the law to be implemented by July 1, 2013. The designation on Iowa DLs and nonoperator IDs is a voluntary initiative designed to assist Iowa veterans.

There are thousands of businesses throughout Iowa and the United States, including restaurants, hotels and even home improvement stores that give discounts to veterans. Some of those businesses require proof of veteran status. Iowa legislators responded to the veterans' needs and authorized the DOT to include veteran status on DLs and nonoperator IDs so they don't have to carry official military papers to prove their veteran status.

To get the designation, an honorably discharged veteran must present a copy of their DD 214 or applicable discharge document to their county Veterans Affairs office. The Dickinson County VA office will complete an Iowa DOT form and confirm the applicant's veteran status, which authorizes the Iowa DOT to place the designation on the individual's DL or nonoperator ID. The veteran must then take the completed form to any Iowa DL issuance location and request that the veteran designation be added to his or her DL or nonoperator ID card.

Veterans may expedite the process by bringing a completed application form with them to the Dickinson County Veterans Affairs office, along with a copy of their DD 214. The form is available online at: <https://va.iowa.gov>.

District Six (Buena Vista, Clay, Carroll, Cherokee, Crawford, Dickinson, Ida, Lyon, Monona, Osceola, O'Brien, Plymouth, Sac, Sioux and Woodbury Counties) training for Veteran Directors and Commissioners was held on August 7th at the Maritime Museum in Arnolds Park. Very important and useful training was provided by VA Medical Center in Sioux Falls and the VA Regional Office in St. Paul along with the Iowa Work Force Development, the Vet Center in Sioux City and Humana.

Employee Spotlight



Let's get to know our County employees!

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