

Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

June 16, 2014



Employee Spotlight!

Let's get to know our County employees!



The May Newsletter featured the picture of the little girl to the left. Did you guess Megan Kardell? Probably not since Megan just started working in the P&Z office the first of May.

The following is a little personal information provided by Megan.

Start date with Dickinson County: May 1, 2014

Where born: Dubuque, Iowa

Places Lived: Dubuque, Iowa City, Milford

Hobbies, talents, special interests: Boating, Reading, Watching Iowa Hawkeye Football (Go Hawks)

Favorite Travel Spots: St. Lucia, Wine country in California

Favorite Food: Any type of pasta

Least Favorite Food: Cooked Carrots

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): My husband Kody, a book, my bed

Something Few Know About Me: I do not like messy/sticky food

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: Boating on a warm sunny afternoon on the lake.

"A.L.I.C.E. Training: Was the ALICE training worth taking? Hope you think so!



Here you see a take-down method being demonstrated by members of the audience and instructor Dee Hiney of Iowa Lakes Community College. At other times during the class, balls were thrown at Ms. Hiney as she acted as an armed shooter. With her Nerf gun, she shot at the audience while the

balls were thrown at her, demonstrating that throwing anything at an armed shooter can help to distract them and give you the possibility of escape.

ALICE is an acronym for - Alert – Lockdown – Inform – Counter – Evacuate.

There were other acronyms used. All of them are to help you remember what to do in an armed shooter situation.

Another acronym is OODA. It stands for:
Observe – See/Hear/Smell/Feel what is happening
Orient – Interpret what you observe
Decide – Decide what to do
Act – Do it! And Commit!

After the training, Ms. Hiney spent time in the offices discussing potential escape routes or alternative actions in the event of an armed shooter. There is discussion going on about supplying each office with a can of wasp spray and a glass cutter. The wasp spray could be used as a distraction tool and the glass cutter could be used to escape through a window.

Waste Management’s Dickinson County Landfill:

Have you ever driven by the landfill when it looked like this? The picture to the left was taken the end of March this year. Yes, it was one of those 40-60 mph days with the wind coming directly out of the south



after it had created the same affect blowing from the north. No words can really say how bad it was. This picture says it all.

As a result, the WM DC Landfill received a notice of violation of Iowa code 102.13(2) from the DNR. The Landfill was required to submit a plan for corrective actions. Additionally, Mardi Allen, County Supervisor, was invited to take a tour and discuss those corrective actions. On June 5, 2014, Pam Jordan and Mardi met on site at 10 a.m. with Jeff Vasser, WM Dickinson County Landfill Manager. The 6-point action plan was presented. Among other things, it included, at management’s discretion, possible closure of the

landfill when winds exceed 30 mph.

Next Pam and Mardi were taken on a tour of the landfill by truck. Some of the information gathered on the tour was quite interesting. Did you know that landfills produce methane gas which is supposed to be siphoned off regularly so as to mitigate odor and other problems if it is left to build up underground? The Dickinson County landfill has a series of wells to draw this gas through the pipes to a central outside point where it is burned off as is seen in the picture to the left. Some landfills are so large that it is commercially feasible to build a transfer station to pipe the gas off site for direct use by industry or to produce electricity for the grid. It is not economically feasible for either of those options to be implemented at the DC landfill at this time.



A new project is underway at the landfill to put an ET (dirt) cap on the north portion of the

east slope of cell A. The project will be visible to drivers along M56. Approximately nine acres will be stripped of soil and vegetation and re- engineered to a 4:1 slope resulting in the creation of a natural prairie in this area which will slow down run from Cell A. Manager Vasser explained there are no plans for the landfill to ever expand on the land from Cell A east to M56 so the prairie will be there forever.



To the right is a view from the highest point of the landfill. It is about 3 feet short of being the highest point in Iowa. Currently Hawkeye



Point (1670ft) in Osceola County holds that distinction. Except for the portion of Cell A that is not lined, this Cell can, in fact, be filled up to an additional 25 feet higher.



Other Events during the Month of May:

Paul Johnson presented Lake Park with a Certificate of Achievement.
Barb Woodley retired after more than 27 years working for Dickinson County.
It was another beautiful day on the grounds of the Courthouse this 2014 Memorial Day.
Dickinson County is named a Blue Zone designated worksite. More about this in July's newsletter.

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

Number 4: Happy people DON'T gossip. If they are told something in confidence, they keep the secret.

May Spotlight:

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



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

Motivational quote for the month:

Everybody deserves somebody whom makes them look forward to tomorrow