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An Insight into the Workings of County Government—Summer/Fall 2014

Clayton County, Iowa

conservation connection >>>



Motor Mill Open House

*Saturday, September 13, 2014
4:00 PM*

Music and living history demonstrations will accompany an ice cream social for all to enjoy.



Residential Reappraisal

What The Upcoming Process Means To You...

The Clayton County Assessor's Office, in conjunction with Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. will be conducting a Residential Reappraisal project for the 2016 assessed values.

The purpose of the reappraisal project is to equalize property assessments so that each taxpayer is responsible for paying only their fair share of the property tax burden. Periodic inspections and reappraisal of properties are necessary as all types of properties do not increase or decrease in value at the same rate. This type of project should take place every 10 to 15 years. The last such residential appraisal project was conducted in 1968. The Assessor's office continues to maintain new construction, deconstruction, sales checks, and other site visits throughout the years. The reappraisal project will sum up all land and structures in a short period of time to develop accurate equity.

The preliminary door-to-door data collection process will begin in September of 2014. We will try to track the areas they will be working in to better notify the property owners. You can periodically check the website listed in the article to view the areas they are working at and the projected areas they plan to be next. As of now I know they plan on working in the towns first from the northwest to the southeast part of the county. After the urban areas have been completed they will start in the rural areas which could be the Spring/Summer 2015. The project is scheduled for completion December 31, 2015.

The properties included in this project are all Urban Residential and Rural Residential properties: buildings and land, and all Agricultural Dwellings. Commercial, Industrial, and Agricultural land & out buildings are not part of this project.

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Renovations Continue

There have been many changes made to the courthouse since our last newsletter. The Clerk of Court's Office has transformed with the help of new paint, carpet, and furnishings. The inside is not the only place where changes have occurred.



The clock tower, in great need of restoration, had all the paint stripped, windows replaced, and received a new paint job among other repairs. The clock itself is still being repaired and we look forward to its return soon.



After almost three years of restoration the sailor has returned to the Civil War memorial outside the courthouse. The sailor receive a new hand and telescope in the process. The sculpture was painted black, but is now the original brown color. The memorial is also home to a soldier. This sculpture now will have its chance for restoration, including a new bayonet and trigger guard for the musket he carries.

Osborne Heritage Days

Heritage Days will take visitors back in time the second full weekend of October to the pioneer era through living history demonstrations, contests, food and other historical activities. This year marks the 40th Anniversary. Special events are scheduled to celebrate the occasion and they include:

- ◇ Saturday: US Postal Service Commemorative Postmark at the Osborne Post Office.
- ◇ Saturday and Sunday: Dr. Dusty's Medicine Show where Dr. Dusty recreates the historic medicine show with humor, magic, science, music and good old fashion fun.



Visit Osborne Pioneer Village October 11th & 12th between 10 AM & 4 PM.



Property Taxes Certified

Property taxes are certified and statements have been mailed out. The staff in the Treasurer's Office is able to process payments in the office or you may choose to pay your property taxes online at: www.IowaTaxAndTags.gov. First half payment is due by September 30th.



recorder's reminders >>>

Hunting Information

2014-15 Iowa Hunting and Trapping Regulations
www.iowadnr.gov



The 2014-15 Iowa Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide is now available.



Deer licenses are also on sale in Recorder's Office.

ask the experts >>>

Q: What do I need to apply for a passport?

A: Citizenship evidence, ID, photo, and payment

The most common evidence of citizenship is a certified copy of your birth certificate. It will have a state or county seal and must contain the registrar's signature, filing date, date of birth, and the name of both parents. A driver's license will suffice for a form of identification. A photo must meet certain criteria to be submitted. Qualifying photos can be taken at the Recorder's Office. Applicants are encouraged to bring a checkbook along to pay for services, as separate payments are required and one must be in the form of a check or money order. Depending on the applicant other items might need to be presented. Please contact the Auditor's Office at (563) 245-1106 with additional questions.

Recreational Vehicles

Beginning September 2, 2014, it is renewal time for: ATV's, snowmobiles and UTV's. The renewal fee for currently registered vehicles is \$17.75. These registrations all expire on December 31, 2014 and a \$5.00 penalty will apply on January 1, 2015. Trail passes for snowmobilers will be required again at the same fee of \$17.75 per pass. Remember, you need to carry proof of insurance with you when riding. If you would like to renew by mail, please contact the Recorder's Office at (563) 245-2710 for further information.



Business Property Tax Credit

Distribution for taxes payable fiscal year 2014/2015

The first year for business property tax credits in Iowa is in the books and qualified applicants will receive an average of nearly \$900 per parcel. This is higher than the original projection of \$533 per parcel because not as many property owners applied statewide as originally projected.

The actual amount of credit each property unit will receive depends in part upon the total value of all property units statewide and the taxing district levy rate the property is located in.

An estimated 90% of all eligible parcels and approximately 95% of all eligible value in Clayton County was signed up. A property has to be classified commercial, industrial, or railroad to qualify for the credit. Commercial properties that are 100% living areas (apartment buildings) do not qualify.

These tax credits are part of the property tax reforms enacted by the Iowa General Assembly in 2013. Legislators allocated \$50 million for the credits this year. Next year, this will increase to \$100 million, and in 2016, the annual credits will increase to \$125 million.

For those who qualified for a credit the tax statements will show the amount of tax due after the business property tax credit is applied.



The image shows a portion of the 'Application for Business Property Tax Credit' form. It includes fields for 'Applicant/Owner Information' such as Name, Address, and Phone Number. There are checkboxes for 'Send Application' and 'Request by Owner Only'. Below these are sections for 'Property Information' and 'Assessment Year Application'.

If you haven't applied yet, you can apply anytime between now and March 15, 2015. Get your application form at the Clayton County Assessor's office or send an email to Andy Loan at aloan@claytoncountyia.gov.

Once you've applied and your credit is approved, you'll receive the credit for future years while you still own the property.

To see the credit calculations and credit files for 2014, see the Department of Revenue website at LocalGovExchange.iowa.gov.



Iowa Department of **REVENUE**

For Clayton County, all credit amounts within the urban areas range from \$498.82 to \$979.93 and in the rural areas the credits range from \$593.27 to \$716.74 for the taxes payable fiscal year 2014/2015. Keep in mind that this is based on the taxing district levy rate the property is located in and that this rate will change from year to year.

Final thoughts...

Are you wanting additional information not found in this newsletter? Please feel free to visit the Clayton County website located at www.claytoncountyia.gov. If you are still unable to find what you need or would like to make a suggestion for the next newsletter, please send an e-mail Jennifer Garms at jmgarms@claytoncountyia.gov.

COUNTY HOLIDAYS

(SEPTEMBER 2014—AUGUST 2015)

- Labor Day - September 1
- Veterans Day - November 11
- Thanksgiving - November 27 & 28
- Christmas - December 24 & 25
- New Years Day - January 1
- President's Day - February 16
- Good Friday - April 3
- Memorial Day - May 25
- Independence Day - July 3

CONTACT LISTING

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Tim Engelhardt
(563) 245-1516

Sheriff

Mike Tschirgi
(563) 245-1412



Board of Supervisors

Gary Bowden
Larry Gibbs
Ron McCartney
(563) 245-2166

General Relief/VA

Jean Gage
(563) 245-1865

Health & Zoning

Janet Ott
(563) 245-2451

Community Action

(563) 245-2542

Information Tech.

(563) 245-1131

Drivers' License

(563) 245-3200

Substance Abuse

(563) 245-1546

Emergency Mgmt.

Joel Biggs
(563) 245-3004

Targeted Case Management

(563) 245-1333

Engineer

Rafe Koopman
(563) 245-1782

Visiting Nurses

(563) 245-1145



Assessor

Andy Loan
(563) 245-2533

Recorder

Sue Meyer
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Clerk of Court

(563) 245-2204

Auditor

Dennis Freitag
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Linda Zuercher
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