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Clayton County, Iowa

An Insight into the Workings of County Government—Summer/Fall 2016

Secondary Roads Update

Engineer Rafe Koopman shares some of the recent changes

The Road Department has undergone some changes this year. We have had some retirements that allowed us to look at the structure of our management staff and see if we could make some improvements. Here is what we did:

- Moved from one Road Superintendent managing 28 employees to two each managing 14 employees.
- We added a Road Construction Foreman to manage our in house construction projects.
- We maintained our Bridge Crew Foreman, Roadside Manager and Shop Foreman positions.

Our shop foreman is the only veteran on this management team. All other positions were filled with current secondary road employees. With having a relatively new management staff we took the opportunity to renew our focus on safety, efficiency, and our commitment to responsible use of tax payer dollars.

This change in management took place in the spring of this year. It took us a while to fill all the vacancies left with the promotions and retirements. Currently we are fully staffed.



This photo was taken by our Southern Road Superintendent Tony Puelz with his drone during the reconstruction process. This is a project Mike Bahls, our Construction Foreman, is working on. It is East Mission Rd between Strawberry Point and Littleport Hwy. This road was extremely wide, difficult to maintain and always full of potholes and mud spots. The project is complete now and the road has proper crown to shed the water and an appropriate width that will ease routine maintenance.

General Election - November 8, 2016

As the General Election approaches, the Auditor's Office receives many questions regarding voting. Some of the frequently asked questions include:

Q. What is straight party voting and do I have to use it?

A. In general elections, a voter has the opportunity to use straight party voting but it is not required. A voter can skip this section on the ballot and make their selections office by office. Straight party voting is utilized by filling in an oval for a party of your choice. This in essence is filling in ovals for all candidates that have that party listed under their name and does not affect non-partisan offices. A "split ticket" can be done by filling in the oval for a candidate from a different party.

Q. Do I have to vote on everything on the ballot?

A. It is your choice to vote on as much or as little you want like. Make sure you look over both sides of the ballot to ensure you are voting on all items you want to.

Q. When and where can I absentee vote?

A. In-person absentee voting begins on Thursday, September 29, 2016 at the Auditor's Office. Absentee ballot request forms to have the ballot mailed are currently being excepted and will be mailed out when the ballots are available.

For more information regarding the upcoming election please visit our county website. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact the Auditor's Office at (563) 245-1106.



POLLING PLACE CHANGE — A polling place change will affect voters in Mendon Township and the Cities of Marquette and McGregor. The polling place has been moved from the McGregor Public Library to the Marquette Community Center to accommodate the large voter turnout.

Property Tax Certified Garber Rd Shoulder Improvement

Property taxes are certified and statements were mailed on August 15, 2016. Forest Reserve parcels will no longer receive a statement. First half payment is due by September 30th. 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. Call the Treasurer's Office at (563) 245-1807 with any questions.

Located approximately 1 mile east of intersection with Ironwood Rd/Plagman Barn. Work on the project is about 30% complete.



Order specialty and personalized licensed plates online at: iowadot.gov/personalizedplates. You can also check the availability of your personalized message.

Flu Clinics Scheduled

The Clayton County Visiting Nurses Office will have flu clinics on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:00 PM the end of September and the whole month of October. There will also be scheduled clinics in communities across the county. For more information, please call (563) 245-1145.

One Million Documents Electronically Filed

Iowa Land Records has reached a significant milestone - one million documents have been electronically filed in Iowa. Iowa real estate professionals are able to electronically file deeds, mortgages, liens and many other legal documents with Iowa County Recorders. The system has proven to be faster and more efficient than traditional paper filing. Paper filing can take days or weeks, but electronic filing typically results in a recorded document the same business day.

Use of the Iowa Land Records service has grown steadily. In 2014, over 25% of all documents recorded were e-filed. Participation grew in 2015 when 32% of all documents were e-filed. E-filing continues to grow in 2016. Through July 31, 2016 E-Submission volume is up 5% compared with the same period in 2015.

In 2015, 13.82% of all documents in Clayton County were electronically recorded using the Iowa Land Records system.



The very first electronically filed document was recorded in Allamakee County on December 22, 2005. "A decade ago we could not have imagined the recording of one million electronic documents. This is a big accomplishment for the Iowa real estate industry and Iowa County Recorders," said Allamakee County Recorder, Deb Winke.

Iowa Land Records is a collaborative project of all 99 Iowa counties, and is managed and governed by Iowa counties and the Iowa County Recorders Association through a statewide intergovernmental agreement. "With the test of time and increasing success, Iowa county government has demonstrated that we can be technology leaders and provide great service to our customers and citizens," said Sue Meyer, Clayton County Recorder, and Chair of the governing board for the Iowa Land Records system.

Iowa Land Records serves all segments of the real estate industry, such as financial institutions, title companies, real estate attorneys and other government agencies. In addition to the electronic filing service, Iowa Land Records provides online access to nearly 16 million public records for all Iowa counties. See <https://iowalandrecords.org>. "Iowa Land Records is a major resource for those who provide title research services and anyone in the real estate industry who needs easy access to public records. We are proud to serve Iowans in this important aspect of their lives - the acquisition of homes and property," said Kim Painter, Johnson County Recorder and President of the Iowa County Recorders Association. All records posted online are checked for personally identifiable information, and such information is redacted before records are posted online.

To learn more about E-Submission with Iowa Land Records register to attend an upcoming E-Submission seminar near you at <https://ilrseminarseries.eventbrite.com>.

Hunting Information & Recreational Vehicles

The 2016-17 Iowa Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide is now available. Deer licenses are for sale in the Recorder's Office.

Beginning September 1, 2016, it is renewal time for ATV's, snowmobiles, and UTV's. The renewal fee for currently registered vehicles is \$17.75. These registrations expire on December 31, 2016 and a \$5.00 penalty will apply on January 1, 2017.



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 more information.

Website In The Works

Clayton County has partnered with CivicPlus to develop an all new website. CivicPlus specializes in developing websites for local government. A committee from five of the county's departments is working to layout a website that is both user friendly and visually appealing. Photographs of the county like those shown will be utilized.



The county website committee has scheduled the new website to launch in late December.

The new claytoncountytia.gov will have many features to take advantage of including:

- Notify Me – Subscribe to receive alerts when new information is available.
- Online forms – Fill out and submit forms directly on the website. The form will be sent, by email, to the correct department for further processing.
- Predictive Search – Makes searching quick and easy.
- Mobile Version and Mobile App – Access the site and be alerted to new content on any mobile device.
- Agenda Center – Easy access to meeting agendas and minutes
- How Do I? – A fast and easy way to learn how to access services in Clayton County.

Plus much more!



County Holidays

(SEPTEMBER 2016—AUGUST 2017)

- Labor Day - September 5
- Veterans Day - November 11
- Thanksgiving - November 24 & 25
- Christmas - December 23 & 26
- New Years Day - January 2
- President's Day - February 20
- Good Friday - April 14
- Memorial Day - May 29
- Independence Day - July 4



Contact Information

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