

COURTHOUSE NEWS:

UNION COUNTY RECORDER-Paula White 782-1725

Renewals for ATV & Snowmobiles are now available. Current registrations expire December 31, 2009.

Our office is now selling the fall deer/turkey tags. If you have questions about landowner/tenant registration, please stop by the office.

Effective July 1, the State of Iowa added sales/use tax to casual sales of ATV and snowmobile transactions. This involves sales between individuals.

Effective July 1, a new law concerning Septic systems went into effect. Contact Union County Sanitarian Louie Boeckman at 782-7803 for additional information.

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative went into effect June 1, 2009. You can apply for a passport or passport card at our office. If you can't apply during normal office hours, please contact my office to schedule an appointment. Go to www.travel.state.gov for additional information. Regular passports are taking approximately 6-8 weeks. Please apply early to avoid expedite fees.

Boaters Take Note: Casual sales (sales between individuals) are subject to Iowa Sales Tax and local option tax. You need a **Bill of Sale from the seller, registration and a title if the boat is 17' or longer.** Boat registrations are now on a 3 year rotation and current boat registrations expire April 30, 2010.

The Union County Website is www.unioncountyiowa.org. Forms are available to request a vital record, marriage application, passport application or bill of sale form. If you have a problem with any of these services, please call the office so we can help you.

UNION COUNTY AUDITOR-Sandy Hysell 782-1701

The City Election is November 3, 2009. The polls will be open at 12:00 p.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. The following is a list of the Polling Places:

- City of Afton and City of Thayer ----- Afton Methodist Church
- City of Arispe and City of Shannon City --- Arispe Methodist Church
- Creston Ward 1 -----Salem Lutheran Church
- Creston Ward 2 and City of Cromwell ----- SWCC Student Center
- Creston Ward 3 ----- Trinity Lutheran Church

Creston Ward 4 ----- Supertel Inn and Conference Center

Creston Ward 5 ----- Crest Baptist Church

City of Lorimor ----- Lorimor City Hall

The public testing of the voting machines will be October 29th @ 10:00 at the Courthouse on the 2nd floor.

The Auditor's Office will be open October 30th until 5:00 pm for early registration. If you have any questions about where you vote or about the same day registration, please feel free to call the Auditors Office @ 641-782-1701.

UNION COUNTY TREASURER-Kelly Busch 782-1710

Drivers License (hours 8:30-4:00) Visit us online at www.IowaTreasurers.org

The Union County Treasurers Office provides the following services: property tax collections, issuance of vehicle titles & registrations, and drivers license issuance.

Frequently Asked Questions from Union County Treasurer:

Real Estate Taxes:

How do I understand my property tax statement?

In an effort to keep the public informed, a great deal of comparative information for the current and prior year is included on each statement. The information will assist property owners in tracking changes in the tax billing from year to year and to help property owners understand where their tax dollars go.

For example, the statement will compare key data elements for the current and prior year, such as:

1. The assessed value of the parcel for land, dwellings, and buildings.
2. The taxable value of the parcel for land, dwellings, and buildings.
3. The name of all taxing authorities receiving a tax distribution, the amount of the distribution, and the percentage distribution for each taxing authority.
4. The levy rate for one thousand dollars of taxable valuation multiplied by the taxable valuation to produce the gross taxes.
5. Tax credits which are deducted from the gross taxes in order to produce the net taxes.

6. The amount of property tax dollars reduced on each parcel as a result of the monies received from the state property tax relief fund.
7. The total amount of taxes for each taxing authority and the difference between the current and prior years expressed as a percentage increase or decrease.

Drivers License:

How long do I have to renew my driver license?

Your license expires on your birthday; it is valid for another 60 days. Other states, airlines or businesses requiring ID may not recognize the 60 days. You will have to pass the vision screening test each time your license is renewed. If your license has been expired for more than one year, you will have to take the driving test as well as the knowledge test and vision screening.

I recently moved to Iowa from another state what information do you need to issue me an Iowa Drivers License?

In order for us to issue an Iowa license to a person who recently moved from another state, we need a primary form of ID for example, certified copy of birth certificate or passport. We also need a secondary form of ID for example, social card and out of state license. The final piece of information we require is a piece of mail or lease agreement showing your current Iowa address, this allows us to verify proof of residency.

Our office provides drivers licenses issuance between the hours of 8:30- 4, Monday thru Friday. Drive tests require an appointment and are scheduled on Wednesdays and Fridays upon the completion of all necessary written tests. Written testing can be done Monday thru Friday between 8:30-3:30.

We now accept debit and credit cards in the office for tax payments and motor vehicle transactions, convenience fee does apply.

UNION COUNTY ASSESSOR-Gene Haner -- 782-1735

Please check and make sure you have a current Homestead and Military Exemption on your property. If you have purchased a different home, make sure you have signed up for these exemptions.

The qualification for any honorably discharged member of the United Armed Forces has been changed to be eligible for the military exemption on your property taxes. Now if

you have served eighteen months or more in the armed forces irregardless of when you served, you are now eligible for a Military Exemption or if you have served for twenty years in the Reserves or the National Guard you are also eligible for the military credit. What is required to sign for this credit is either a DD-214 from the regular service or a complete listing of years served from the Guard or Reserve.

You are also required to inform this office if you have removed or built any new buildings or dwellings or if you have remodeled any buildings or dwellings.

Family Farm Credit is now a one-time sign up and can be signed at any time for qualifying owners.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS-Mike King, Chairperson, Ron Riley, Vice-chair, Bob Brown, Bob Jansen, Tom McCann—782-1720

UNION COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT-JO DUCKWORTH-782-1622