

Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

October 15, 2014



Employee Spotlight!

Let's get to know our County employees!

The September Newsletter featured the picture of the little girl to the left. Did you guess Michelle Dodds?

The following is a little personal information provided by Michelle:

Start date with Dickinson County: January 1, 2001

Where born: Anoka, Minnesota

Places Lived: Anoka, Coon Rapids, St. Cloud, MN and Milford, Ia.

Hobbies, talents, special interests: Travel, crafting, shopping

Favorite Travel Spots: Norway, Seaside, OR. And Outer Banks, NC.

Favorite Food: Fresh baked bread or pasta! Anything with carbs!

Least Favorite Food: Anything from the sea/lake. Ewww!

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): My talented "MacGyver" hubby, a knife and the kids for comic relief.

Something Few Know About Me: I met my husband through a radio dating program.

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: Be a fanatical hockey mom at the new arena!

Dickinson Communication Center & 911

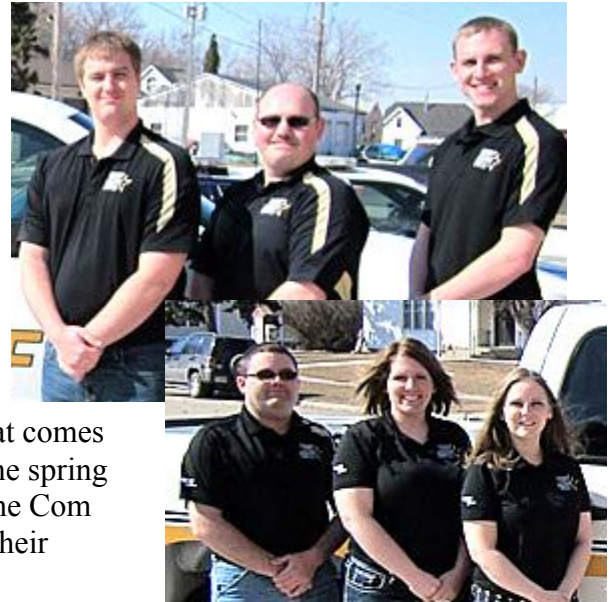
The Dickinson County Communications Center handles all 911 and non-emergency calls for Dickinson County. The center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and dispatches for the following agencies:

- Dickinson County Sheriff's Office
- Arnolds Park Police
- Lake Park Police
- Milford Police
- Okoboji Police
- Spirit Lake Police
- Arnolds Park/Okoboji Fire & Rescue
- Lake Park Fire Department
- Milford Fire & Rescue
- Spirit Lake Fire Department
- Spirit Lake First Responders
- Superior Fire & Rescue
- Terril Fire Department
- Lakes Regional Healthcare Ambulance
- Lake Park Ambulance
- Terril Ambulance
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources Lakes Patrol

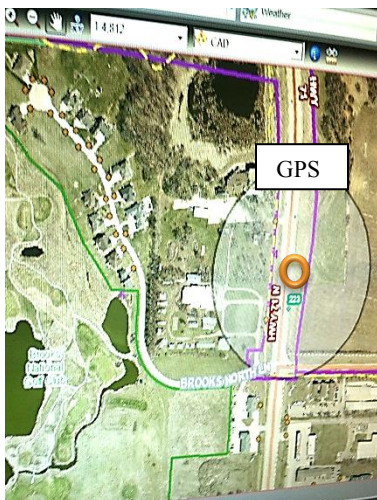
In addition, the Communications Center maintains contact with these agencies:

- Iowa State Patrol
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa DOT Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement
- Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation

The Sheriff's Office employs five full-time and two part-time dispatchers to handle the thousands of calls that are generated each year in Dickinson County. The pictures to the right are Dickinson County Communications Center Staff (L-R top to bottom) Andy Van Schepen, Bruce Lee, Rick Zalabowski, Lead Dispatcher Jarrod Fischer, Kathy Sprague, and Alysha Harlow.



You'd be hard-pressed to find anyone today who doesn't have a cell phone and those who have one, wonder how they ever survived without it. Cell phones, however, have not been without problems. One of those problems is how to deal with a 911 call that comes from a cell phone. Dickinson County upgraded its equipment in the spring of 2005 to accept what's called Phase II data. This simply means the Com Center has the ability to locate most wireless 911 callers and plot their location on a map.



There are two ways your phone can give up its location. Shown on the Com Center screen just to the left, one way is your cell phone provider's system triangulates your location using nearby towers. Once the location has been determined, the coordinates are sent to the 911 system and your location is plotted on the map. The other way is using GPS as shown in the far left screen picture. Newer phones have a GPS "chip" built into them that allows them to receive GPS signals from satellites. This is the means by which most phone companies in and around Dickinson County use to determine your location.

There are, however, factors that may prevent the communication center from being able to locate you.

For instance, if you are inside a building, your phone may not be able to receive GPS data from satellites and thus, not be able to transmit that data to the Center's system. Other factors may include the cellular company's equipment and the type of phone you are using.

The most important thing you can do when traveling is to know where you are. Watch street signs, mile markers and highway markers as you drive so you can tell the Call Center your location if you have to make a call.

In 2013 69% of the 911 calls received were CELLULAR.

Recycling Center

Sawyer Marco is the new manager of the Dickinson County Recycling Center. He grew up in Worthington, MN, and graduated from Minnesota West Community and Technical College in 2012 with an associate's degree in criminal justice. He then attended Northwest Iowa Community College in



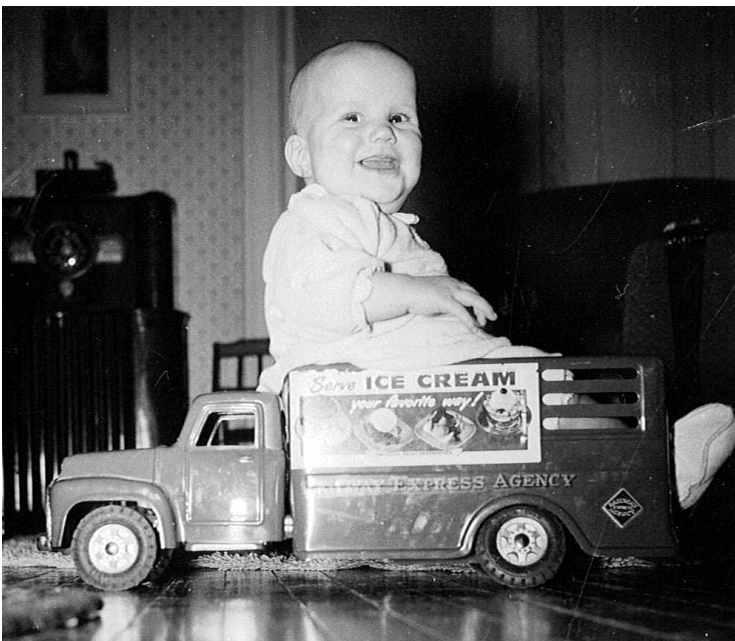
Sheldon for natural resources conservation. Sawyer started as a seasonal employee with Dickinson County Conservation and then applied for and was hired as the full-time recycling center manager this August. Dickinson County residents can bring a variety of items to the recycling center to be disposed of in a responsible manner for a nominal fee: Electronics, household hazardous waste, appliances, tires, yard waste — such as brush and grass clippings, paint, batteries, fluorescent lights, oil and antifreeze. The Dickinson County Recycling Center is located at 2260 220th St. in Milford and is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Winter hours begin Nov. 1, with the center being open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The center will also be open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays during the summer next year.

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, the last of things happy people don't do will be in the next newsletter. The article was written by Dan Baker, PhD of the Bottom Line Publications.

Number 8: Happy people don't procrastinate. *They usually get unpleasant tasks over with so that they can move on to the happier things. They understand that putting off an unpleasant task doesn't make the task any less unpleasant.*

October Spotlight:



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

Motivational quote for the month:

“You’re burning daylight” – Michelle’s Dad