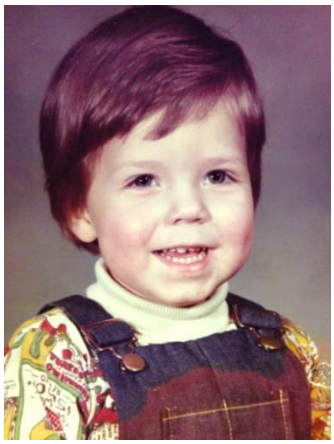
Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

September 15, 2014



Employee Spotlight!

Let's get to know our County employees!

The August Newsletter featured the picture of the little boy to the left. Did you guess Tony Petersen?

The following is a little personal information provided by Tony:

Start date with Dickinson County: June, 2001

Where born: Estherville, Iowa

Places Lived: Dunnell MN, Estherville, Arnolds Park, Lake Park, Milford

Hobbies, talents, special interests: Family, Hunting, Fishing, SKOL VIKINGS!

Favorite Travel Spots: Cando ND – waterfowl hunting, Ear Falls Ontario - Fishing

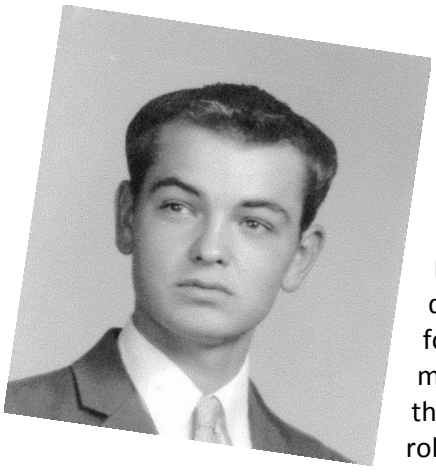
Favorite Food: ***Bacon***

Least Favorite Food: Anything Mint

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): Shotgun, multi-tool & my dog

Something Few Know About Me: I was the King of my high school prom. I still have the crown! And someone anonymously provided the picture as proof!

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: Spending time with my wife and two daughters



Dick Larson is retiring

Dick Larson started his employment with Dickinson County April of 1986. He worked through the ranks in the County's Secondary Road Department; first, as an Equipment Operator in the northeast part of the County, and then working his way to Spirit Lake Shop Foreman. Dick will be remembered best for his tremendous dedication to snow removal. If snow was in the forecast, Dick was ready to go by 4:00 AM in the morning. It didn't matter what day of the week. On those frigid mornings when most County residents rolled over and hit the snooze alarm, Dick was opening roads while battling the cold weather and early morning blizzard conditions. His final day with the County will be September 30, 2014. He will be missed. Dick enjoys time hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends and his three grown children. Here's to hoping there are many snooze alarms in your mornings ahead, Dick.

Thanks for your service.

Storms hit Dickinson County in June and again in August. It is hard to imagine 60mph winds but Dickinson County has experienced them too many times.

6-16-14
On the afternoon of Monday, June 16, three rounds of severe weather affected Dickinson County. The first storm moved out of Osceola County around 3pm and resulted in a Tornado Warning for western Dickinson County, including Lake Park. No tornadoes were reported, although Emergency Management did observe a brief funnel cloud west of May City in Osceola County.
Around 4:30pm, a second storm moved out of Clay County into southeast Dickinson County and prompted the issuance of a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for ping-pong ball size hail and 60mph winds. The third storm produced hail up to 1" in diameter east of Terril. Emergency Management also reported 70mph winds northwest of Lake Park. Wind damage was widespread!
7-14-14, Governor Branstad made a formal request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Dickinson County.
7-24-14, the Disaster Declaration request was granted by FEMA and the President. The declaration meant that the federal government would pay for 75% of the repairs and labor for storm-related damages, the State of Iowa would by 10% and the remaining 15% would be paid by the applying entity.

8-21-2014, most residents in the Iowa Great Lakes were awakened around 3:30a.m. when a severe thunderstorm roared its way through the area, ripping down tree limbs and power lines again. Wind gusts estimated at 60 mph or greater were reported in Okoboji. The south end of the city of Spirit Lake through the city of Okoboji seemed to take the brunt of the storm. Tree damage was especially notable in Okoboji in the area of Brooks Golf Course and along Lakeshore

Drive and power lines were downed knocking out power to pretty much all of Spirit Lake, Okoboji and Arnolds.
8-30-14, representatives from Iowa HSEMD and FEMA were in Spirit Lake to hold an applicant's briefing on the Disaster Declaration for the storm of 6-16-14.
After that, FEMA will be scheduling kick-off meetings with each applicant to begin the process of going through documentation and conducting site visits of the damaged areas. Of course by this time, most, if not all of the 6-16-14 damage has been repaired and folks could still be working on the damage from the 8-21-14 storm. ***This is why documenting damages with photos is so important and why Emergency Management conducts a damage assessment immediately following the storm.***

Treasurers Year End Report: (Information provided by the Dickinson County Treasurer, Kris Rowley)

The Treasurer's office collected $47,161,278.21 in tax collections for fiscal year 2014. Along with those dollars, the office also collected $13,446,086.33 in miscellaneous receipts and $800,729.49 dollars in State and Federal credits. With the new fiscal year beginning, tax statements have been mailed and received and new dollars for FY15 are coming in. There have been new tax credits issued for FY 15 as a result of the Senate File 295 which have affected the tax credits for Dickinson County.

- Business Property Tax Credit (new) = $414,501.82
- Rollback Replacement Credit (new) = $532,284.65
- Agland Credits = $104,102.11
- Family Farm Credits = $27,445.55
- Homestead Credits = $545,540.59
- Military Credits = $15,130.93
- Mobile Home Property Tax Credits = $2,548.00
- Disabled Elderly Property Tax Credits = $45,172.00
- Federal Fish and Wildlife Credits in FY14 estimate = $37,137.00

Total Estimated Tax Credits for the Fiscal Year 2015 are $1,716,000

Total Tax Credits for last Fiscal Year 2014 was $800,729.49
Total Tax Credits for Fiscal Year 2013 was $692,392.65
The FY14 was quite a bit larger than FY13 because the State fully funded the Homestead credits. That was the first time that had happened in a LONG time.
The difference between FY15 and FY 14 is directly related to Senate File 295, Property Tax Reform.

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

Number 7: *Happy people don't focus on a single passion or relationship. They usually have multiple hobbies, belong to multiple clubs and organizations and socialize with a broad range of different friends and acquaintances.*

September Spotlight:

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

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

Motivational quote for the month:

If you tell people where to go, but not how to get there, you'll be amazed at the results.
George S. Patton