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POLK COUNTY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

POLK COUNTY IOWA : SETTING NEW STANDARDS

POLK COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



ROBERT BROWNELL
 1ST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



E.J. GIOVANNETTI
 2ND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



TOM HOCKENSMITH
 3RD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



JOHN F. MAURO
 4TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
 CHAIR



ANGELA CONNOLLY
 5TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



JOHN SARCONE
 COUNTY ATTORNEY



JAMIE FITZGERALD
 AUDITOR



JULIE M. HAGGERTY
 RECORDER



BILL MCCARTHY
 SHERIFF



MARY MALONEY
 TREASURER

FOR MORE INFO OR QUESTIONS
 POLK COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
 111 COURT AVENUE, DES MOINES, IA 50309
 WWW.POLKCOUNTYIOWA.GOV

POLK COUNTY HEALTH & EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS NEW EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

One year ago, two-thirds of the building at 1907 Carpenter was a vacant warehouse. Polk County Health Department had some staff offices in converted closets and many were sharing offices designed for one person. There were only five clinic rooms to serve the community. There was only one small “conference room” (converted storage room) for the department to use for community partnership meetings.



Polk County Health Department Waiting Room

Polk County Air Quality had their monitoring equipment on a series of shelves in an otherwise warehouse area. Their staff had no privacy (no walls in an empty warehouse) and no desks.

Polk County Emergency Management did not have access to a dedicated emergency operations center to facilitate our community’s coordinated response to emergencies or disasters, like the floods of 2008 & 2010. What a difference a year makes. Among other things, a visitor to 1907 Carpenter will now find a:

- Renovated health department with an expanded waiting room, three conference rooms, twice as many clinic rooms and expanded office space;
- State of the art lab for Polk County Air Quality; and
- Dedicated Emergency Operations Center.



*1907 Carpenter during renovation
 Photo taken by Polk Co EMA staff*



*1907 after renovation
 Photo courtesy of Joe Solem, JS Photos*



*1907 Carpenter Open House
 Photo courtesy of Joe Solem, JS Photos*

MORE ON THE COUNTY'S HEALTH DEPARTMENT...



Polk County Health Department Employees

The Polk County Health Department has become fully functional since December 2010. The reception area has more than doubled in size as has the number of clinic rooms and we now have state of the art space to conduct health education opportunities to the community. The clinic provides a variety of services such as adult and childhood immunizations, breast and cervical cancer screenings, chronic disease treatment, primary care, dental screenings, foot care and much more. For an appointment, call 286-3798.

New features support the health department in providing the community with unique opportunities to manage or improve their health conditions such as:

- Have diabetes or are at risk for diabetes? Participate in a 5-week diabetes education course where participants learn more about the disease, how a healthy diet and exercise can help manage their blood sugar, how to avoid complications and other important information. For more info, contact Ana at 286-5227.
- Individuals with Hepatitis C can participate in a monthly support group to discuss the challenges, successes and experiences of living with Hepatitis C. For more info, call Kelli at 286-3741.
- Living with herpes can be scary and stressful. Attend a monthly support group to discuss living with herpes and where to find resources. The group meets from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. For more info, call Kelli at 286-3741.
- The Better Choices, Better Life program is a peer-led, 6-week course that teaches practical ways to deal with pain and fatigue, discover better nutrition and exercise choices, and learn better ways to talk about your health. Pre-registration is required, call 323-5234 to learn more.
- A Matter of Balance-Fall/Injury Prevention Program is an award-winning fall prevention program for senior citizens that teach practical strategies to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels. Pre-registration is required, call 323-5234 to learn more.

SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM

Do you know a family or a senior citizen who could use some help with groceries during these hard times? The Polk County Supplemental Food program gives FREE FOOD away to pregnant women, post-natal mothers up to 1 year, children under the age of 6, and senior citizens 60 years of age or older who meet income guidelines. To see if you or someone you know is eligible, please call 286-3655.

UPCOMING COUNTY EVENTS

ICE FISHING CLINIC.....	FEBRUARY 6
WILLOW BASKET WORKSHOP.....	FEBRUARY 12
GET OUTSIDE YOUNG ADULTS.....	FEBRUARY 13
CROSS-COUNTRY SKI BASICS.....	FEBRUARY 26
TURKEY HUNTING BASICS.....	MARCH 1
SPRING FLING.....	MARCH 15

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONVENES EACH TUESDAY AT 9:30 A.M. IN ROOM 120 IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING.

VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM RENOVATION UPDATE

Over the past several years, the Polk County Board of Supervisors has struggled with the future of the Polk County Convention Complex (Plex) and its role within the Iowa Events Center (IEC). Current projec-



tions show a need to spend up to \$20 million to bring the aging facility back into functioning condition. As an alternative to that level of expenditure, the Board has determined to remodel the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium into a convention center, thus consolidating convention activities with the events activities at Hy-Vee Hall and Wells Fargo Arena.

Renovation of VMA will include approximately 32,875 square feet of meeting room space, 1,210 square feet of board room space and 28,739 square feet of multipurpose ballroom space. This renovation will include the construction of an additional floor in Vet's Auditorium to accommodate a multi-purpose ballroom. This construction is on pace to be completed by January 2012. Stay up to date on the renovation's progress by logging onto <http://www.iowaeventscenter.com/webcam.aspx>.

ELECTED OFFICIALS TAKE OATH FOR ANOTHER TERM

Polk County Supervisor John Mauro was unanimously elected 2011 Chairman of the Board of Supervisors at the January 3, 2011 meeting.

Mauro, who represents District 4, was first elected in 2003 and last served as chairman in 2008. District 3 Supervisor Tom Hockensmith was chairman in 2010. District 5 Supervisor Angela Connolly also received unanimous support to serve as the board's vice chairwoman for 2011. Connolly, Hockensmith and Mauro each won re-election last November.

The three supervisors, along with County Attorney John Sarcone, Recorder Julie Haggerty and Treasurer Mary Maloney, were sworn into office by Chief Judge of the 5th District, Arthur Gamble of the Fifth Judicial District on January 3, 2011.

Chairman Mauro indicated the county budget, addressing space constraints in the court system and negotiating a new lease with Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino in Altoona were among the board's top priorities in 2011.



Pictured Left to Right: Supervisors John Mauro, Tom Hockensmith and Angela Connolly; Treasurer Mary Maloney, County Attorney John Sarcone and Recorder Julie Haggerty