



Courthouse pictures provided by JoLynn Harms

**The Board of Supervisors** received a request from McHann Construction for payment of the 5 % retainage held out of each invoice during construction of Phase I of the new courthouse. (totaling \$448,318) Attached to the request were two punch lists containing 28 pages of items and diagrams. The Board agreed to pay all but \$250,000 with the requirement that the punch list would be completed in 30 days and that during the 30 days new items could be added to the list. The Sheriff presented a list of 33 items that need attention in the jail. The status of the punch lists, the sheriff's list and an overall Courthouse list will be reviewed at the next Construction meeting. The Construction meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. We are awaiting a new date.

**Comments from the Assessor on their new office:** The new assessor's office is a bright clean open office. The layout is more efficient for workflow and service to the public. The office will be completed in the second phase, with the assessor's personal office, map room and the board of review conference room being completed.

Dickinson County continues to grow and the office was designed with the future in mind, with additional work areas having access to electrical, computer, and telephone connections.

We would like to welcome the public to come in a view the new office and utilize the computer we now have available for public use. We look forward to the completion of the second phase and would like to thank everyone involved in completing the first phase of the new courthouse and the public for their support.



**Treasurer's Update:** Yes, the treasurer office has had a busy past month. They have collected March 1 thru April 10 \$11, 816,278.96 in real estate taxes, but also along with those collections there is \$19, 734 in drainage; \$21,521 in mobile homes; \$6330.86 in Spec Assessments; \$442, 857.24 in motor vehicle and \$552,523.92 in misc collections for a grand total of **\$12, 859,245.98 collections March 1-April 10.**

In the next couple of weeks the Treasurer will be preparing for the delinquent notices that go out to inform tax payers that the annual tax sale is coming the third Monday in June. Linda says, if the delinquent taxpayer does not want his/her name in the newspaper or their property sold at the sale, they must come in and pay!!

Looking at the internet web collections, Linda is truly amazed again this tax collections period. Dickinson County is number 10 in the dollars collected for taxes in the month of March. Polk county is #1 with \$6,110,114.04 paid by customers! This figure does not include batch bank payments. This will be the 3rd March for being the number the #1 county with payments/population ratio. The Treasurer collected \$1,538,337.00 from the internet this March. The E-check option is running 3 to 1 over credit cards. That option has a cost of \$2.00 while the credit card option is roughly 2% of the amount the taxpayer is paying. Motor vehicle collections on the website are also improving. For the past fiscal year July 04 thru June 05, \$48,924.00 was collected for 516 vehicle licenses. 9 months into the new fiscal year and the Treasurer reports the office is ahead of all of last year's collections. From July 1, 05 thru April 10, 2006 \$55, 905.00 have been collected and licensed 566 vehicles. Credit cards out distance e-checks for motor vehicle payments.

The next hurdle facing the Treasurer's office is preparing for is the software update to driver license. The office will go on line with the new system April 26th in our station. Bea and Linda went for training in February and recommendations were to work in a sandbox environment at least 1 hour each working day to get familiar with the new system. Linda says they even had to fax our time sheets to DOT. The same company that did the state motor vehicle system has written the programs for driver license. As with motor vehicle this is the first update in 21 years for that system!! So the Treasurer expects lots of learning curves for the state people and well as county. The office is doing this in preparation of the new laws passed called "REAL ID". They are still waiting for the top State officials to make a decision on the compliance date for this new change. They like what they see in the new system, but as with any new software update...not everything goes as planned!! It will take more time per customer as they will have 7 PAGES that need to be updated per customer!!! In addition, the Treasurer's office is also going to be able to accept electronic signatures by parents, CDL licensees and multiple forms signatures. The state wants to go completely paperless. Linda and her staff will have their fingers crossed that everything goes well!!!! She says, "Hey, if I could cross my toes, I would do that to!!"

Linda and her staff say they are enjoying their new office space and they have had good feedback from customers at the counter.

**Bridges Bay update:**

The Board of Supervisors have not heard any more information about the annexation of Bridges Bay to Arnolds Park. In a meeting with Arnolds Park regarding fire protection for Center Grove, Ron Walker said they were still in negotiations.



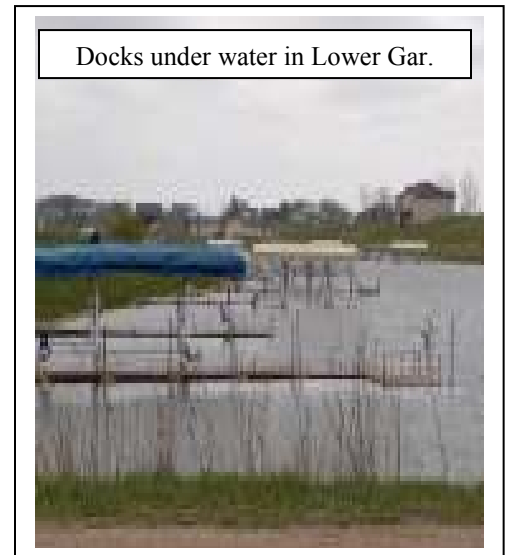
The Water Park



Condo Units



Bridges Bay Water Park Hotel



Docks under water in Lower Gar.

Rain, rain, rain brings high waters to the Iowa Great Lakes. The Board of Supervisors will again take up the issue of what should or should not be done at the Lower Gar Outlet.



Spirit Lake Outlet



The left picture was taken at the southwest end of Lower Gar. The Board will be discussing the removal of the growth in the creek.