

Dickinson County Newsletter # 44

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Produced by Mardi Allen, thanks for the information provided by participating departments

Picture supplied by JoLynn Harms



Dickinson County Employee Parking Lot Update (from Brad Beck): The Employee parking lot plans are currently being finalized and the contract documents are being prepared. The bid letting and public hearing are planned for Tuesday, March 24th. The project will have a late start date of June 1, 2009 and the contractor will have 60 working days to complete the project. The project should be completed around Labor Day. There will be 69 10ft parking spots in addition to the 34 public spots and the 5 handicap. Spirit Lake will have 19th Street torn up at the same time but when completed, 19th Street will have diagonal parking along the courthouse side where some of you are parking now and an additional 4 spots between the Courthouse public parking and the new employee parking lots. The employee parking lot construction is planned in stages. The north end is planned to be completed first with a temporary road coming from the public parking lot to the employee parking. Parking will be limited during construction so patience will be needed

throughout the summer.

Veterans' Affairs (from Ernie Cupp): Ernie met with the director of the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center on January 7th. Because of the number of congressional staff people present, Ernie brought up the idea of moving benefit claim processing for the ten NW Iowa counties covered by this hospital to Sioux Falls in order to shorten claim wait time. They are working on a program to flag van riders so that the appointments are not so early. The director cannot impact what happens in Minneapolis but will talk to his counterpart about early appointment times and one day notice for appointment notification. The new mental health treatment facility is about ready and should help if the Veterans' Affairs Office has a voluntary commitment. The demand for mental health services at the Spirit Lake Clinic is so great management was taken by surprise. Staffing for mental health has doubled and another half-time person is probably still needed.

IT update (from Alissa Julius): The spam filter is still having issues with various emails getting returned to users rather than making it to the email server. According to Barrier, various IP addresses have been blacklisted. Mediacom is one address that has a few issues along with a few other addresses. Barrier has been working on this issue and it appears the previously blocked addresses are now on the safe list. If you are still experiencing users getting returned mail please let Alissa know. With all of the issues with Barrier's spam filter, Alissa is seriously considering changing vendors.

The new website is live and changes are being done as needed. If there are any changes or additions they can be easily added at any time. The weather radio has still not arrived. Mike Ehret has been actively working with the radio company to get it programmed for the needs of the county. As soon as the weather radio arrives United Technologies will be able to complete the speaker system project.

The new monitors have arrived in the sheriff's office and to date are working great. The cameras in the jail have been replaced and are functioning properly. Since the jail was built there were issues with the cameras in the jail cells. Many solutions were provided but none of the solutions worked. The jail has had to leave the lights on all night so the cameras were able to see the prisoners. Alpha suggested infrared cameras in the jail as a solution to this problem. The old cameras from the jail have been removed and used throughout the courthouse and installed in the new camera locations and the infrared cameras have been installed in the jail. The reports from the jail and communication center have been that the new infrared cameras are a successful solution to the problem in the jail.




The new servers have arrived for the VMware project. The install has been completed and went well. Users did not notice any changes in their daily work. The County Attorney's office and Sheriff's office have been moved to the VM server and will benefit from the virtual platform they did not have on their old unstable servers.

GIS (from Amy Schmeling): Amy contacted Sidwell to check on the County fly-over planned for this spring. The aerials have not been taken since spring of 2002 and there has been a lot of construction since then. Current maps do not show that construction. She was assured that Dickinson County will be contacted prior to the new aerials being taken but that it could be possible that the fly-over be delayed due to the amount of snow that has been on the ground.




Courthouse Tour of Emergency Equipment (picture by Barb Woodley, chart by Mike Ehret):

On January 29, 2009, Mike Ehret took two tour groups through the new courthouse locating each of the emergency equipment listed to the left. The tour was intended to show employees the locations of all fire alarms, defibrulators and fire extinguishers. Mike suggested that each employee find the location of the **closest** equipment to their office.

Floor	Fire Alarm Pull Stations (11)	Defibs (5)	Fire Extinguishers (10)
B	Across from the elevator By the electrical room (end of hall)		Across from the elevator By the electrical room (end of hall)
1	Across from elevator Across from Auditors office Outside the Veterans Affairs office By the exit door next to the breakroom	Across from the Recorders office By the IT office	By the Treasurer's office Across from the Veterans Affairs office Across from the Recorder's office
1-50*	By the Deputies entrance	Booking area in the Jail	By the Comm. Center door By the file cabinets in Deputy's area
2	Outside County Attorney's office Outside DHS office Across from the elevator	Across from Courtroom C Between Clerk of Courts & Co. Atty's office	Outside the County Attorney's office Across from Courtroom C Across from the elevator
2-SH†	Inside the door, middle hallway		

 **First Aid Station:** In the Recorder's office

* Sheriff's Office
† Secure Hallway