

Dickinson County Newsletter # 46

May 2009

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Courthouse ground picture taken by JoLynn Harms. Fly over provided by Allen Burchett on May 24, 2009 & pictures taken by Mardi Allen



Dickinson County Courthouse

Grand Opening: The Courthouse Grand Opening is scheduled for Flag Day, June 14, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. The dedication brochure will go to the printer Friday, May 29th. Spirit Lake has agreed to close the 1800 block of Hill Ave. to traffic during the ceremony for safety and additional seating space. There will be limited seating provided so the public and County employees will be encouraged to

bring their own lawn chairs. After the presentation of the colors, Col. Ret Jeff Christie will dedicate the Veteran's Memorial, followed by Chairman Gottsche, Al Oberlander, Mike McCline, LTC John Cunningham and Judge David Larsen, who are the celebration's keynote speakers. The ribbon cutting ceremony will follow the speakers. The open house and self tours are planned to start at 1:50 p.m. and will last until 3:00 p.m. Ice tea, lemonade and cookies will be available during the open house and self tours. Thanks to all of the Department Heads, all offices will be open and available for tours. The Department Heads will be available in their office areas to help with the self tours. The plan is to have volunteers at each of the entrances to help give directions. Other stations for volunteers will be at the elevator on each floor, the 3 courtrooms, and the hallways and in the Community Room where the cookies, lemonade, and ice tea will be available. There will be a scrolling picture show of the events of the new courthouse construction playing continuously in the Community Room. That same picture show will be showing on a kiosk in the Veterans tower surrounded on three sides with the new courthouse construction boards on easels. So far, besides the Department Heads themselves, there are 2 volunteers from the Auditor's office, 3 from the Recorder's office, 3 from the Treasurer's office, 1 from IT, 1 from DHS and 6 from the Clerk's office. Ernie Cupp will be stationed in the Veterans' Plaza to field questions and to direct people to the courthouse. ***Anyone else interested in volunteering to help with the tours and/or to help in the Community Room, please contact Mardi Allen as soon as possible. There is a meeting for the volunteer's and Dept Heads that want to attend, planned for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday June 2nd in the Community***



Room. After the open house/self-tours, at approximately 3:00 p.m. the celebration will be ended with a cornerstone/time capsule ceremony preformed by the Masons.

Dickinson County participating in National Guard Vigilant Guard exercise:

On Friday, June 19, Dickinson County Emergency Management will participate with other counties and states in the Vigilant Guard exercise. That Friday, DCEM will open the Dickinson County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the first time since the move to the new Courthouse. The EOC will be staffed by several people; among them will be the Emergency Management Coordinator, representatives from law enforcement, fire, EMS, County Engineer, County Auditor, Iowa National Guard and others. The exercise will center around a natural disaster scenario with injects phoned to the EOC by the State Emergency Management Office in Des Moines. Mike Ehret explained that he will not know what the disaster is until the Des Moines office calls with a description. From that, all present will go into the exercise and additional phone calls will continue to create the disaster throughout the day. The entire exercise program will span a June 18-24 in Iowa with most counties participating. Different districts in Iowa will have different scenarios. In addition, many other states have completed similar Vigilant Guard exercises in past months and others will hold them over the coming summer and fall.

IT News: The County has a new analytics program on the website to help get statistics on website visitors. Below are some statistics from April 9 to May 7:

3,029 Visits

1,877 Unique Visitors or First time Visitors

The Assessor's page was the heaviest hit page, followed by the services page and the Treasurer's page. Copies of these statistics along with more detail can be obtained in the IT office.