



Webster County CONNECTION

JANUARY 2013

A Newsletter for Employees of Webster County, IA

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Mark Campbell
Merrill Leffler

TREASURER:

April Jawish

Message from New Supervisors:

“We are very excited to be on the job as new county supervisors. We have met a lot of good people so far and look forward to meeting all county employees in the future. It is a very exciting time in Webster County, the future is bright. With all of us working together to serve the people of Webster Co. we know this will be a great place to live in the future. If anyone has anything they would like to address with us please do not hesitate to call or email us.

Thanks!

Merrill and Mark

Fiscal Fitness Ledgers Due Soon

If you are participating in the current ISAC Wellness Program “Fiscal Fitness”, you should be well on your way in completing the Fiscal Fitness Transaction Ledger provided in your participation packet. Once you have reached the goal of “\$500”, please turn in your form by **Wed. Feb. 6th** to any Wellness Committee member: Amy Porter, Andy McGill, Angie Roderick, Jamie Saxton, Jolene Daniels or Erin Ford.

If you participate, you can include this program on your ISAC Wellness Incentive form. Remember, you earn \$25 for each program you complete (up to two programs).



Iowa Tax Returns Begin Jan. 30



The federal legislation passed on January 1, 2013 to avert the “fiscal cliff” required revisions to IRS forms and processes. As a result, the IRS plans to begin processing 2012 federal income tax returns on Jan. 30.

Preparation of Iowa individual tax returns is tied directly to federal returns. Therefore, Iowa will begin to process state returns on the same date. Neither the IRS or Iowa will process paper or electronic returns prior to Jan. 30, so there is no advantage to sending in a paper return. Taxpayers will receive refunds much faster by waiting to file electronically.

88% of Iowans filed electronically last year. Filing electronically, with direct deposit, is the fastest way to receive a refund. Many taxpayers are able to eFile their federal and state tax returns for free. Watch the Iowa Dept. of Revenue website (www.iowa.gov/tax) for more details on electronic filing options.

The IRS also indicated that while the majority of taxpayers should be able to start filing return on Jan. 30, some may not be able to file until late February or into March due to the need for more extensive forms and processing systems changes. This group includes people claiming residential energy credits, depreciation of property, or general business credits.

- Carol Messerly, Auditor

New PPEL Election Set for Feb. 5th

Ballots are available at the Auditor's Office for a special election on Feb. 5, which will allow voters a second chance to renew the current 67-cent Physical Plant and Equipment Levy and also increase it by an additional 67 cents.

A Fort Dodge Messenger article by Brandon Summers on Jan. 22 stated: “If the levy isn't renewed..., the consequences for the Fort Dodge Community School District could be dire, said district officials. ‘I think it's important people understand it's for school buses, for technology. It can also be dollars for building security and safety issues, let alone general maintenance, from roof repair to concrete work. All those things play into and make our schools the best learning environment possible,’ said Doug Van Zyl, Superintendent.”



Get to Know...

Kim Andrews, **Treasurer 2nd Deputy**

Years at Webster Co. = 24

Married to Ted with 4 children: Todd, Aaron, Melissa & Matt. I have 8 grandchildren and a spoiled dog named Benji. I like scrapbooking, card making, tap dancing & going on cruises.

What chore do you secretly enjoy doing?

Ironing (obsessed!)

If you could choose one super power to have, what would it be?

To snap my fingers and be in the Caribbean!

Has someone ever given you advice that you've passed on to someone else?

My mother. She always told me to treat others the way you would like to be treated.

Beach, country or city?

BEACH

What makes you laugh?

My girlfriends!

If you could go on an all-expense paid vacation, where would you go?

To the South Pacific, Tahiti or Bora Bora



Service Anniversaries

We would like to recognize the following employees for their years of service to Webster County as of January 2013. We're very fortunate to have all of you! We appreciate your service, loyalty and dedication.

- 33 years: **Jan Messerly**, Treasurer
- 24 years: **Jayson Heesch**, Sheriff Deputy
- 18 years: **Julie Howell**, Public Health
- 16 years: **Kari Prescott**, Public Health
- 14 years: **Dan Hofbauer**, Secondary Roads
Steve Will, Secondary Roads
Brett Knippel, Sheriff Deputy
- 10 years: **Bobby Stanberg**, Secondary Roads
- 7 years: **Mindy Anderson**, Sheriff Office
Dale Iles, Secondary Roads
Douglas Darrah, Jail
- 6 years: **Keith Dencklau**, Board of Supervisors
- 5 years: **Russ Naden**, Veteran Affairs
- 4 years: **Bob Singer**, Board of Supervisors
- 2 years: **Clark Fletcher**, Board of Supervisors
Kit Anderson, Public Health
- 1 year: **Thomas Gaillard**, Auditor
Daymon Peterson, Secondary Roads

Safety Spotlight: Timely Accident Reporting

It is very important that all employees report any on-the-job injuries or accidents in a timely manner. According to the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI), injuries reported two weeks after the accident date resulted in an 18 percent cost, 3-4 weeks after resulted in a 30 percent greater cost, and after 4 weeks, costs increased 45 percent. Reporting claims as quickly as possible can help ensure that the injured worker receives appropriate and timely medical care, and results in lower costs and reduced fees.

Procedures for reporting an accident /incident:

1. Injured worker immediately notifies supervisor. Employee and supervisor complete Accident Report.
2. Employee and supervisor immediately call COMPANY NURSE at 1-888-770-0928.
3. Company Nurse gathers information over the phone and helps injured worker access appropriate medical treatment. If medical attention is required and if possible, the employee must be seen by Webster County's designated physicians at Trinity Corporate Health Services, Highland Park Center.
4. Human Resources will then assist employee with follow-up care, light duty assignments and/or leave of absence paperwork.

If you have any questions on this process, please call Amy Porter in Human Resources, 573-1148. Thank you!



Wellness Corner: Join Live Healthy Iowa!

Join thousands of Iowans in Live Healthy Iowa's 10 Week Wellness Challenge! Over the course of 10 weeks, January 28—April 5, teams of 2-10 people track their activity minutes and/or weight loss through the Live Healthy Iowa website. This simple and affordable challenge provides Iowans an opportunity to improve their health while engaging in a fun, friendly competition.

It's not too late to get started— but HURRY! The competition begins THIS Monday, January 28th:

1. Build your team of 2-10 people and choose a team name. Gather the name, email address, t-shirt size and payment of each team member.
2. Go to www.livehealthyiowa.org and click "Join Today". Single teams click "Register Your Team". You may use the Group ID: WHIWEBSTER.



3. Complete the registration fields and submit your online payment.

For \$20 (Remember—there is a \$5.00 discount coupon available at HyVee or at HyVee.com!) participants receive:

- T-shirt—new color in 2013!
- Weekly motivational emails
- Personal online tracking page
- Unlimited access to recipes, workouts and health information on the LHI website.
- Chances to win incentives and prizes
- One year magazine subscription, and more!

Visit www.livehealthyiowa.org for more information.

EMS Director Encourages FEMA Training for Staff

The ICS 100.b course, Introduction to the Incident Command System, available online, introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The primary audience is any persons involved with emergency planning, response or recovery efforts. Tony Jorgenson, EMS, recommends that all Webster County employees complete this course: "Although it is not a required safety class, in the event of a disaster such as the Parkersburg tornado, it would be invaluable." The course and exam take approximately 3 hours. To take the course, visit with your supervisor and go to: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp>. Certificates of completion may be forwarded to Human Resources.

WC Babies!

Josh Van Waes, Sheriff Deputy, welcomed daughter Molly Sue on Jan. 8th. Molly was 20.5 in. long and weighed 8 lb. 9 ½ oz.

Ashley Heck, Community Services, welcomed daughter Clara on Jan. 10th. Clara was 19 in. long and weighed 7 lb. ½ oz.



CONGRATS!!!

Congratulations to:

Cori Coleman, County Attorney's office, on her promotion to First Assistant effective January 8th.

Deanne Olson, Treasurer, on her promotion to Deputy in the tax department effective January 15th.

Thank you for your contributions to Webster County!

Schedule of Events

- * 2/5—Board of Supervisors Meeting, 10am
- * 2/12—Board of Supervisors Meeting, 10am
- * 2/14—Valentine's Day
- * 2/18—Presidents Day (County holiday)
- * 2/19—Board of Supervisors Meeting, 10am
- * 2/26—Board of Supervisors Meeting, 10am
- * 2/28—Deadline to complete physical requirement for your ISAC Wellness Incentive Gift Card

Webster County Calendar

February 2013

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

WC Conservation's Full Moon Skiing & Hiking

This Friday, January 25th, you can join the public in a free outdoor event at Kennedy Park from 5:00—8:30pm. Skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking by the light of the full moon with the naturalist are the options. Dress warmly and have fun!

5:00-7:00pm: Skiing and Snowshoeing

Enjoy the crisp evening air and the twilight sky with some cross county skiing or snowshoeing. Equipment will be loaned out for a free evening of outdoor fun at Kennedy Park from 5-7pm. There will be no charge for the rental of the equipment during this program time.

7:30-8:30pm: Full Moon Hiking

Full moon hiking may be a new experience but definitely one to try. From 7:30-8:30pm following the open skiing time, naturalist Karen Hansen will lead a full moon hike around Badger Lake. Lights are optional, red lights are recommended, and using night vision is encouraged. Bundle up, get outside and enjoy the mystery of the night.-

- Karen Hansen, Naturalist



Hawk-i Coverage for Children Available

Hawk-i with the little i, is a no cost / low cost insurance plan for children that have NO insurance, between the ages 1 year through 18 years. Thousands of kids qualify for this coverage—do yours? Benefits include doctor's visits, dental care, eyeglasses, vaccines, well-child visits, inpatient hospital services, prescription drugs, outpatient hospital services, mental health services and much more. A chart indicating family size and your family's yearly countable income can help you determine if you are eligible for free coverage under Medicaid, free coverage under hawk-i, or hawk-i coverage for \$10 per child per month (maximum of \$40). You can visit about applying for coverage with Jamie Saxton, Hawk-i Outreach Coordinator at the Webster County Public Health office (515-573-4107) or you can apply on-line at www.hawk-i.org.

Memo to Employees: The department heads have approved a new form for requesting leaves of absence. The new Leave of Absence Request form is available on www.webstercountytia.org and should be used for any period of over 3 consecutive days when you are not able to work due to a medical reason or for other personal or military reasons. Health care / Physician Certification forms will only be required if requested, and sent to employees with FMLA notices.