

Polk County Annual Report



Fiscal Year

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017



Polk County exists to serve the public. We are committed to service excellence, fiscal responsibility and enhancing the quality of life. We will be the most effective, productive a responsive local government in Iowa.



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Message From The Chair: John Mauro



On behalf of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to present our FY 16/17 Annual Report.

We continue to see record breaking success at the Iowa Events Center and were provided with nearly \$1.9 million in revenue for the third year in a row. We look forward to using that revenue to update the suite level at Wells Fargo Arena in the summer of 2018. After hosting a highly successful NCAA Men's Basketball Division I Championship first and second round games we were awarded the bid to host the event again in 2019.

Construction of the headquarters hotel attached to the Iowa Events Center remains on schedule and on budget. The 330 room Hilton Hotel will open in the spring of 2018 and is expected to draw even more large conventions and events. This is one of the largest and most complex construction projects that Polk County has been involved in and it took the cooperation of many governmental agencies along with the support of the private industry.

In 2014, I was stunned to learn that tens of thousands of Polk County residents are going hungry and we have committed to raising up to \$10 million to help fix this problem. During the last year we made a tremendous amount of progress. We raised over \$5.3 million and with that money have helped expand the hours at six food pantries. They are now open during evenings and weekends, making it easier for working families to access help. We also opened two new food pantries: the Northside Polk County Community Center on 6th and Boston and a St. Vincent De Paul pantry on Army Post Road. With these expansions to the food pantry network we are seeing thousands more people who are in need.

As you can see, it has been a busy year in the Board of Supervisors and we are thankful for the hard work and dedication of all of the Polk County employees. Thank you and we look forward to another successful year in Polk County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Mauro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John F. Mauro, Chair
Polk County Board of Supervisors



Polk County Board of Supervisors

Robert Brownell

District 1



Robert Brownell was re-elected in 2016 and is currently serving his fifth term. Supervisor Brownell serves the citizens of Clive, Johnston, Urbandale, Windsor Heights, Grimes, Polk City, Alleman, Elkhart and a portion of Sheldahl that is part of Polk County. Brownell's experience in government began as a City Councilmember in Clive, elected in 1985. He was elected as Mayor in 1993 where he served until his election to the Polk County Board of Supervisors in 2000.

Brownell was raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He attended Missouri Military Academy in Mexico, Missouri, and graduated from Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa cum laude in English and Education. He has attended Drake University for post graduate work. Brownell served as Branch Manager for Yellow Transportation in Des Moines for 15 years. Prior to Yellow Transportation, he held several management positions with Roadway Express across the midwest. Bob is also a published author. He is currently working with Carve Literary Services. Brownell is married to Jenna Jurgensen and has a son, daughter-in-law, one granddaughter, Carmen and one grandson, Oscar.

Angela Connolly
District 2



Angela Connolly was first elected as a Polk County Supervisor in 1998 and served recently as Chairperson in 2015. She represents the 2nd District which includes the northwestern area of the City of Des Moines, a portion of unincorporated Polk County as well as the suburb of West Des Moines.

She has been active in many civic and community activities, including Neighborhood Organizations. Connolly currently serves as Co-Chair of The Tomorrow Plan and Tri-Chair for Capital Crossroads: A Vision for Greater Des Moines and Central Iowa.

In addition, she represents the Board of Supervisors on the following boards: Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Rebuilding Together, Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority – DART, Des Moines Arts Festival Board, Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, Polk County Health Services, Riverfront Development Authority, Mainframe Studios, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, and Homeless Coordinating Council.

In 2014, Supervisor Connolly received the Hero for Homeless award from Central Iowa Shelter & Services for her assistance with reducing homelessness. In 2015, Angela was awarded the Distinguished Public Servant Award from Primary Health Care and she received the national award for Outstanding Elected Official Leadership from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. In 2016, Supervisor Connolly was named to the 2016 Top 25 Most Influential Business Leaders, was the recipient of the national Tom Bradley Leadership Award for Outstanding Elected Official Leadership by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame.

Steve Van Oort
District 3



Steve Van Oort was elected as a Polk County Supervisor in 2012 after serving seven years as mayor of Ankeny. He currently represents the 3rd District which includes Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Mitchellville, Pleasant Hill, and a portion of unincorporated Polk County. Supervisor Van Oort serves as a Polk County representative on the boards of Aging Resources of Central Iowa, Impact Community Action Partnership, Metro Advisory Council, Mid-Iowa Association of Local Governments, Mid-Iowa Development Fund, Neighborhood Finance Corporation, and Polk County Housing Trust Fund.

Steve also serves on the Ankeny Economic Development Corporation and East Polk Innovation Collaborative. He is a commissioner for the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority, member and past president of Rotary Club of Ankeny and a member of the board of directors of the Partnership for a Drug Free Iowa.

Steve was named Ankeny Citizen of the Year in 2000, Ankeny Rotarian of the year in 2004, Ankeny Person of Vision in 2010, and a 2016 inductee into the Ankeny High School Hall of Honor.

Tom Hockensmith

District 4



A Polk County Supervisor since 2003, Tom Hockensmith has proven to be the kind of leader who is truly more about actions than words. His work ethic, common sense and ingenuity have resulted in projects that have been beneficial for the people of Polk County and for the people of District 4.

Supervisor Tom Hockensmith began serving his first term as Polk County Supervisor in January 2003. Supervisor Hockensmith currently represents Polk County's 4th District which includes East Des Moines, Runnells, Camp Township, Four Mile Township, as well as a portion of Saylor Township and the North and Southeast portions of the City of Des Moines. Prior to redistricting in 2012, he represented Polk County's 3rd District, which included the cities of Alleman, Altoona, Bondurant, Elkhart, Mitchellville, Pleasant Hill, Polk City, and Runnells.

Tom's previous professional experience includes positions as a policy advisor for Iowa Governor Thomas J. Vilsack, a union representative for American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and as an electrician for the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Tom has lived and worked in Polk County for more than 40 years. Supervisor Hockensmith and his wife have four children and seven grandchildren. He is an avid supporter of youth athletics in East Des Moines, past president of the East High Alumni Association and is a member of the East High Alumni Hall of Fame.

John Mauro
District 5



John F. Mauro represents Polk County's Fifth District which includes the majority of Des Moines' south side, downtown and a portion of the inner city area. John previously served the citizens of Polk County for two consecutive terms after being elected in 1990. John served as Chair of the Board of Supervisors in 1993, 1996, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2017.

During John's tenure he has served on many boards, some of which are as follows: City of Des Moines Fire and Police Pension Board, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Polk County Health Services, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Metro Waste Authority and Polk County Risk Management.

John is a native of Des Moines and was born and raised on the south side. He has been a self-employed businessman.



Polk County Elected Officials

John Sarcone
County Attorney



John Sarcone graduated cum laude from Rockhurst College in 1972 with an A.B degree in History and was a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit honor society. In 1975, he graduated from Drake University Law School and was admitted to the Iowa Bar in June of that same year.

Sarcone assumed the responsibilities of County Attorney in January 1991 and was re-elected in 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, and 2014. He was President of the Iowa County Attorneys Association. Sarcone was the Iowa State Director of the National District Attorneys Association from 1998-2000. He served as a Vice President of the NDAA Board of Directors and is currently a member of the NDAA Board of Directors.

Jamie Fitzgerald
County Auditor



Jamie Fitzgerald is currently serving his third full term as Polk County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections.

As Auditor, Fitzgerald has implemented efficiency, technological and conservation measures which have been instrumental in saving Polk County hundreds of thousands of dollars as well making his office more transparent.

These include an office reorganization that decreased the size of the office through employee retirements, decreasing the amount of paper used by switching to electronic agendas for board meetings, changing how board agendas, minutes and audio are distributed by making the entire board packet available on his website for the public to view. He also produces a bi-weekly newsletter for citizens, staff and the media.

He has championed a transparent, open-government office, inviting candidates, the media and the public to his office for election demonstrations, tours and explanations of the voting process as well as speaking at civic and public service organizations. His office is regularly the first office in Iowa to report election-night results.

Jamie received his Bachelor of Arts from Iowa State University in 1994 and an Associate of Arts degree from Iowa Central Community College in 1992. He also added a Certified Public Manager Certificate from Drake University in 2010.

Julie Haggerty

Recorder



Julie Haggerty was sworn into office in January 2007. She is a life-long resident of Polk County, attended Dowling High School and Arizona State University. She is a 2008 graduate of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. She and her husband, Michael, have been married for over 35 years and together they have 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren all living in the Des Moines area.

Since taking office, Haggerty has extended her office hours and established a same-day recording policy. She has upgraded the current operating system twice and continues to look for ways to preserve and protect real estate and vital records for events that occurred in Polk County. Since taking office, she has seen a significant increase in e-submissions and serves on the board that monitors the activity and policies related to electronic filings.

As an elected official, she has been given the opportunity to serve residents of Polk County in many ways. When Homeland Security established new laws requiring passports for travel to Mexico and Canada, she brought services to the citizens by launching Passport Saturdays in libraries, senior centers and even opened her downtown office on several Saturdays for passport applications and boat registration renewal. She has met with members of the Citizen's Academy and other civic groups to explain the duties of her office and share the many ways that the Recorder's Office and Polk County serve its citizens. Julie served as a member of the Miracle League steering committee that helped build a baseball field near Principal Park for kids with disabilities. She has also served as a member of the Capital Improvements Program Board for the City of Urbandale, and is currently part of the Information Technology Steering Committee in Polk County and a board member of the Urbandale Food Pantry, the Electronic Services Systems Coordinating Committee and the ESS Communications Subcommittee. Haggerty has also served as President of District 1 of the Iowa Recorder's Association.

In 2015, the Recorder's Office, with the support of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, was awarded another Historical Resource Development grant from the State of Iowa. The funds from this grant will help digitize, maintain and preserve marriage, birth and death events that occurred in Polk County from the early 1900's to 1999. The digitization of these records will give the general public easier access for the retrieval and reproduction of these archived documents.

Bill McCarthy Sheriff



Bill McCarthy was elected Sheriff in November 2008, re-elected 2012 and 2016. Prior to becoming Sheriff, McCarthy served for two years as Chief Deputy. Sheriff McCarthy's law enforcement career began over 47 years ago as a Police Officer with the Des Moines Police Department. He held positions as an Investigator, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief and served as the Des Moines Police Chief until his retirement in February 2006.

McCarthy earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master of Public Administration Degree from Drake University. He is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's and Harvard's Senior Management Institutes for Police and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Program and is a certified Polygraph Examiner.

Sheriff McCarthy served five years as president of South Des Moines Little League. He has also administered the Police Athletic League, which over a number of years has provided a variety of youth sporting activities for hundreds of low-income children in the Des Moines inner city and was instrumental in reopening the Westside Boxing Club and establishing the Eastside Boxing Club.

Among his many civic involvements, one that stands out in particular, was his participation in the Presidential White House Policy Council meetings on youth gangs and violence, helping to shape the President's initiative on federal juvenile legislation. Sheriff McCarthy continues to be active in many civic and community organizations.

Mary Maloney
Treasurer



Mary Maloney has served as Polk County Treasurer since 1989 and serving her seventh term.

Maloney is a 1977 graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in Economics. She brought a financial and computer background in business to Polk County.

Significant technological changes have been made to the office in the last twenty-seven years, wherein, the Treasurer received an “Innovations in Government Award” for many of these improvements. Maloney kicked off an eGovernment initiative in 2002 during her presidency of ISCTA, which received two national awards.



Budget

C O U N T Y

I O W A

LEADING THE WAY



Deb Anderson
Budget Management



The financial condition of Polk County government remains strong. Cost saving measures along with voter support and continued revenue from Prairie Meadows have allowed the County to solidify its fiscal stance. The County has been able to undertake new Conservation and Court projects, strengthen its services to the community, and serve a key role in area development efforts.

Polk County maintains AAA bond ratings from Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Ratings Service. The ratings are the highest ratings available, and distinguish Polk County as having an extremely strong capacity to meet its financial commitments. Reports from these investor services cite the County's strong fund balances, conservative budgeting practices, low debt burden, and steady economic growth as the basis for the ratings.

It is estimated the County will continue to maintain healthy fund balances throughout the upcoming fiscal year. Estimated General Fund ending balances are projected at 25 percent of expenditures, a percentage that falls within the County's adopted financial policies. We are committed to responsible fiscal management and will continue to evolve to serve the community in a cost-effective manner.

GAMING REVENUE USE SUMMARY
POLK COUNTY, IOWA

FY2016/2017

Pay off Iowa Events Center Debt	13,100,000
Pay off Sewer Debt	600,000
Prairie Meadows Property Tax	4,500,000
Revenue Sharing with City & Schools	2,300,000
Community Grants, Economic Development & Operations	5,600,000
Total:	26,100,000



Grant Awards

Community Development Grant Awards

It is the desire of the Polk County Board of Supervisors to provide the opportunity for community service organizations to apply for grant funds. Polk County Community Development Grants are non-economic development grants funded from profits received by Polk County from the operation of Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino in excess of \$5,000.

6th Avenue Corridor, Inc.

Beaverdale Betterment Coalition

Blank Park Zoo Foundation

Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa

City of West Des Moines, Iowa

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines fiscal agent for Des Moines

Heritage Trust

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines fiscal agent for LPGA Tournament

Properties One, LLC (Solheim Cup Fund)

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines fiscal agent for Principal Charity

Classic

Des Moines Public Library Foundation

Des Moines Symphony & Academy

Douglas Avenue Coalition

Downtown Partnership, Inc. d/b/a Downtown Community Alliance

Easter Seals Society of Iowa

Greater Des Moines Music Coalition

Historic Valley Junction Foundation

Home Opportunities Made Easy, Inc.

Iowa Cubs 501 (C) (3) Foundation

Junior Achievement of Central Iowa

Living History Farms

Community Development Grant Awards Continued

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National Alliance on Mental Illness-Iowa, Inc.

Neighborhood Investment Corporation

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Primary Health Care, Inc.

Pursuit of Innovation

Roosevelt Cultural District

Saydel Booster Club

St. Vincent de Paul

The Homestead

United Way of Central Iowa

Urbandale Community Action Network

Young Men's Christian Association

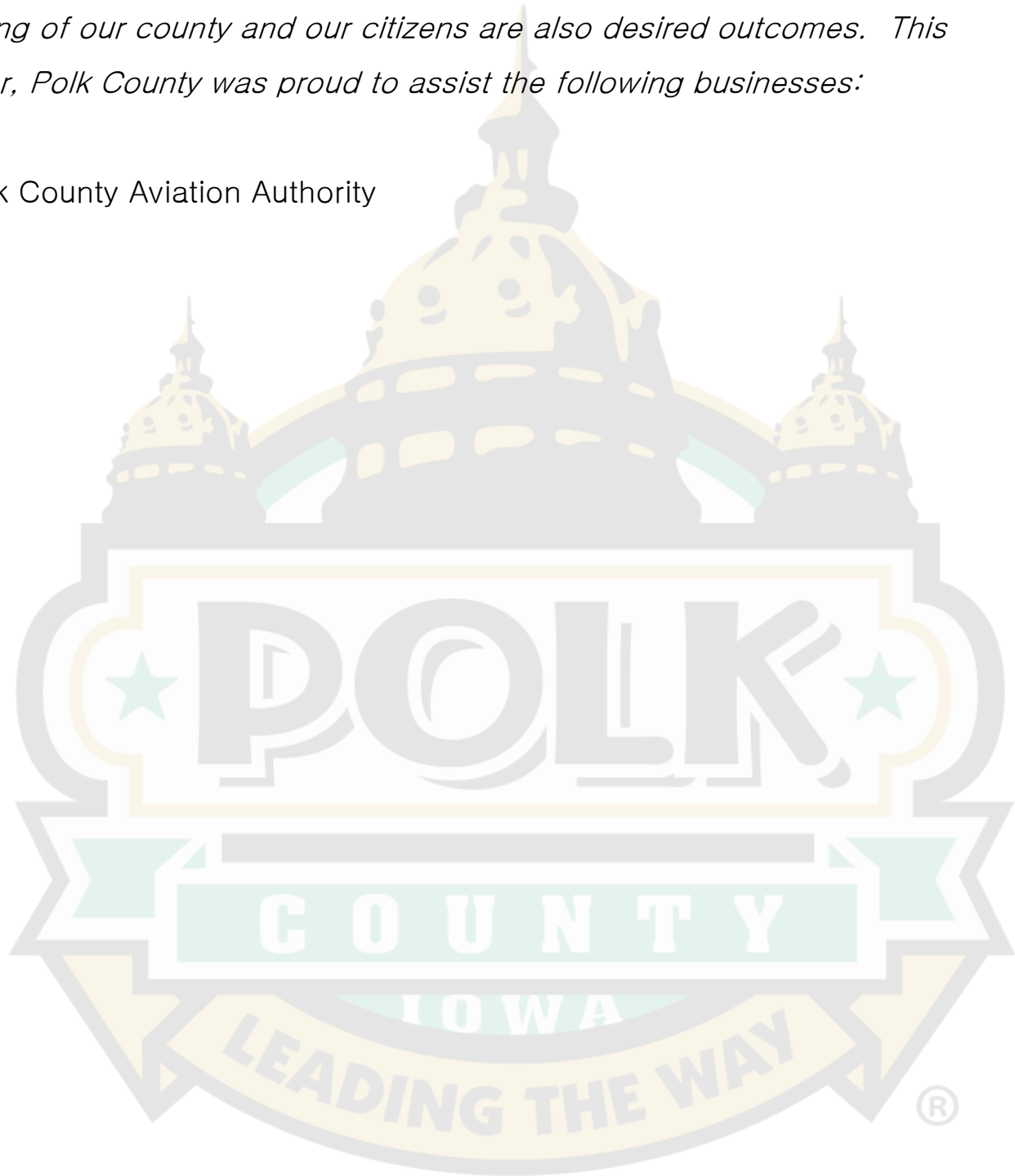
Youth Homes of Mid-America



Economic Development Grant Awards Continued

Polk County's goal for economic development is to increase the tax base. Job creation, job retention, and the enhancement of the economic well being of our county and our citizens are also desired outcomes. This year, Polk County was proud to assist the following businesses:

Polk County Aviation Authority



Community Betterment Grant Awards

The Polk County Board of Supervisors also provides the opportunity for community service organizations to apply for betterment grant funds. Polk County Community Betterment Grants are non-economic development grants, as well, funded from profits received by Polk County from the operation of Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino .

6th Avenue Corridor

8th & College Connections

American Legion Post 663

Ankeny After Prom

Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce

Ankeny Area Historical Society

Ankeny Art Center

Ankeny City Band

Ankeny Community Chorus

Ankeny Community School District Foundation

Ankeny Economic Development Corp.

Ankeny Little League Baseball

ArtForcelowa

Ballet Des Moines

Beaverdale Betterment Coalition

Beaverdale Fall Festival, Inc.

Beaverdale Farmers Market

Beaverdale Neighborhood Association

Best Buddies International, Inc.

Best Buddies of Central Iowa

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa

Blood Sweat & Beers Iowa

Bondurant Chamber of Commerce

Community Betterment Grant Awards Continued

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Bondurant-Farrar High School After Prom

Booster Pak

Brook Run Neighborhood Association

Capital City Lodge No 2589 Loyal Order of Moose

Capital Park Neighborhood Association

Caring Hands Outreach Center

Central Campus, Des Moines Public Schools

City Sounds: The Des Moines Public Piano Project

Civic Music Association of Des Moines

Clive Community Foundation

Clive Historical Society

Clowns at the Carousel

Community Housing Initiatives

COPS Against Cancer

CultureAll

Dallas Center Grimes After Prom

Dallas Center-Grimes Education Foundation

Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC)

Des Moines Arts Festival

Des Moines Bicycle Collective

Des Moines Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A, Inc. dba Pride of Iowa Barbershop Chorus

Des Moines European Heritage Association

Des Moines Golden Kiwanis Club

Community Betterment Grant Awards Continued

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Des Moines I Have a Dream Foundation
Des Moines Neighbors
Des Moines North High Polar Bears Booster
Des Moines Park & Recreation Foundation
Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center
Des Moines Performing Arts
Des Moines Public Schools Library Support Group
Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association
Downtown Events Group
Downtown Urbandale Neighborhood Association
Drake Neighborhood Association
Drake University
East Des Moines Girls Softball Association
East Des Moines Swim Team
East High Golf Classic
East High School Alumni Foundation
East Polk Innovation Collaborative
Endow Urbandale
Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy & Resource Center
Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement
Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association
Family Promise of Greater Des Moines
Freestore, Inc.

Community Betterment Grant Awards Continued

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Grandview Little League

Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity

Greater Des Moines Partnership

Grimes Volunteer Support Services

Guns N Hoses DSM, Inc.

Hiatt Middle School-Des Moines Public Schools

Highland Park Neighborhood Association

Hoover High School

Hoover High School Post Prom

Ingersoll Grand Self-Supporting Municipal Improvement District

Iowa "75" Buzzard Softball Team

Iowa Asian Alliance

Iowa Golden Gloves Foundation

Iowa Public Radio

Iowa Radio Reading Information Service for the Blind and Print Handicapped (IRIS)

Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa

Jaguar Basketball Committee

J-Hawk Soccer Club

John R. Grubb YMCA

Johnston Chamber of Commerce

Johnston High School After Prom

Johnston Partnership for a Healthy Community

Johnston Public Library

Community Betterment Grant Awards Continued

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JOPPA Outreach

Junior Achievement of Central Iowa

Keep Iowa Beautiful

King Irving Neighborhood Association

Kingdom Cares

Lincoln High School Senior Prom/Senior Celebration

Link Associates

Little All-American Football

Martin Luther King Jr. Neighborhood Association

Mayor's Youth Council-City of Ankeny

Meredith Middle School

Meredith Neighborhood Association

Merle Hay Neighborhood Association

Merrymakers in Central Iowa

Metro Arts Alliance of Greater Des Moines

Midwest Educational Resource Development Fund

Mitchellville Community Development

MLK Jr. Park Neighborhood Association

Mondamin Presidential Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood Finance Corp.

Never Say Can't Foundation

North Des Moines Girls Softball League, Inc.

North High School Post Prom

North Polk Post Prom

Community Betterment Grant Awards Continued

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Northeast Neighbor and Friends

Northwest Elementary PTO

Oakridge Neighborhood Services

Optimist Club of Ankeny

Orchard Place

Parenting Way, Inc.

Parks Area Foundation

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Inc.

Pleasant Hill Police Department

Polar Bears Panthers

Polk City Development Corporation

Polk County Agricultural Extension District dba ISU Extension–Polk County

Polk County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project

Polk County Child Abuse and Neglect (C.A.N.) Prevention Council

Prelude Behavioral Services d/b/a Bernie Lorenz Recovery

Prevent Blindness Iowa

Project Fresh Start

Puppy Jake Foundation

Rails Football Club–BLH Booster Club

Rams Baseball Club

Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines

River Bend Association

Roosevelt High School

Saydel High School After Prom

Community Betterment Grant Awards Continued

The Polk County Board of Supervisors also provides the opportunity for community service organizations to apply for betterment grant funds. Polk County Community Betterment Grants are non-economic development grants, as well, funded from profits received by Polk County from the operation of Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino.

Scarlet Pride, Inc. fiscal agent for East High Post Prom

Senior Care of Iowa

Sheridan Garden Neighborhood Association

South Central Iowa Federation of Labor Charity

Southeast Polk Dollars for Scholars

Southeast Polk High School

Southeast Polk Post Prom

Southside Cares LTD

Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association

Tai Village, Inc.

The Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce

The Des Moines Urban Experience/Iowa Juneteenth Observance

The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center

The Valley After Prom Committee

Triad Foundation

Union Park Neighborhood Association

Urbandale 4th of July Celebration

Urbandale Chamber of Commerce

Urbandale Community Action Network

Urbandale Food Pantry

Urbandale Little League

Urbandale Optimist Club

Urbandale Post Prom

Valley High School World Culture's Club

Community Betterment Grant Awards Continued

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Walnut Creek Little League d/b/a Walnut Creek Baseball

Waveland Woods Neighborhood Association

WDMCS Student Scholarship Fund

West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce

West Des Moines Community Schools Foundation

West Des Moines Historical Society

West Des Moines Human Services

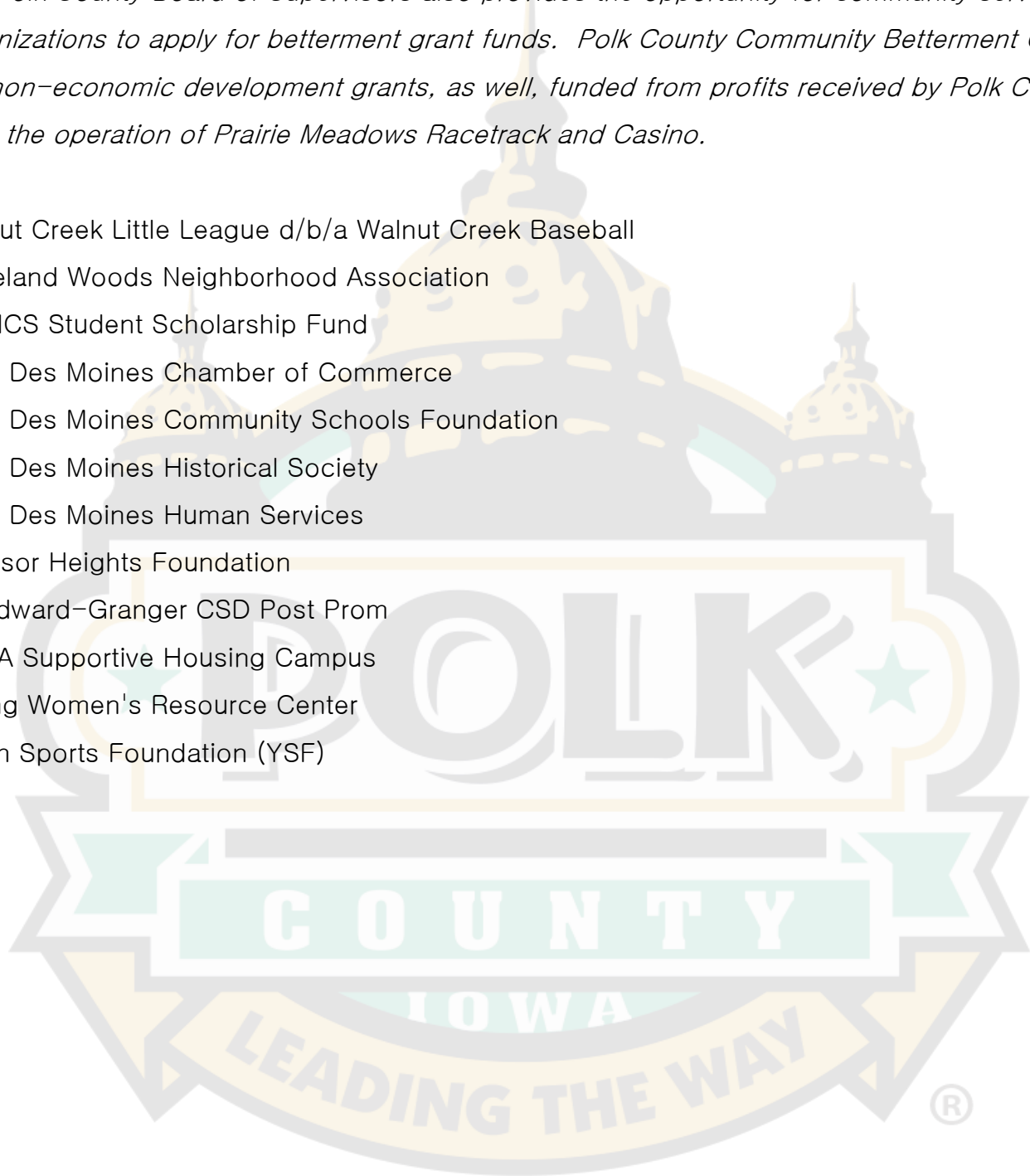
Windsor Heights Foundation

Woodward-Granger CSD Post Prom

YMCA Supportive Housing Campus

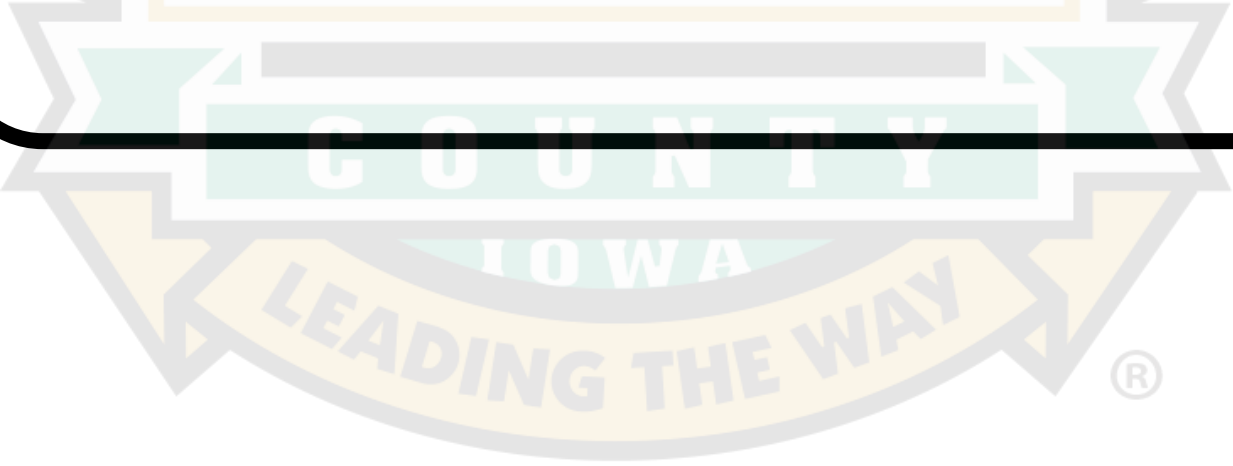
Young Women's Resource Center

Youth Sports Foundation (YSF)





Initiatives



Courts Space

Since the passing of the \$81 million referendum in November 2013 work is well under way on the multiple phase project that includes the renovation of the JC Penny/Wellmark building into the new Polk County Justice Center; the Old Main Jail into a Criminal Courts Annex; and a complete renovation of the Historic Courthouse. Phase I of the project saw the completion of the third floor of the Justice Center renovated into space for the County Attorney staff, who moved in during March of 2014. The last year has been spent on the remaining three floors of the Justice Center where juvenile court services, small claims, traffic and magistrate courts have been relocated to. We hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the Justice Center in November 2017. As Phase III continues through 2018 we will see the complete renovation of the Old Main Jail, including the removal of the top four floors, to be converted into a Criminal Courts Annex. We will also see the interior of the Historic Courthouse renovated.

Iowa Event Center and Convention Hotel

Polk County again saw record revenues of \$1.9 million returned to the County. This is the third year in a row that we received over \$1.9 million in profits. The profits that were received from Spectra are reinvested back into the facilities for capital repairs and upgrades. Last year we renovated the restaurant and installed walk through metal detectors. This coming year we will be re-designing the suites. You can also see that they are working on tuck-pointing the exterior of Hy-Vee Hall.

Hilton Hotel

The new Hilton Hotel opened on March 21. This has been a dream of ours ever since opening Wells Fargo Arena. With the hotel open we hope that the blocks around the hotel and Wells Fargo Arena will start to develop into a complete entertainment district. The Hilton Des Moines Downtown is an 8-story, convention hotel connected by the skywalk to the Iowa Events Center. The hotel is a collaboration between Polk County, the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Redevelopment Company, the Iowa Events Center Corporation and The Weitz Company. The Hotel is expected to be a game changer for the region by bringing 3 million more visitors to Iowa during its first 20 years, elevating hotel demand by 100% and increasing bookings to the Iowa Events Center by one-third. Located at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Park Street the Hilton Des Moines Downtown showcases simple, modern exterior materials and composition that were inspired by Iowa's agrarian landscape and will be enhanced by unique lighting elements. Hotel amenities will include 330 guest rooms; a 10,000-square-foot ballroom with pre-function and outdoor terraces; 4,000 square feet of breakout meeting rooms; a full-service kitchen; restaurant with outdoor seating; lobby with bar; tech lounge; swimming pool; and fitness center.

Hunger

The Polk County Board of Supervisors have been working for nearly four years on reducing the number of people who go hungry in Polk County. The Partnership for Hunger Free Polk County was formed under the leadership of Polk County Supervisor John Mauro. Local non-profits who are dedicated to reducing hunger in Polk County identified the gaps that exist in the current food safety network and estimated that it would cost up to \$10 million to fill those gaps over the next five years. To date, over \$5.3 million has been raised and is being used to implement the plan that was outlined by hunger partners. Activities include:

Opened a new food pantry at Polk County River Place. It is located on a bus line, open 40 hours per week and located near additional social services. It opened in 2014 and is currently serving approximately 2,500 people per month.

- Opened a new food pantry at the new Polk County Community Center at 6th & Boston. It is currently serving approximately 500 per month.
- Provided assistance to St. Vincent De Paul to open a new human services campus on Army Post Road that includes a food pantry. Through mapping research this area of the metro was identified as having a high number of possible food pantry users and no actual pantries. They are currently serving approximately 600 per month.
- Helped six existing pantries expand their hours to include evenings and weekends, making them more accessible to working families.
- Funded a mobile pantry that is visiting 13 underserved neighborhoods and seeing nearly 500 people each month.

- Facilitated local research through Des Moines University to identify the number of individuals who are hungry in Polk County. There are 27,000 people in Polk County who are forced to choose between putting food on their table and paying their bills. Another 73,000 are on the verge of going hungry.

Our work is not yet done. With your support we will continue to find ways to enhance the current food assistance network and fill the gaps that exist. In the next year we will focus on:

- Two new mobile food pantries that will visit underserved neighborhoods and schools.
- Adding hot evening meal sites on all sides of the metro area.
- Enhancing data collection.

Data Driven Justice

The state has implemented a new Pre Trial Risk Assessment tool in January that we hope helps reduce our jail population. We have just under 1,000 people in our jail on any given day and many of those folks are there because of mental health issues or simply because they cannot afford bail while they await trial. This risk assessment tool would give judges more information about the likelihood of a person being a danger to our community if they were released on supervision while they awaited their trial.

To address the mental health issue we have recently put together a Crisis Intervention Training that Sheriff staff undergo to help them better recognize mental health issues and deal with them appropriately. The training will now be a part of the State Law Enforcement Training Academy.

We are also in the planning stages of implementing a data platform that allows the jail, EMS, hospitals and police to share data. The idea is that we can identify individuals who are having multiple interactions with tax payer funded services and find a way to get them the most appropriate help...whether it be affordable housing, mental health services, or substance abuse treatment.

All of these initiatives are efforts to find ways for individuals who encounter our criminal justice system to get the help that is most appropriate for them. We want to avoid using our criminal justice system as a de facto mental health treatment facility.



Elected Officials and
Department Heads

Polk County Board of Supervisors



Elected to represent one of five districts in Polk County, members of the Board of Supervisors establish local law and policies, manage the County's budget, allocate funding and prioritize County initiatives. Their mission is to effectively represent the interests of Polk County citizens and provide leadership in the greater community of Polk County. The Board of Supervisors convenes each Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in Room 120.

1st District	Robert Brownell	515.286.3115
2nd District	Angela Connolly	515.286.3117
3rd District	Steve Van Oort	515.286.3119
4th District	Tom Hockensmith	515.286.3116
5th District	John Mauro	515.286.3118
County Administrator	Mark Wandro	515.286.2125
Board Executive Assistant	Sarah Boese	515.286.3895
Budget Manager	Deb Anderson	515.286.3016
Budget Specialist	Shelly Poole	515.286.3991
Budget Coordinator	Michelle Morton	515.286.2168
Executive Secretary	Heather Ksiazek	515.286.3120
Executive Secretary	Kristen Ingle	515.286.3301
Grant Administrator	Lisa Moody-Tunks	515.323.5225

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/supervisors

Polk County Attorney



The County Attorney is responsible for the prosecution of criminal offenses occurring in Polk County. The County Attorney also provides legal counsel to the Board of Supervisors and its departments and boards, the County Auditor, the County Record, the County Sheriff, the County Treasurer in civil matters.

The County Attorney handles all juvenile matters including delinquencies, child in need of assistance and termination of parental rights. Child welfare mediations are also handled in this office. The Restorative Justice Center (RJC) provides Polk County citizens and businesses the opportunity to receive justice in non-traditional law enforcement situations.

The County Attorney's office has a Collections Unit, responsible for collecting outstanding court costs and fines, once they become delinquent. Parallel with the collection of delinquent court debt, the Unit also works closely with the Polk County Sheriff's office in the collection of jail room-and-board fees.

General Information	515.286.3737
Criminal Division	515.286.3737
Domestic Abuse	515.286.3737
Drug and Gang	515.286.2121
Major Offense	515.286.3680
Main Criminal FAX	515.286.3428
Juvenile Bureau	515.286.2035
Restorative Justice Center	515.286.3057
Civil Division	515.286.3341



Polk County Auditor



The Polk County Auditor performs a wide variety of functions and duties which include: preparing and certifying tax levies, keeping real estate transfer records, maintaining financial records (including budgeting), clerking the Board of Supervisors' meetings, maintaining the Geographic Information System and is the Commissioner of Elections,

General Information	515.286.3079
Accounts Payable	515.286.3414
Accounts Receivable	515.286.3419
Central Accounting	515.286.3575
Dog License	515.286.3076
Beer/Cigarette Licenses	515.286.3079
Election Office	515.286.3247
Mapping	515.286.3091
Payroll	515.286.3067
Property Descriptions	515.286.3097
Tax Department	515.286.3097
FAX	515.286.3608



Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/auditor

Polk County Recorder



The core mission of the Polk County Recorder's office is to serve the citizens of Polk County by preserving a true and reliable account of all real estate transactions and vital human events, along with collection of revenue taxes on required real estate transfers, providing public access to entitled records, both historic and current, issuing user permits and registrations for recreational vehicles and boats.

The Recorder's office also maintains a collection of related taxes on behalf of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, maintaining title and lien records for recreational vehicles and boats, recording documents on the day received and reviewing and accepting passport applications.

General Information	515.286.3160
Passports	515.286.3160
Real Estate	515.286.3160
Trade Names	515.286.3160
Boat/Snowmobile/ATV Registration	515.286.3162
Imaging	515.286.3175
Military Records	515.286.3175
Uniform Commercial Code	515.286.3182
Vital Records	515.286.3183
FAX	515.323.5393



Polk County Sheriff



The Polk County Sheriff is the Chief Executive Officer of the largest Sheriff's office in Iowa with over 500 plus full-time employees and volunteers with an annual budget of more than \$55.5 million. The Sheriff's office is a full-service law enforcement agency with Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Civil and Jail Divisions.

Sheriff Bill McCarthy	515.323.5446
Chief Deputy Victor Munoz	515.323.5346
Administrative Services	515.286.3814
Civil Division – Civil Manager	515.286.3940
Community Relations	515.286.2051
Jail Division	515.323.5400
Office of Planning & Development	515.286.3943
Office of Professional Standards	515.323.5456
Patrol Services	515.286.3306



Email: PolkCounty.Sheriff@polkcountyiowa.gov

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/sheriff

Polk County Treasurer



The Treasurer's office receives, disburses, reports and invests all funds payable to Polk County. The Treasurer's office also issues vehicle titles and registrations, collects property taxes and manages the annual tax sale.

The Treasurer implemented online payment services through the Iowa Tax and Tags website, www.iowataxandtags.gov at no out-of-pocket expense and with no additional staffing for online payment of property taxes and vehicle registration renewals. These online applications offer enhanced customer service to citizens and businesses and greater investment opportunity for the County.

Tax Division	515.286.3060
Vehicle Division	515.286.3030
Cash Management	515.286.3035
General Information	515.286.3041

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/treasurer



Community, Family, & Youth Services



The Department of Community, Family & Youth Services offers congregate meals, commodity and supplemental foods, nutrition education, preventive health services, advocacy and counseling, and senior/community centers for Polk County's elderly. Transportation and home-delivered meals for both the elderly and disabled are also available.

Counseling for crime victims, support services for families in transition from public assistance to self-sufficiency, child care resources, emergency financial assistance for individuals/families who are disabled or in crisis, a three day supply of healthy, nutritious food for those in need, 24-hour centralized juvenile intake, and juvenile detention are all services provided by this department.

Adult Services	515.286.3484
Centralized Intake	515.286.3350
Child & Adult Care Food Program	515.286.2136
Commodity Supplemental Foods	515.286.3655
Crisis and Advocacy Services	515.286.3600
Family Enrichment Center	515.286.3406
General Assistance	515.286.2088
Juvenile Detention	515.286.3344
River Place Food Pantry	515-286.3695
Senior Services	515.286-3679

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/CFYS

Conservation



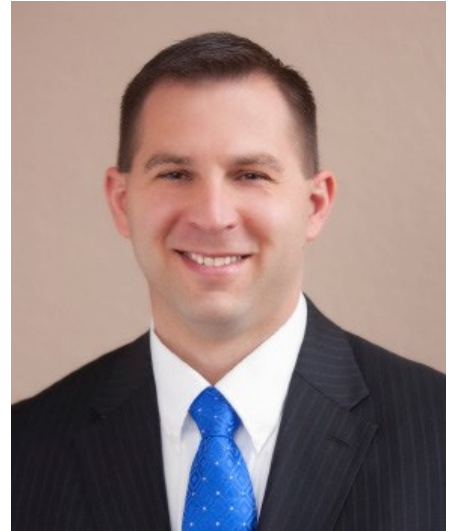
From parks and preserves to forests and fairways, the Polk County Conservation Board maintains more than 14,000 acres of land and more than 45 miles of trails.

Polk County Conservation provides education and recreation programs to more than 32,000 kids and adults each year. More than 1.8 million visitors camp, fish, boat, hunt, hike or ride on PCC lands each year.

Administration	515.323.5300
Yellow Banks Park	515.266.1563
Thomas Mitchell Park	515.967.4889
Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt	515.967.2596
Jester Park	515.323.5366
Equestrian Center	515.999.2818
Golf Course	515.999.2903
Easter Lake park	515.285.7612
FAX	515.323.5354

Website: www.leadingyououtdoors.org

Emergency Management



Polk County Emergency Management purpose and mission is protecting the whole community by coordinating, supporting and integrating activities to mitigate, prepare for, and respond to and recover from all hazards.

You can reach us at:

Phone: 286-2107

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/emergency-management

Email: emergency.management@polkcountyiowa.gov

General Services



The General Services Department provides building maintenance, construction oversight, purchasing, printing, mail processing and other related services for the County.

The employees in the department support the activities of other County offices and departments in delivering services to the public.

Administrative Division	515.286.3215
County Information Desk	515.286.3000
Buildings & Grounds	515.286.3228
Purchasing Division	515.286.3191

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/general_services

Health Department



The Health Department is responsible for minimizing the spread of disease in our community. But, being healthy is more than not being sick. It means being able to live your life to its fullest. It means thriving. As such, the Health Department is also responsible for creating the conditions that support people developing healthy habits.

The primary programs and strategies used to make this happen are: educating individuals; providing health screenings and immunizations; offering wellness exams; mobilizing and participating in community partnerships; identifying community health priorities; monitoring the community's health status; encouraging independent living through home health care and conducting disease outbreak investigations.

Administration	515.286.3798
Disease Prevention	515.286.3890
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	515.286.3897
Immunizations– Childhood + Adult	515.286.3798
Immunizations– Travel	515.286.3657
Healthy Women Program	515.286.3642
Lead Poisoning Prevention	515.323.5232
Health Education	515.286.3848
Wellness Exams	515.286.3798

Health Services



Polk County Health Services exists to support improved access to health care and to promote full citizenship for people with mental illness, intellectual or other developmental disabilities.

We promote this mission to serve people with disabilities by:

- ◆ Partnering with a network of community service organizations, people with disabilities, their families, and the community to promote improved health care and integrated living and working opportunities.
- ◆ Identifying, developing, and maintaining efficient, effective, and responsive service delivery system.
- ◆ Advocating for their rights and educating the larger community to increase acceptance and full participation within the community.

Our service delivery goal is to balance consumer satisfaction, fiscal realities, regulatory compliance, and desired outcomes for people with disabilities.

General Information 515.243.4545
Fax 515.243.8447

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health services](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health%20services)

Human Resources



The Human Resources Department strategically partners with all County offices and departments to provide comprehensive human resource services so that County operations, projects and programs can be safely, effectively and efficiently administered to nearly 1,200 employees and the general public.

The major functional areas of Human Resources are employment, labor relations, classification/compensation, benefits, employee development and administrative support.

General Information	515.286.3200
Job Line	515.286.3831
Benefits	515.286.3203
Employment	515.286.3204
Labor Relations	515.286.3033
TDD	515.286.2003

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/human resources](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/human%20resources)

Information Technology

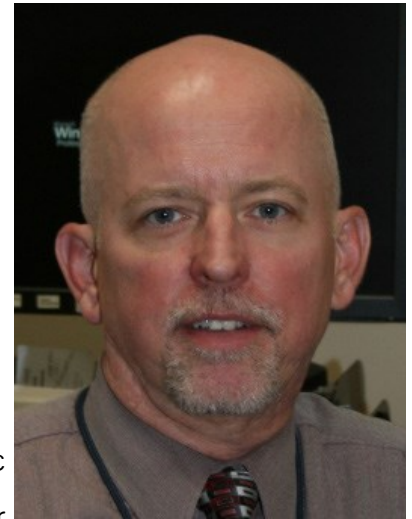


The Department of Information Technology is responsible for the development and maintenance of software applications, the design and maintenance of the County's wide/local area networks, the development and maintenance of the County's website and the installation and technical support for personal hardware and software.

General Information	515.286.3757
Call Center (Help Line)	515.286.2299

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/it

Medical Examiner



The Office of the Polk County Medical Examiner provides forensic autopsy and investigative services when a death occurs under Medical Examiner jurisdiction (Iowa Code 331.802). A Medicolegal Death Investigator will respond to the scene of the death to complete an investigation. If an autopsy is warranted, the body will be transported to the Polk County Morgue. If no further investigation is warranted, the body is released to the funeral home in which the next of kin has chosen. A person's death which affects public interest shall be reported to the County Medical Examiner; such cases include sudden, unexpected, violent or unnatural deaths. Any death in which the manner is not natural or any death in which the decedent is not under a physician's care within the previous 36 hours (extended to 30 days for terminal patients), must be investigated by the Medical Examiner's Office.

The Office is also responsible for investigating all requests for cremation, positive identification, locating and notifying next of kin, providing testimony upon request, and obtaining specimens as requested by law enforcement/other agencies.

Main Office 515-286-2102

To report a death contact Polk County Dispatch 515-286-3333

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/medicalexaminer/>

Public Works



The Public Works Department is divided into three divisions: Air Quality, Engineering & Roads, and Planning & Development. It is one of the largest departments with Polk County and offers community services including construction, maintenance, and inventory of Polk County secondary roads and bridge system, including survey, design, and inspection, maintenance and snow removal, vegetation control, land use planning and zoning regulations, building permits, construction inspection, sanitary & sewer infrastructure, air quality control, management of drainage districts and code enforcement.

Polk County Public Works Department strives to develop, manage, and maintain the highest quality road system, provide excellent snow removal and weed eradication services, promote orderly growth, protect our health and environment and ensure structures and uses are safe and sound. All these services help to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Polk County.

Air Quality	515.286.3705
Building	515.286.3352
Code Enforcement	515.286.3705
Environmental Health	515.286.3705
General Information	515.286.3705
Housing Services	515.286.3705
Planning/Zoning	515.286.3705
Secondary Roads	515.286.3705
Tax Deed Property Management	515.286.3705
Weatherization	515.286.3356
Weed Commissioner	515.286.3005

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/public works](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/public%20works)

Veteran Affairs



The Commission is responsible for the management of a program which provides emergency assistance to eligible veterans and their families including temporary shelter costs, utility payments, food, and health supplies.

Veteran Affairs assists with funeral expenses to those veterans and their families who are eligible; provides complimentary flags and grave markers for Polk County citizens; and maintains veterans' graves in cooperation with the Des Moines Parks Department.

This Commission also acts as the local referral agency for elderly and/or disabled veterans and spouses who are seeking application/admission to the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown.

Assistance to military veterans and their families to meet basic needs, funeral expenses, filing claims, and possible placement at the Iowa Veterans Homes in Marshalltown is available.

Mission Statement

Polk County Veteran Affairs provides financial assistance programs to eligible veterans.

General Information	515.286.3670
Director	515.286.3673
Veteran Administrator	515.286.3671

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/veteran affairs](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/veteran%20affairs)