

# POLK COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR  
JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016

## Our Mission

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 and responsive local government in Iowa.



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### Credits

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Randy Summy & Ty Stamper/General Services: printing

# **TOM HOCKENSMITH CHAIR, POLK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On behalf of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to present our FY 15/16 Annual Report.



We continue to see record breaking success at the Iowa Events Center and were provided with over \$1.9 million in revenue for the second year in a row. The NCAA Men's Basketball Division I Championship first and second round games were held at Wells Fargo Arena with a terrific showing of support from the community. In fact, over \$44,000 worth of merchandise was sold in Des Moines which far exceeds the nationwide average of less than \$10,000 at other host sites. Bids were submitted to host the first and second round games again in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. We expect the bids to be awarded in the spring of 2017.

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.

The Board of Supervisors spent most of 2016 working to raise the minimum wage in Polk County. The minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25 since 2008 and it is widely reported that the cost of living in our community far exceeds that minimum. We assembled a task force in May to study the issue and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

The goal was to identify a minimum wage that would have an impact on poverty without putting local business owners at risk. This fall the Board approved a minimum wage ordinance that will raise it to \$8.75 on April 1, 2017; \$9.75 on January 1, 2018; and \$10.75 on January 1, 2019.

While it is not ideal to have a patchwork of different minimum wage ordinances across the state, we believed that it was our duty to do what we can to improve the lives of our residents and we hope that the State Legislatures passes a statewide minimum wage increase.

Supervisor John Mauro has led our office in one of the largest undertakings Polk County has seen by making a commitment that no person in Polk County will go hungry. It is hard to believe that 54,080 people in Polk County go hungry. This is 1 in 8 adults and 1 in 5 children. The Supervisors are committed to doing our part to reduce hunger and our first step was to conduct research that identified gaps in the food assistance network. We also opened a DMARC food pantry at River Place last spring that has already become one of the most heavily used pantries in the system. Our goal is to raise \$10 million that will be used to help existing pantries expand their hours so that working adults can access them more conveniently, implement a mobile food pantry that will make regular visits to neighborhoods that do not have access to pantries, renovate a warehouse that will allow providers to order and store larger quantities of food at lower prices, and assist existing programs who would like to expand their services. We are also looking forward to opening a new Polk County Community Center at 6th Ave and Boston Ave that will include a food pantry.

As you can see, it has been a busy year in the Board of Supervisors and all of the successes I mentioned and many more could not have been possible without the work of all 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 "Tom Hockensmith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line at the end.

Tom Hockensmith, Chair  
Polk County Board of Supervisors

# **POLK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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# ROBERT BROWNELL

## DISTRICT 1

Robert Brownell was re-elected in 2012 and is currently serving his fourth term. Supervisor Brownell serves the citizens of Clive, Johnston, Urbandale, Windsor Heights, Grimes, Polk City, Alleman, Elkhart and a portion of Sheldahl that is in 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. Brownell 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 and 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, Des Moines Arts Board, 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 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 and Ankeny Person of Vision in 2010 and a 2016 inductee into the Ankeny High School Hall of Honor.

# TOM HOCKENSMITH

## 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 Northeast 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, 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.

Supervisor Hockensmith represents the Board of Supervisors on the Correctional Services Board of Directors, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Metro Waste Authority, Polk County Assessor's Liaison Conference Board Committee, Polk County Risk Management Committee Board, and is Chair of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. He has a strong interest in transportation infrastructure projects.

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

# JOHN F. 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 and 2014.



During John's tenure he has served on many boards, some of which include: 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**

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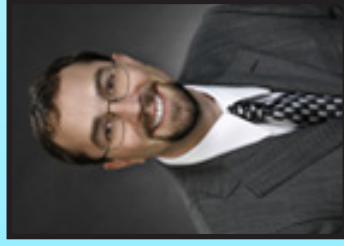
## JOHN SARCONE ATTORNEY

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 in 1998 and is currently a member of the Board of the Iowa County Attorneys Association. Sarcone was the Iowa State Director of the National District Attorneys Association from 1998 to 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 AUDITOR



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

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

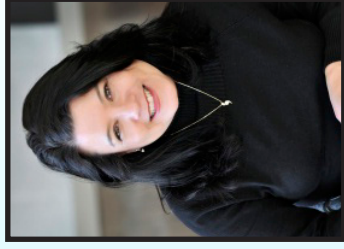
These include an office reorganization that decreased the size of the office through employee retirements, decreasing the amount of paper used by switching to electronic agendas for board meetings, changing how board agendas, minutes and audio are distributed by making the entire board packet available 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 schools, senior citizen centers and other 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 35 years and together they have 3 grown children living in the Des Moines area.

Since taking office, Haggerty has extended her office hours and continues to look for ways to preserve and protect real estate and vital records occurring in Polk County. In 2015, the Recorder's Office, with the support of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, was awarded its third Historical Resource Development Grant from the State of Iowa. The funds from these grants helped digitize records 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.

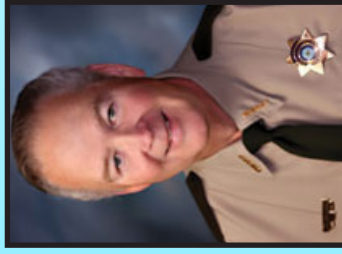
Since 2007, there has been a significant increase in e-submissions. Haggerty serves on the Electronic Services Systems (ESS) Coordinating Committee that monitors the activity and policies related to electronic filings.

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. 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, a board member of the Urbandale Food Pantry, and the ESS Communications Subcommittee. Haggerty has also served as President of District 1 of the Iowa Recorder's Association.

## **BILL MCCARTHY**

### **SHERIFF**



Bill McCarthy was elected Sheriff in November 2008 and re-elected in 2012. 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.

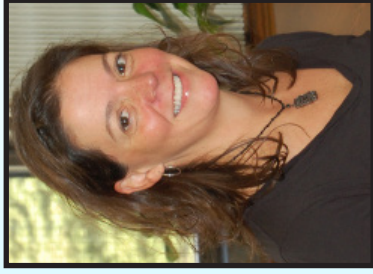


# BUDGET

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## DEB ANDERSON BUDGET MANAGEMENT

The financial condition of Polk County government remains strong. Cost savings measures along with voter support and continued revenue from Prairie Meadows have allowed the County to continue to reinforce its fiscal condition. This has enabled the County to undertake new Conservation and Court projects and to 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. Nonetheless, the County is closely monitoring the financial situation and reviewing the effect of state tax reform and mental health funding on budget projections. We are committed to responsible fiscal management and will adapt as needed to continue serving the community in a cost-effective manner.

# GAMING REVENUE USE SUMMARY

## POLK COUNTY, IOWA

	FY2015/2016
Pay off Iowa Events Center Debt	12,800,000
Pay off Sewer Debt	700,000
Prairie Meadows Property Tax	4,500,000
Capital Improvements	500,000
Revenue Sharing with City & Schools	2,300,000
Community Grants, Economic Development & Operations	5,400,000
Total	26,200,000

# GRANT AWARDS

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# 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.

Aging Resources of Central Iowa

ALS Association Iowa Chapter

Ankeny Athletic Booster Club

Bondurant Development, Inc.

Boys Club of Des Moines (Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa)

Calvin Community Foundation

Central Iowa Shelter & Services (CISS)

City of Johnston

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (Clive Community Foundation)

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors)

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (Jackson Street Bridge Project Fund)

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (Principal Charity Classic)

Community foundation of Greater Des Moines (YMCA Historical Mural Project)

Community! Youth Concepts

Des Moines Area Community College Foundation

Des Moines Symphony Association

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Greater Des Moines Music Coalition

Highland Park Post #374 The American Legion

IMPACT Community Action Partnership Inc.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDS CON'T.

Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa  
Johnston Partnership for a Healthy Community  
Latino Resources, Inc.  
Link Associates Foundation  
Little All American Football League  
Metro Arts Alliance of Greater Des Moines  
National Alliance on Mental Illness-Iowa  
North Des Moines Girls Softball League  
Parks Area Foundation  
Primary Health Care, Inc.  
Science Center of Iowa  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Tree Des Moines  
United Way of Central Iowa  
Young Men's Christian Association of Greater Des Moines  
(John R. Grubb YMCA)  
Young Men's Christian Association of Greater Des Moines  
(Wellmark YMCA)  
Youth and Shelter Services, Inc. D/B/A Iowa Homeless Youth  
Centers

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDS

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:

City of Des Moines (Walnut Streetscape)

City of Pleasant Hill

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (Sister Cities Commission)

Greater Des Moines Partnership



# 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  
Accent Neighborhood Association  
Altoona Fire Department  
American Legion Post 663  
Ankeny After Prom  
Ankeny Area Chamber  
Ankeny Art Center  
Ankeny City Band  
Ankeny Community Chorus  
Ankeny Community Foundation (Art for Ankeny)  
Ankeny Economic Development  
Ankeny Instrumental Music Foundation, Inc.  
Ankeny Little League Baseball  
Ankeny Mayor's Youth Council  
Ankeny Police Department  
Ballet Des Moines  
Beaverdale Fall Festival  
Beaverdale Neighborhood Association  
Best Buddies Iowa  
Bidwell-Riverside Center  
Bondurant-Farrar High School After Prom  
Booster Pak  
Brook Run Neighborhood Association  
Calvin Community Foundation  
Can Do Cancer  
Capital City Lodge N0 2589 Loyal Order of Moose  
Capitol East Neighborhood Association  
Capitol Park Neighborhood Association

# COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANT AWARDS CON'T.

Caring Hands Outreach Center  
Central Iowa High Adventures Foundation, Inc.  
Central Iowa Shelter & Services (CISS)  
Central Iowa Wind Ensemble  
Childserve Foundation, Inc.  
Chrysalis Foundation  
City of Clive Public Library  
City of Urbandale MAC CAMP  
Civic Music Association of Des Moines  
Clive Community Foundation  
Clive Community Services  
Clive Festival  
Clowns at the Carousel  
Courage League Sports  
Creative Visions  
Dallas Center Grimes After Prom  
Dallas Center-Grimes Education Foundation  
Delaware Elementary PTA  
Des Moines Area Youth Track Club & Youth Development, Inc.  
Des Moines Arts Festival  
Des Moines Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Pride of Iowa Chorus  
Des Moines Golden Kiwanis Club  
Des Moines Neighbors  
Des Moines North High School Polar Bears Boosters  
Des Moines Park and Recreation Foundation  
Des Moines Performing Arts  
Des Moines Public Schools Library Support Group (LSG)  
Des Moines Urban Experience/Iowa Juneteenth  
Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association  
Douglas Avenue Coalition  
Downtown Events Group  
Downtown Urbandale Neighborhood Association  
Dragon Scholarship Fund, a division of Johnston Co  
East Des Moines Girls Softball

# COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANT AWARDS CON'T.

East Des Moines Swim Team  
East High Golf Classic  
East High Post Prom  
East High School Alumni Foundation  
Eastern Polk Regional Development, Inc.  
Endow Urbandale  
Fairgrounds Neighbors for Community Improvement  
Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association  
Family Promise of Greater Des Moines  
Fifth Judicial District Department of Corrections  
Forest Avenue Outreach  
Friendly Sons of St. Patrick  
Grandview Little League  
Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden  
Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity  
Grimes Volunteer Support  
Guns N Hoses DSM  
Highland Park Little League  
Highland Park Neighborhood Association  
Historic Valley Junction Foundation  
Hoover High School  
Hoover High School Post Prom  
Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit  
IMPACT Community Action Partnership (f/k/a Red Rock Area Action)  
Iowa Arts in Education dba ArtForceIowa  
Iowa Asian Alliance  
Iowa Golden Gloves Foundation  
Iowa International Center  
Iowa Radio Reading Information Service for the Blind and Print Handicapped (IRIS)  
Iowa Sports Foundation  
Iowa Women Lead Change  
Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa

# COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANT AWARDS CON'T.

Jane Foundation, Inc.  
J-Hawk Soccer Club  
John R. Grubb Community YMCA  
Johnston Chamber of Commerce  
Johnston High School After Prom  
Johnston Partnership for a Healthy Community  
Johnston Public Library  
JOPPA Outreach  
Keep Iowa Beautiful  
King Irving Neighborhood Association  
Kirkendall Public Library  
Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines  
Lincoln High School Senior After Prom/Senior Celebration  
Lincoln Rails Football Club-BLH Booster Club  
Little All American Football  
Living History Farms  
Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund, Inc.  
Merle Hay Neighborhood Association  
Metro Arts Alliance of Greater Des Moines  
Midwest Educational Resources Development Fund, Inc.  
Mitchellville Community Center, Inc.  
MLK Jr. Park Neighborhood Association  
Mondamin Presidential Neighborhood Association  
Nathan Weeks Middle School  
Never Say Can't Foundation  
New Horizons Adult Day Center  
North Des Moines Girls Softball League Inc.  
North High School Post Prom  
North of Grand Neighborhood Association  
North Polk Post Prom  
Northeast Neighbors and Friends  
Northwest Elementary PTO  
Oak Park Neighbors  
Orchard Place

# COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANT AWARDS CON'T.

Parenting Way, Inc.  
Parks Area Foundation  
Pleasant Hill Police Department  
Polk City Development Corporation  
Polk County Agricultural Extension District  
Polk County Community, Family and Youth Services  
Prevent Blindness Iowa  
Prevent Child Abuse Iowa  
Project Fresh Start  
Prospect Park Neighborhood Association  
Pursuit of Innovation  
Raccoon Valley Little League  
Rails Wrestling Club-BLH Booster Club  
Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines  
River Bend Association  
Roosevelt High School  
Saydel High School After Prom  
Sheridan Gardens Neighborhood Association  
South Central Iowa Federal Labor Charity  
South Des Moines Girls Amateur Softball  
South Gate Masonic Lodge  
Southeast Polk CSD/Southeast Polk Hall of Honor  
Southeast Polk Dollars for Scholars  
Southeast Polk Post Prom  
SouthSide Cares, LTD  
Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association  
The Greater Des Moines Community Foundation (Ingersoll Live)  
The Salvation Army  
The Valley After Prom Committee  
Union Park Neighborhood Association  
Uptown Ankeny, Inc.  
Urbandale 4th of July Celebration  
Urbandale Community Action Network (UCAN)

# COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANT AWARDS CON'T.

Urbandale Food Pantry  
Urbandale Little League  
Urbandale Optimist Club  
Urbandale Post Prom  
Walnut Creek Little League d/b/a Walnut Creek Baseball  
Waveland Park Neighborhood Association  
WDMCS Student Scholarship Fund  
West Des Moines Community Schools Foundation Fiscal Agent  
For Blank Tales  
West Des Moines Historical Society  
West Des Moines Human Services  
West Des Moines Library Friends Foundation  
Woodward-Granger High School Post Prom  
YMCA Supportive Housing Campus  
Young Women's Resource Center

# INITIATIVES

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## 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. We celebrated the completion of Phase II with an event that showcased the new exterior of the Historic Courthouse. Teams of historic preservation specialists erected scaffolding to the top of the Courthouse to perform cleaning and maintenance to the stonework of the building. New lights and landscaping were also added. 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 will be relocated to in 2015. We hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the Justice Center in November. As Phase III continues through 2018 we will see the top four floors of the Old Main Jail removed from the building and the interior of both the Old Main Jail and the Historic Courthouse renovated.

## Iowa Event Center and Convention Hotel

The Iowa Events Center had yet another record breaking year that returned revenues of \$1.9 million to the County, over \$700,000 more than last year. The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship First and Second Round games being played in Des Moines last spring and were a much heralded success. Bids have been submitted to host the First and Second Round games again in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. The proposed Convention Center Hotel at the Iowa Events Center has been the focus of our work for the last year. Hilton has been selected as the hotel operator, The Weitz Company was selected as the contractor, and a seven member non-profit board was selected to oversee the development of the hotel. Construction is well under way and remains on schedule and on budget. The proposed hotel will have 330 rooms, a ballroom, fitness center and convention space that will draw even more business to Central Iowa. The proposed hotel will have 330 rooms, a ballroom, fitness center and convention space and draw even more business to Central Iowa.



## Watershed Management Authorities

Fourmile, Walnut, Mud, Camp and Spring Creeks are all areas in Polk County that have experienced severe flooding in the past. The Board of Supervisors and Polk County Public Works have been working with local jurisdictions on creating watershed authorities to develop long-term Watershed Management Plans for these creeks. The planning process is specifically targeting feedback from residents and stakeholders on how the watershed should be managed and how it can be the most valuable for the community immediately and in to the future. Focus groups have been held with the general public as well as with specific stakeholder groups to gain insight and support when implementing the final plans. A Coordinator has been hired through the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District who will oversee the coordination of the creation and implementation of all of the watershed management plans.

## Hunger

The Polk County Board of Supervisors have been working for nearly two years on reducing the number of people who go hungry in Polk County. Most people are shocked to learn that 1 in 5 kids and 1 in 8 adults do not have enough food. We interviewed food pantry users and conducted research to find out how we can improve the network to make food more accessible to everyone. Through this work we have learned that the people who are going hungry are not just the homeless or unemployed...it is seniors, families, and parents who work multiple jobs but still have to skip their own meals to ensure their kids have enough to eat. Many of the pantries are only open for a few hours a week, making it extremely difficult to access. We have identified a plan that will expand hours at several pantry locations and add a new mobile pantry for areas of high need and anticipate that it will cost approximately \$5 million to implement this plan over a five year period. Fundraising is well under way and we are pleased to have reached the half way point. With the money raised so far we have helped six pantries expand their hours to include evenings and weekends and added a mobile pantry that visits neighborhoods where food assistance is lacking. So far we have added well over 200 hours of service per week to the food pantry network.

## Smart 911

Our Emergency Management department is promoting a new program called Smart911. Smart911 is a free national service that allows citizens to create a Safety Profile for their household that includes any information they want 9-1-1 and first responders to have in the event of an emergency. If that citizen needs to dial 9-1-1, their Safety Profile will immediately display on the call taker's screen, saving seconds and even minutes in response to the emergency. All of the information is voluntary and each household can determine what details they would like first responders to know about. You can include information about names and photos of family members, medications or health conditions, entrances and exits, pets in the home, emergency contacts and more. Your profile will be private and the only time it will be accessed by a first responder is when you call 911. The more information that first responders have before arriving to an emergency, the better the outcomes. Learn more and sign up at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com).

## Minimum Wage

Last May, the Board of Supervisors voted to assemble a task force that would make a recommendation to the Board regarding a higher minimum wage in Polk County. States and local governments across the country have begun to raise their local minimum wage in the absence of action from the Federal government. In Iowa there has not been an increase to the minimum wage since 2008 and it is widely reported that the current minimum wage of \$7.25 falls far below the cost of living in Polk County. Our task force had representation from social service agencies, community agencies, restaurants and private business. After meetings held this summer the group recommended to raise the minimum wage incrementally over a three year period up to \$10.75, an amount that the task force believes will be impactful on the lives of those living in poverty but will not cause harm to businesses. The recommendation also included a youth wage of 85% of the minimum wage because of the many restrictions on hours and types of work placed on youth by the State and Federal government. The Board of Supervisors held the first of three votes on the proposed ordinance on September 27. At that meeting an amendment was offered that would freeze the hourly wage for tipped employees at \$5 per hour because

the tipped employees are among the highest paid in the restaurant industry. The tipped wage freeze will allow the extra wages to be paid to the lowest paid employees such as cooks and waiter's assistants. The amended ordinance passed the third vote on October 11 and will become effective on April 1, 2017 when it is raised to \$8.75. The following increments of \$9.75 and \$10.75 will occur on January 1 of 2018 and 2019.

### North Community Center

The Board of Supervisors are pleased with the progress of the construction of a new North Community Center. The site is located at 6th and Boston and the City of Des Moines transferred the property to Polk County last December and construction began last spring. The Community Center will be modeled after the recently opened Westside Community Center and will include a game room, exercise room, craft room, classroom, medical clinic and kitchen. It will also include space for a food pantry that will be operated by the Des Moines Area Religious Council. The new Community Center will be available to lease to the public during evening and weekend hours and is expected to open in May 2017.

### Easter Lake

Attracting more than 500,000 visitors each year, Easter Lake Park has been a great recreational resource to central Iowa since its creation in 1967. Easter Lake is fed by Yeader Creek which is part of a 6,380-acre watershed that stretches across Des Moines from the airport east to the lake. Over the last several years this popular 178-acre lake has faced diminishing water quality as development in the area has increased. The lake currently suffers from poor water clarity, algal blooms, high sedimentation rates, low oxygen concentrations, and a poor fishery. In response to the lake's water quality problems, project partners completed research to identify pollutant sources, locate priority areas, and develop a plan of action to provide guidance and outline goals for the restoration project. The restoration process will begin in late 2015 with spillway and fish rearing pond renovation, Yeader Creek stabilization work, and the installation of dredge piping. Since the lake's creation in 1967,

it has lost nearly 30% of its volume as a result of siltation. Sediment washing in from the watershed has filled the lake. Hydraulic dredging will remove this deposited sediment from the lake bottom, increase lake depth, and provide multiple recreation benefits for the public. A hydraulic dredge floats on the water and excavates and pumps the material through a temporary pipeline to an offsite location. More noticeable restoration work will begin in early 2017 when the lake is drained to complete shoreline stabilization and fish rehabilitation. Some portions of the eroded shoreline will be pulled back and rocked along the water's edge to prevent wave erosion. Other areas will be stabilized with natural vegetation. Reconstruction of the shoreline will provide additional high quality fish habitat and better public access to the lake. Improved aquatic habitat and renovated fishery will drastically improve fishing success at Easter Lake. The boat ramp will be closed and park shelters will be first come, first serve only in 2017. The lake will begin to fill back up again during the winter and spring of 2017-2018 and fish restocking will take place. Throughout this entire process, a series of rainscaping practices such as rain gardens, permeable pavers, and soil quality restoration, along with public education focused on fertilizer usage, rain barrel benefits, invasive species control, and native landscaping will supplement the restoration work that is happening in Easter Lake and in the watershed.

In addition to lake restoration efforts, a 5-mile trail is also being constructed around the lake. Two of the three phases of trail construction has been completed totaling almost four miles. The last phase is expected to begin in 2017 dependent upon progress within the larger restoration project.

# **ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENTS**

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# 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.



Tom Hockensmith  
Chair

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
Administrative Secretary	Heather Ksiazek	515.286.3120
Administrative Secretary	Kristen Ingle	515.286.3301
Grant Administrator	Lisa Moody-Tunks	515.323.5225

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/supervisors](http://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 any of its departments or boards in civil matters.



John Sarcone  
Attorney

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
Juvenile Bureau	515.286.2035
Restorative Justice Center	515.286.3057
Civil Division	515.286.3341
FAX	515.286.3428



Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/attorney](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/attorney)

# 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.



Jamie Fitzgerald  
Auditor

General Information	515.286.3079
Accounts Payable	515.286.3414
Accounts Receivable	515.286.3419
Central Accounting	515.286.3753
Dog License	515.286.3079
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

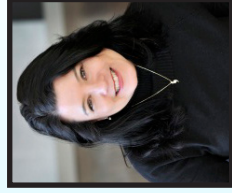
Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/auditor](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/auditor)





# 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.



Julie Haggerty  
Recorder

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

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

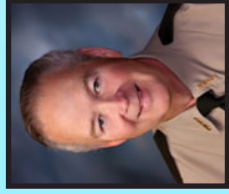
515.323.5393

Website: [www.polkcountyia.gov/recorder](http://www.polkcountyia.gov/recorder)



# POLK COUNTY SHERIFF

The Polk County Sheriff is the Chief Executive Officer of the largest Sheriff's office in Iowa with over 490 employees and an annual budget of more than \$50 million. The Sheriff's office is a full-service law enforcement agency with Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Civil and Jail Divisions.



Bill McCarthy  
Sheriff

Sheriff Bill McCarthy	515.323.5446
Chief Deputy Victor Munoz	515.323.5346
Administrative Services	515.286.3814
Civil Division - Civil Manager	515.286.3800
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](mailto:PolkCounty.Sheriff@polkcountyiowa.gov)  
Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/sheriff](http://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](http://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.

Mary Maloney  
Treasurer

Vehicle Division  
Tax Division  
Cash Management  
General Information

515.286.3030  
515.286.3060  
515.286.3035  
515.286.3041

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/treasurer](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/treasurer)  
Payment site: [www.iowaTaxAndTags.gov](http://www.iowaTaxAndTags.gov)



# 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.



Betty Devine  
Director

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](http://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.



Rich Leopold  
Director

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](http://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.



AJ Mumm  
Director

You can reach us at:

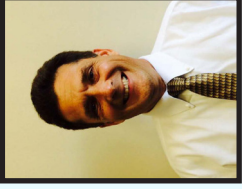
Phone: 286-2107

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/emergency-management](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/emergency-management)

Email: [emergency.management@polkcountyiowa.gov](mailto: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.



John Rowen  
Director

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](http://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.



Rick Kozin  
Director

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.



Susan Osby  
Acting Director

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

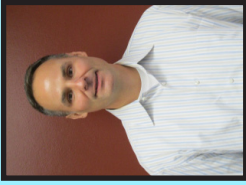
Fax

515.243.8447

Website: [www.polkcountyowa.gov/health\\_services](http://www.polkcountyowa.gov/health_services)

# 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.



Jim Nahas  
Director

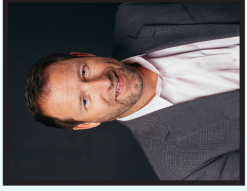
The major functional areas of Human Resources are employment, labor relations, classification/compensation, benefits, employee development and administrative support.

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_resources)

# 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.



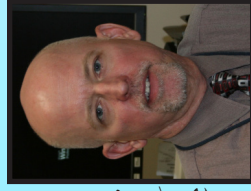
Anthony Jefferson  
Director

General Information      515.286.3757  
Call Center (Help Line)      515.286.2299

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/it](http://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 physicians care within the previous 36 hours (extended to 30 days for terminal patients), must be investigated by the Medical Examiner's Office.



Dr. Greg Schmunk  
Medical Examiner

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 within 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.



Robert Rice  
Director

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	515.286.3356
Weatherization	515.286.3005
Weed Commissioner	

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/publicworks](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/publicworks)

# VETERAN AFFAIRS

The Commission of Veteran Affairs is responsible for the management of a program which provides emergency financial assistance to eligible veterans and their families including temporary shelter costs, utility payments, food, and health supplies. Assistance with filing for federal benefits such as pension and disability compensation with nationally accredited Veteran Service Officers.



Becky Buch  
Director

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 Polk County cemeteries; and maintains veterans' graves in cooperation with the City of 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 federal 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 and their families.

General Information	515.286.3670
Administrator	515.286.3673
Assistant Administrator	515.286.3671

Website: <http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/veteranaffairs/>



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS