



Polk County Annual Report

Fiscal Year
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

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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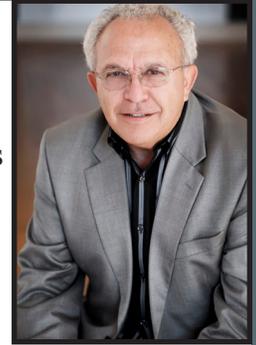
Message from the Chair

John F. Mauro, Chair, Polk County Board of Supervisors

On behalf of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to present our FY 13/14 Annual Report. As in years past it has been a busy year and we've welcomed several new faces to our own office.

In November 2013 the Board of Supervisors welcomed Mark Wandro as the new County Administrator. Mark has served state government and Polk County in a number of roles – including as former Assistant Polk County Engineer. Mark left his position as the Executive Vice President of Snyder & Associates, Inc. to take the position of Polk County Administrator. Mark was the former director of the Iowa Department of Transportation and has extensive experience working with the Des Moines MPO, Metro Waste Authority, and multiple municipalities and local governments in Polk County. In addition to his experience, he brings strong financial management skills and a knowledge of construction that will be critical in the many projects that the County is involved in.

The Courts have been a featured topic for many years now but I'm pleased to talk about the construction that is finally taking place after many years of work in passing the \$81 million referendum last November. Since the passing of the referendum, OPN Architects have worked closely with County and State staff to create a renovation plan that will transform the old JC Penny/Wellmark building into the new Polk County Justice Center; the Old Main Jail into a Criminal Courts; and complete renovation of the Historic Courthouse.



Message from the Chair (Continued)

The original plans called for the completion of the project in 2021 but the team has recently been able to improve construction safety and increase savings to the County by reducing the project timeline by three years and is now scheduled to have all phases completed in 2018.

The Courts renovation project is just one piece of development that is contributing to the revitalization of downtown Des Moines. The Iowa Events Center had a record breaking year that featured events ranging from Cher to Bon Jovi to Justin Bieber! As owner, Polk County saw record revenues from the Iowa Events Center that more than doubled the last highest revenue.

While the Supervisors are excited to be involved in so much downtown development we are also happy to be a part of continuing to provide support to social services. We all share a passion in improving efficiencies in the criminal justice system and in July we saw one piece of the puzzle fall into place with the opening of a new Crisis Observation Center located at Central Iowa Shelter & Services that will provide mental health assessments, interventions and referrals.

Supervisor Angela Connolly, who represents West Des Moines, enjoyed celebrating the opening of the new Westside Community Center last March. The newly constructed Community Center is located at 134 6th Street in Valley Junction and offers a larger congregate meal dining room, a multi-purpose room, an exercise room, a computer room and a medical services office. The Center is open from 8:00am to 5:00pm on weekdays but can also be rented for meetings or events on evenings and weekends. A ribbon cutting was held in March where nearly 100 senior citizens and community members gathered to celebrate the opening of the Westside Community Center.

Message from the Chair (Continued)

On the northeast edge of the metro area Supervisor Steve Van Oort has been working with City leaders to continue to support the quality of life for residents in his district. Because of Supervisor Van Oort's efforts, improvements were made to the trailhead in Bondurant, the Altoona youth sports complex, Doanes Park in Pleasant Hill, the Mitchellville Community Center and the Miracle League ballpark in Ankeny was able to add an all-inclusive playground for kids of all ages with disabilities.

Supervisor Tom Hockensmith has been working closely with his constituents, the Metropolitan Planning Organization and our Public Works Department on creating a watershed authority for Fourmile Creek. The Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Authority (WMA) is in the process of developing a long term Watershed Management Plan. At present, working group meetings are being held with a variety of people to ascertain the types of infrastructure and policies that may be needed based on the feedback received from community and the WMA. Once the present working group process is completed an implementation strategy will be finalized with the final plan and report scheduled to be completed in early 2015.

The northwestern suburbs have also had a busy year fostering community involvement through Supervisor Bob Brownell's minor home repair program. Under his leadership the Urbandale Caring Action Network (UCAN) and Lutheran Church of Hope came together to assist Urbandale residents in making minor repairs to their homes. At Polk County, we are often lucky enough to encounter groups willing to help in the community and in this case several organizations were each able to lend their expertise to a cause that benefits the community. UCAN has been doing volunteer work in Urbandale and already had an administrative system in place to identify clients in need of home repair assistance. Lutheran Church of Hope had a men's ministry willing and talented enough to do the repairs. By bringing these two groups together Supervisor Brownell is working with the Johnston Partnership to expand this program into Johnston.

Message from the Chair (Continued)

Polk County is working with Home Depot to provide the materials, home owners in Urbandale now have an affordable option for fixing minor problems in their home while fostering volunteerism in the community.

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, appearing to read "John F. Mauro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

John F. Mauro, Chair
Polk County Board of Supervisors

Polk County Board of Supervisors

Polk County Board of Supervisors

Robert Brownell District 1



Supervisor 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 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.

Bob 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. Bob 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 and can be found at robertbrownell.com. He is currently working with Carve Literary Services. Bob has been married to Jenna Jurgensen for 43 years and has a son, daughter-in-law and one granddaughter, Carmen.

Polk County Board of Supervisors

Angela Connolly District 2



Supervisor Angela Connolly was first elected as a Polk County Supervisor in 1998. She currently 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 served as Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors in 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, and is currently serving as Vice-Chairperson. Prior to joining the Board of Supervisors, Connolly spent 19 years working at Polk County Public Works and was an active member of AFSCME Local 1868.

She has been active in many civic and community activities. Connolly currently serves as the Chair of The Tomorrow Plan and Tri-Chair for Capital Crossroads.

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

Angela has lived in Polk County all her life. She and her husband Tom have raised three children and have four grandchildren.

Polk County Board of Supervisors

Steve Van Oort District 3



Supervisor 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 unincorporated Polk County.

In his role as Polk County Supervisor he serves on the boards of Aging Resources of Central Iowa, Mid Iowa Association of Local Governments, Mid-Iowa Development Fund, Neighborhood Finance Corporation, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Metro Advisory Council and Eastern Polk Regional Economic Development Corporation. Van Oort also serves as Commissioner and Chair of the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority.

Van Oort was named Ankeny Citizen of the Year in 2000, Ankeny Rotarian of the Year in 2004 and Ankeny Person of Vision in 2010. He is a member and past president of Rotary Club of Ankeny and member of the Board of Directors of the Partnership for a Drug Free Iowa.

Steve and his wife Darlene have two daughters, and one grandson. Steve attended Ankeny High School and John Brown University.

Polk County Board of Supervisors

Tom Hockensmith District 4



Supervisor Tom Hockensmith began serving his first term as Polk County Supervisor in January 2003. Hockensmith currently represents Polk County's 4th District which includes East Des Moines, Runnells, Camp Township, Fourmile 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 and the Northeast section of Des Moines.

Hockensmith'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.

Hockensmith represents the Board of Supervisors on the Correctional Services Board of Directors, Metro Waste Authority and is Chair of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. He has a strong interest in transportation infrastructure projects.

Tom and his wife have four children and four grandchildren.

Polk County Board of Supervisors

John F. Mauro District 5



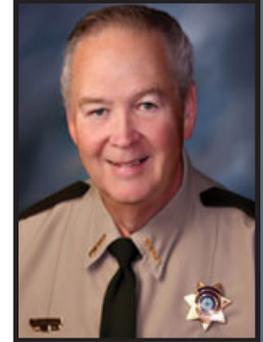
Supervisor John F. Mauro represents Polk County's Fifth District which includes the majority of Des Moines' south side, downtown and a portion of the inner city area. Mauro previously served the citizens of Polk County for two consecutive terms after being elected in 1990. Mauro served as Chair of the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

John is a native of Des Moines and was born and raised on the south side. He has been a self-employed businessman and has owned his own insurance agency for many years. John and his wife Grace have three sons and seven grandchildren.

Polk County Elected Officials

Polk County Elected Officials

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 45 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.

Polk County Elected Officials

Jamie Fitzgerald Auditor

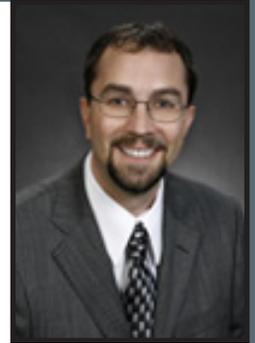
Jamie Fitzgerald is currently serving his second full term as Polk County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections.

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 degree 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.



Polk County Elected Officials

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.

Since taking office, Haggerty has extended her office hours and established a same-day recording policy. 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 of Polk County by launching Passport Saturdays in libraries, senior centers and even opened her downtown office on several Saturdays for passport applications and boat registration renewals. 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 Polk County serves 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.

Most recently, she has 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 at Polk County and a board member of the Urbandale Food Pantry. Haggerty has also served as President of District 1 of the Iowa Recorder's Association.

In 2012, the Recorder's Office was awarded another Historical Resource Development grant from the State of Iowa. The funds from this grant helped to digitize, maintain and preserve vital records dating back to the early 1900's. The digitization of these records will give the general public easier access for the retrieval and reproduction of these archived documents.

Polk County Elected Officials

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 and 2010. 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.



Polk County Elected Officials

Mary Maloney Treasurer



Mary Maloney has served as Polk County Treasurer since 1989 and is 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-five years, wherein, the Treasurer received an “Innovations in Government Award” in 1997 for many of these improvements. Maloney kicked off an eGovernment initiative in 2002 during her presidency of ISCTA, which received two national awards.

Budget

Budget

Deb Anderson Budget Management



The financial condition of Polk County government remains strong. Cost savings measures and continued revenue from Prairie Meadows have allowed the County to continue to reinforce its fiscal condition. This situation has enabled the County to maintain the operating tax levy rate while still undertaking new projects and serving 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 the economy and state tax reform 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.

Budget

GAMING REVENUE USE SUMMARY POLK COUNTY, IOWA

	FY2013/2014
Pay off Iowa Events Center Debt	13,000,000
Pay off Sewer Debt	700,000
Prairie Meadows Property Tax	4,500,000
Capital Improvements	2,600,000
Revenue Sharing with City & Schools	2,300,000
Community Grants, Economic Development & Operations	4,700,000
Total	27,800,000

Grant Awards

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.

AIB College of Business

ALS Association, Iowa Chapter

Amanda Cares Inc

American Legion Post #731

Beaverdale Betterment Coalition

Bidwell-Riverside Center

Bondurant Little League

Calvin Community Foundation

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines
(Principal Charity Classic)

Des Moines Area Community College

Des Moines Area Community College (Project
Iowa)

Des Moines Area Religious Council

Des Moines Community Playhouse

Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center

Des Moines Performing Arts

Des Moines Symphony

Downtown Community Alliance

Drake University

Easter Seals Iowa

Education for the 21st Century

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Greater Des Moines Music Coalition

Homestead Foundation

Iowa Homeless Youth Center

ISED Ventures

Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa

Mitchellville Community Center

Grant Awards

National Alliance on Mental Illness
Parks Area Foundation
Southeast Polk Youth Tackle Football
TAI Village Inc
United Way of Central Iowa
Urban Dreams
Variety-The Children's Charity
West Des Moines Historical Society
Youth Emergency Shelter Services
Youth Homes of Mid-America

Grant Awards

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 not to exceed \$5,000.

6th Avenue Corridor
Accent Neighborhood Association
Amanda Cares
American Legion 663
Ankeny After Prom
Ankeny Community School District Foundation
Ballet Des Moines
Beaverdale Fall Festival
Beaverdale Farmers Market
Beaverdale Little League
Best Buddies Iowa
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Big Creek Historical Society
Bondurant-Farrar High School After Prom
Braodlawns Medical Center
Brook Run Neighborhood Association

Capital City Moose Lodge
Capital Park Neighborhood Association
Central Iowa Shelter & Services
Children's & Families of Iowa
Children's Cancer Connection
City of Des Moines Parks and Rec. Department
City of Elkhart
City of Mitchellville Police Department
City of Urbandale
Clive Community Foundation
Clive Festival
Clive Historical Society
Clowns at the Carousel
Connect Foundation-Iowa Juneteenth Observance
COPS Against Cancer
Cowles Montessori Parent Group

Grant Awards

Crossroads of Iowa Fiscal Agent Parenting Way Inc
Dallas Center Grimes After Prom
Delaware Elementary School
Des Moines Area Youth Track Club
Des Moines Arts Festival
Des Moines Chapter, S.E.B.S.Q.S.A Inc.
Des Moines Golden Kiwanis Club
Des Moines North High School Polar Bears Booster
Des Moines Parks and Rec. Foundation
Des Moines Performing Arts
Des Moines Public School Library Support
Des Moines Public Schools- Hoover High School
Des Moines Public Schools Pass And Play Program
Des Moines Public Schools Support Group
Des Moines Social Club
Des Moines University
Des Moines West Side Chamber
Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association
Downtown Urbandale Neighborhood Association
Dragon Scholarship Fund
Dress for Success Des Moines
East Des Moines Girls Softball

East Des Moines Swim Team
East High School Post Prom Committee
EMBARC
Endown Urbandale
Fairground neighbors for Community
Improvement
Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association
Family Promise of Greater Des Moines
Got Bounce
Got Bound
Grandview Little League
Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity
Grimes Chamber & Economic Development
Highland Park Neighborhood Association
Historic Valley Junction
Hoover High School
Hoover High School- Des Moines Public
Schools
Hoover High School Prom Committee
House of Mercy
Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit
Iowa Asian Alliance

Grant Awards

Iowa Cubs 501
Iowa Golden Gloves Foundation
Iowa Sports Foundation
Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa
Johnston Chamber of Commerce
Johnston High School After Prom
Johnston Partnership
Johnston Public Library Foundation
King Irving Neighborhood Association
Latinas/Latinos Al Exito
Lincoln High School Senior Celebration/ After Prom
Littler All-American Football
Living History Farms Foundation
Martin Luther Kinds Jr. Neighborhood Association
MECCA SERVICES
Meredith Middle School- Des Moines Public Schools
Meredith Neighborhood Association
Merele Hay Neighborhood Association
Midwest Educational Resources Development
Mondamin Presidential Neighborhood Association
Mosaic
North Des Moines Girls Softball League
North High School After Prom

North of Grand Neighborhood Association
North Polk Community Foundation
North Polk Post Prom
North Polk School Foundation
Northeast Neighbors and Friends
Oak Park Neighbors
Orchard Place
Parks Area Foundation
Perkins Elementary School
Polk City Development Corporation
Polk County Heritage Gallery
Prevent Blindness Iowa
Project Fresh Start
Prospect Park Neighborhood Association
Raccoon Valley Little League
Rails Wrestling Club
River Bend Association
Runnells Community Library Foundation
Saydel High School After Prom
SCI Can Foundation
SEP High School Science- Field of Many
Dreams
Sheridan Gardens Neighborhood Association

Grant Awards

South Central Iowa Federal Labor Charity
Southeast Polk Dollars for Scholars
Southeast Polk Post Prom
Southside Cares
Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association
Suburban Emergency Response Team
The Des Moines Educational Foundation Inc
The Des Moines Radio Community
The Great March Climate
The Italian American Cultural Center of Iowa
The Valley After Prom Committee
Theodore Roosevelt High School
Tree Des Moines
TRIAD Foundation
Union Park Neighborhood Association
Urbandale Chamber of Commerce
Urbandale Community Action Network
Urbandale Community School District
Urbandale Optimist Club
Urbandale Post Prom
Waveland Woods Neighborhood Association
WDMCS Foundation- Booster Park

WDMCS Student Scholarship Fund
West Des Moines Historical Society
West Des Moines Human Services
Westwood Neighborhood Association
Woodward-Granger CDS Prom Comm.
YMCA of Greater Des Moines Fatherhood
Program
YMCA of Greater Des Moines Supportive
Housing Camp
Young Women's Resource Center
Youth Homes of Mid-America

Grant Awards

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDS

Greater Des Moines Partnership

Initiatives

Initiatives

Courts Space Issue

Since the passing of the \$81 million referendum in November 2013, work has begun 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; 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. With the start of Phase II last spring you were probably able to see the tremendous progress that was being made on the 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. Phase II will continue this fall and winter with the remaining three floors of the Justice Center where juvenile court services, small claims, traffic and magistrate courts will be relocated to in 2015. These court services will be moved out of their current leased space to provide long-term savings to the County. As Phase III continues through 2018 we will see floors five through eight of the Old Main Jail removed from the building and the interior of both the Old Main Jail and the Historic Courthouse renovated. The County and OPN Architects have worked to take three years off the project timeline in order to increase construction safety and savings to the County.

Iowa Event Center and Convention Hotel

The Iowa Events Center had a record breaking year that featured events ranging from Cher to Bon Jovi to Justin Bieber. As owner, Polk County saw record revenues of \$1.2 million returned to the County. They also completed their first successful Iowa Wild Hockey season and held the first NBA preseason game since 1991 between the Denver Nuggets and Golden State Warriors.

Initiatives

Crisis Observation Center

This summer saw the opening of a new Crisis Observation Center located at Central Iowa Shelter & Services. This Center serves adults who are experiencing a mental health crisis by offering assessments, interventions and referrals by a team of crisis trained mental health professionals including social workers, nurses, discharge planners and a nurse practitioner. Mental health plays a large role in our medical and judicial systems and in many instances people who are experiencing mental health crisis end up in the hospital or jail when the distress could be resolved in a more community based setting, such as the Crisis Observation Center. The staff at the Center encourage adults to walk in, families members to bring loved ones in, and work with police to educate them on the most appropriate time to bring them for mental health treatment rather than jail. This Center will not only help individuals experiencing a mental health crisis get more appropriate treatment but will save tax payers costly hospital and jail stays.

Initiatives

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 the Metropolitan Planning Organization 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.

New Assessor

In May the Polk County Conference Board, by a unit vote of 3-0, appointed Polk County Chief Deputy Assessor Randy Ripperger to replace Jim Maloney as Polk County Assessor. Ripperger has served as Maloney's Chief Deputy for the last seven years and his career includes 34 years in the assessment profession for Polk County. The Polk County Assessor is responsible for determining the value of commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential property in Polk County. Ripperger was appointed by the Conference Board, a board assembled by State law consisting of a representative from every school district in Polk County, the Mayor of each city within Polk County, and the Polk County Board of Supervisors. In February former Polk County Assessor, Jim Maloney, announced his plans to retire after 45 years of service with Polk County.

Initiatives

Honor Flight

Last spring the Board of Supervisors committed \$200,000 to the Central Honor Flight for World War II and Korean War Veterans. The Central Iowa Honor Flight allowed almost 400 WWII and Korean War heros to travel to Washington, DC to view the monuments and other monuments at no cost to our veterans. This was an opportunity for our veterans, many who have never been able to travel to Washington, DC to view a memorial for the service and the ultimate sacrifice our Veterans did to protect our country. The flight took place September 2014.

Elected Officials & Departments

Board of Supervisors

Elected to represent one of five districts in Polk County, members of the Board of Supervisors establish local laws 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.



John F. Mauro
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	Kelsie Christensen	515.286.3301
Grant Administrator	Lisa Moody-Tunks	515.323.5225

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/supervisors

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.

The County Attorney handles all juvenile matters including delinquencies and children 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.

In March 2014, the County Attorney's office moved to its permanent office space located at 222 Fifth Avenue in the Polk County Justice Center.



John Sarcone
Attorney

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

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/audltor



Jamie Fitzgerald
Auditor

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	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

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/recorder

Sheriff

The Polk County Sheriff is the Chief Executive Officer of the largest Sheriff's office in Iowa with over 495 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.

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



Bill McCarthy
Sheriff

Email: PolkCounty.Sheriff@polkcountyiowa.gov

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/sheriff

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.



Mary Maloney
Treasurer

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 and Youth Services

The Department of Community Family & Youth Services (CFYS) offers a variety of services to the community. Senior Services, for older citizens, offers services that include congregate meals, preventive health, advocacy and counseling. Adult Services assists with delivered meals for homebound/disabled residents and transportation services to medical appointments. Additional services offered through CFYS include: Crisis & Advocacy Services which provides advocacy and short term crisis counseling for crime victims; Family Enrichment Center provides supportive services for families in transition from public assistance to self-sufficiency; Child & Adult Care Food Program is a resource for child care providers and General Assistance aids with emergency financial assistance for individuals/families who are disabled or in crisis. Services for juveniles include Centralized Intake which offers peace officers a single point of entry to bring at risk juveniles; In Home Monitoring and Community Tracking assists families involved with the Juvenile Justice System and Juvenile Detention provides a secure setting for juveniles age 12-17 who are being processed through the court system.



Brian Boyer
Director

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
Senior Services	515.286-3679

Conservation

From parks and preserves to forests and fairways, the Polk County Conservation Board maintains more than 13,000 acres of land and more than 40 miles of trails.

Polk County Conservation provides more than 100 education and recreation programs annually. Nearly 1.5 million visitors camp, fish, boat, hunt, hike or ride on PCC lands each year.



Rich Leopold
Interim Director

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	515.999.2903
Easter Lake park	515.285.7612
FAX	515.323.5354

Website: www.leadingyououtdoors.org

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



John Rowen
Director

Health Department

The Health Department is responsible for creating the conditions that support people to make healthy lifestyle and behavior choices. The Health Department is responsible for minimizing the spread of disease in our community. The primary programs and strategies used to accomplish this are: educating individuals; providing health screenings and immunizations; offering school and employment physicals; 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.



Rick Kozin
Director

Administration	515.286.3798
Disease Prevention	515.286.3890
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	515.286.3897
Immunizations- Childhood + Adult	515.286.3798
Immunizations- Travel	515.286.3748
Breast, Cervical and Heart Health	515.286.3642
Lead Poisoning Prevention	515.323.5232
Health Education	515.286.3848
Community Health Status	515.286.3554
Preventative Care	515.286.3798

Health Services

Polk County citizens with a mental illness, mental retardation, or a developmental disability receive needed services through county funding.

Polk County Health Services focused its efforts this past year on an expansion of crisis services in the community. It also made preparations for operating as one of 15 regions responsible for ensuring access to publicly funded services in Iowa. An effort to increase collaboration with other systems that serve the same individuals began with a community conversation and will continue to develop over the next year. Information about this and other activities of PCHS is available at www.polk.ia.networkofcare.org.



**Karen Walters-
Crammond**
Director

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.



Jim Nahas
Director

General Information	515.286.3200
Job Line	515.286.3831
Benefits	515.286.3203
Employment	515.286.3360
Labor Relations	515.286.3033
TDD	515.286.2003

www.polkcountyiowa.gov/hr

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.



Dr. Greg Schmunk
Medical Examiner

The Office is also responsible for investigating all requests for cremation.

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	Planning/Zoning	515.286.3705
Building	515.286.3352	Secondary Roads	515.286.3705
Code Enforcement	515.286.3705	Tax Deed Property Management	515.286-3705
Environmental Health	515.286.3705	Weatherization	515.286.3726
General Information	515.286.3705	Weed Commissioner	515.286.3005
Housing Services	515.286.3726		

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 assistance to veterans and their families with all benefits, federal, state and county which they may be entitled to.

Veteran Affairs offers financial assistance programs to help supplement federal, state and other agency programs to meet basic needs. Temporary assistance is available for shelter costs, utilities, 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.

Mission Statement

Polk County Veteran Affairs exists to serve veterans and their spouses per the State of Iowa Code chapter 35B

General Information	515.286.3670
Administrator	515.286.3673

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



Becky Buch
Director



Board of Supervisors