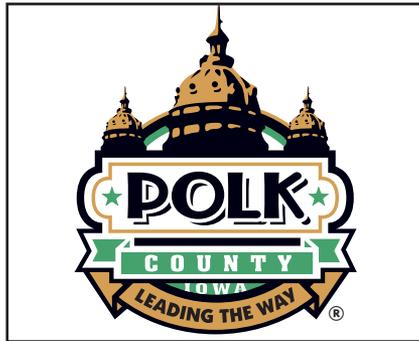


# Polk County Annual Report



**Fiscal Year**  
**July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015**

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

Message From The Chair 2  
Polk County Board of Supervisors 5  
Polk County Elected Officials 11  
Polk County Budget 17  
Grant Awards 20  
Community Development Awards 21  
Economic Development Awards 23  
Community Betterment Awards 24  
Polk County Initiatives 30  
Polk County Elected Offices & Departments 36

CREDITS:

Kelsie Christensen/BOS -for concept, design, layout, data gathering and general support

Sarah Boese/BOS - for data gathering, verification and general support

Randy Summy & Ty Stamper/General Services - for printing

# Angela Connolly Chair, Polk County Board of Supervisors

On behalf of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to present our FY 14/15 Annual Report.



The Iowa Events Center had another record breaking year that brought record revenues of over \$700,000 more than last year's record profits. Progress continues to be made on the attached convention hotel. Last year we were awarded up to \$36.5 million from the Iowa Economic Development Authority's Reinvestment Act and since then have been working to secure the remaining funding for the \$101 million project. The 330 room Hilton Hotel will be built by the Weitz Corporation and owned by a seven person non-profit Board that was appointed by Polk County and the City of Des Moines. The hotel will be built on the site of the old Allied Building and you will see demolition taking place this winter with construction starting in the spring. Unfortunately the two year construction project will require the skywalk at the Iowa Events Center be closed. To help residents and visitors better navigate the skywalk closures, Polk County's IT Department has developed a smart phone app that uses GPS to locate alternate routes. The app also identifies businesses, ATM locations and other points of interest that are located in the skywalk and on the connecting streets. The app is called Des Moines Skywalk Navigation and is available for download.

During the last year the Board of Supervisors' office has spent considerable time working on social and human service issues such as wellness, hunger, and affordable housing. During the last year the Board of Supervisors office agreed to increase Polk County's wellness budget from \$10,000 to \$200,000 in an effort to curb the rising costs of health care and has been successful in engaging employees in healthier behaviors. Nearly 500 people participated in biometric screenings, 154 participated in the Healthiest State Walk, and 157 employees have signed up for a membership at the YMCA at a reduced price that is part of a pilot program between Polk County and

the YMCA.

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.

Supervisor Tom Hockensmith has been working closely with neighborhood groups located in his district to ensure that affordable housing complexes are built in strategic areas in the city. Affordable housing is a complex issue because the need is great but it is a challenge for developers and cities to strike a balance between providing enough housing for low income residents, making sure housing is located near large work centers and public services, and avoiding clustering low income housing together in a manner that creates unsafe and blighted neighborhoods. Supervisor Hockensmith has been working with neighbors and City leaders to provide structure to the decision making process on where affordable housing units are located, increase incentives that will encourage rehab of existing properties, and give neighbors a platform to voice their concerns and ideas on neighborhood development.

The northern and eastern suburbs have been experiencing tremendous growth and Supervisor Steve Van Oort has been working with City and community leaders to strengthen economic development opportunities in these areas of the metro. His work with the Ankeny Economic Development Corporation and the Eastern Polk Regional

Development, Inc will help to build stronger public/private partnerships that can lead to a stronger tax base.

The northwest suburbs are working to bring a Miracle League and all inclusive playground to Urbandale that will make sports and leisure accessible to children and adults with disabilities. The City of Urbandale, UCAN and Supervisor Robert Brownell have been leading the effort. The baseball field and park will be built at the Urbandale Little League fields and will provide children up to age 18 with the opportunity to play in organized baseball games. The City of Urbandale also hopes to use the field for adult sports leagues such as kickball and whiffle ball. Supervisor Brownell is working with partners on the steering committee to raise funds for the park.

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,



Angela Connolly, Chair  
Polk County Board of Supervisors



# **Polk County Board of Supervisors**

---

# 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 part of Polk County. Brownell's experience in government began as a City Councilmember in Clive, elected in 1985. He was elected as Mayor in 1993 where he served until his election to the Polk County Board of Supervisors in 2000.



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

# 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 the Metropolitan Advisory Council and 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, Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, Polk County Health Services, Riverfront Development Authority, Des Moines Arts Board, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Homeless Coordinating Council, and Criminal Justice 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.

# 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 Eastern Polk Regional Development. He is a commissioner for the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority, member and past president of Rotary Club of Ankeny and a member of the board of directors of the Partnership for a Drug Free Iowa.

Steve was named Ankeny Citizen of the Year in 2000, Ankeny Rotarian of the year in 2004 and Ankeny Person of Vision in 2010.

# 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 and the Northeast section of Des Moines.



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 2015-16 president of the East High Alumni.

# **John F. Mauro**

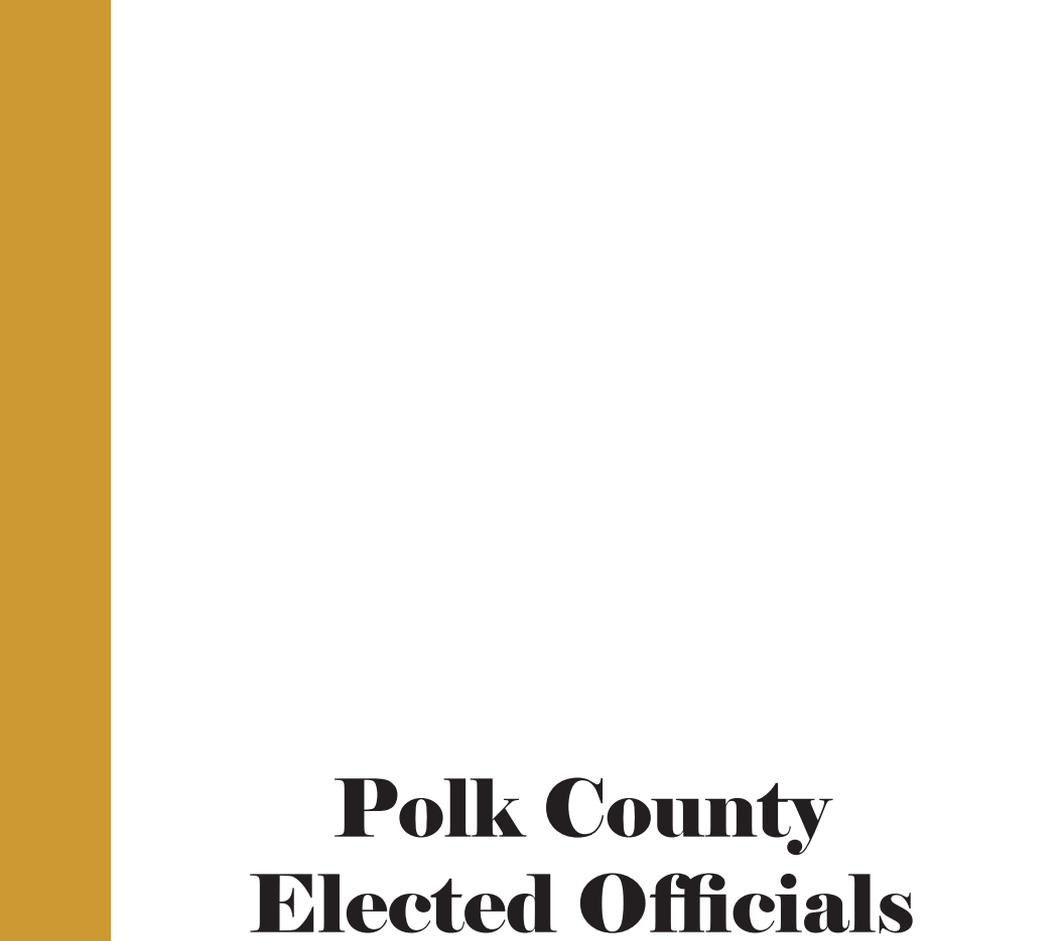
## **District 5**

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 are as follows: City of Des Moines Fire and Police Pension Board, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Polk County Health Services, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Metro Waste Authority and Polk County Risk Management.

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



# **Polk County Elected Officials**

## **John Sarcone 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 34 years and together they have 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren all living in the Des Moines area.



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

As an elected official, she has been given the opportunity to serve residents of Polk County in many ways. When Homeland Security established new laws requiring passports for travel to Mexico and Canada, she brought services to the citizens by launching Passport Saturdays in libraries, senior centers and even opened her downtown office on several Saturdays for passport applications and boat registration renewal. She has met with members of the Citizen's Academy and other civic groups to explain the duties of her office and share the many ways that the Recorder's Office and Polk County serve its citizens. Julie served as a member of the Miracle League steering committee that helped build a baseball field near Principal Park for kids with disabilities.

She has also served as a member of the Capital Improvements Program Board for the City of Urbandale, and is currently part of the Information Technology Steering Committee in Polk County and a board member of the Urbandale Food Pantry, the Electronic Services Systems Coordinating Committee and the ESS Communications Subcommittee. Haggerty has also served as President of District 1 of the Iowa Recorder's Association.

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

# Bill McCarthy

## Sheriff

Bill McCarthy was elected Sheriff in November 2008 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 46 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-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

---

## **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 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.

# Gaming Revenue Use Summary Polk County, Iowa

## GAMING REVENUE USE SUMMARY POLK COUNTY, IOWA

	<u>FY2014/2015</u>
Pay off Iowa Events Center Debt	13,000,000
Pay off Sewer Debt	700,000
Prairie Meadows Property Tax	4,500,000
Capital Improvements	1,600,000
Revenue Sharing with City & Schools	2,300,000
Community Grants, Economic Development & Operations	4,400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,500,000</b>

# **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.*

ALS Association Iowa Chapter  
Ankeny Community Foundation (City of Ankeny Parks & Recreation)  
Ankeny Community Foundation (City of Ankeny Parks and Recreation)  
Blank Park Zoo Foundation  
Bondurant Development Inc.  
Central Iowa Shelter & Services (CISS)  
City of Carlisle  
City of Polk City  
Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (East and South Des Moines Chamber of Commerce)  
Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines d/b/a Principal Charity Classic  
Courage League Sports  
Creative Visions  
Des Moines East High School  
Des Moines Park and Recreation Foundation  
Des Moines Symphony Association  
Des Moines Youth Hockey Association, Inc.  
DesMoinesArts Inc.  
Greater Des Moines Music Coalition  
Greater Des Moines Sports Commission  
Highland Park Little League  
Italian American Cultural Center of Iowa  
Junior Achievement of Central Iowa  
Meals from the Heartland  
National Alliance on Mental Health Iowa (NAMI IOWA)

# **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDS con't.**

Polk County Medical Society Foundation  
Primary Health Care, Inc.  
Roosevelt Cultural District  
South Des Moines Girls Amateur Softball Association  
The Des Moines Social Club  
Urban Dreams  
Youth Homes of Mid-America

# **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:*

Des Moines Playhouse

# 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, Inc.  
Altoona Elementary School  
Amanda Cares, Inc. dba Amanda the Panda  
American Legion Post 274  
American Legion Post 663  
Ankeny After Prom  
Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce  
Ankeny Area Historical Society  
Ankeny Art Center  
Ankeny Centennial Athletic Dept.  
Ankeny City Band  
Ankeny Community Chorus  
Ankeny Community Foundation  
Ankeny Community School District Foundation  
Ankeny Economic Corp  
Ankeny Little League  
Ankeny Police Department  
Ankeny Service Center  
Ankeny Sports Complex Foundation/City of Ankeny Parks  
Ballet Des Moines  
Beaverdale Betterment Coalition  
Beaverdale Fall Festival  
Beaverdale Neighborhood Association  
Best Buddies Iowa  
Bidwell Riverside  
Bondurant-Farrar High School After Prom  
Broadlawns Medical Center Foundation  
Brook Run Neighborhood Association

# **COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANT AWARDS con't.**

Can Do Cancer  
Capital City Lodge No. 2589 Loyal Order Moose  
Capitol East Neighborhood Association  
Capitol Park Neighborhood Association  
Center on Sustainable Communities  
Central Iowa Shelter Services (CISS)  
Children's Cancer Connection  
City of Bondurant  
City of Mitchellville Police Department  
City of Urbandale (MAC CAMP)  
Clive Community Foundation  
Clive Festival  
Clive Historical Society  
Clowns at the Carousel  
Connect Foundation-Iowa Juneteenth Observance  
Courage League Sports  
Creative Visions  
Dallas Center Grimes After Prom  
Des Moines "I Have a Dream" Foundation  
Des Moines Area Youth Track Club & Development  
Des Moines Arts Festival  
Des Moines Bicycle Collective  
Des Moines Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Pride of Iowa Chorus  
Des Moines Choral Society  
Des Moines Golden Kiwanis Club  
Des Moines Neighbors  
Des Moines North High School Polar Bear Boosters  
Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center  
Des Moines Performing Arts  
Des Moines Public High School-East  
Des Moines Public Schools Library Support Group  
DMACC Foundation  
Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association  
Downtown Urbandale Neighborhood Association  
Dragon Scholarship Fund a Division of Johnston Co

# **COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANT AWARDS con't.**

East Des Moines Girls Softball  
East Des Moines Swim Team  
East High Post Prom Committee  
East High School Alumni Foundation  
Eastern Polk Regional Development Incorporated  
Endow Urbandale  
Everybody Wins!-Iowa  
Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement  
Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association  
Food Bank of Iowa  
Forest Ave. Outreach  
Golden Eagle Wrestling  
Got Bounce (Southeast Polk High School)  
Grandview Little League  
Great Outdoors Foundation  
Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity  
Grimes Public Library  
Grimes Volunteer Support Services  
Guns N Hoses DSM, Inc.  
Highland Park Neighborhood Association  
Historic Valley Junction Foundation  
Hoover High School  
Hoover High School Prom Committee  
Hospice of Central Iowa dba HCI Care Services  
Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit  
Iowa "75" Buzzards  
Iowa Asian Alliance Foundation  
Iowa Elite Senior All Star, Inc.  
Iowa Golden Gloves Foundation  
Iowa Homeless Youth Centers  
Iowa Radio Reading Information Service for the Blind  
Iowa Sports Foundation  
Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines  
J-Hawk Soccer Club  
John R. Grubb YMCA

# **COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANT AWARDS con't.**

Johnston Chamber of Commerce  
Johnston High School After Prom  
Johnston Partnership for a Healthy Community  
Johnston Public Library  
Johnston Public Library Foundation  
Johnston Soccer Club  
King Irving Neighborhood Association  
Lincoln High School Senior Celebration/After-Prom  
Little All-American Football  
Living History Farms  
Lower Beaver Neighborhood Association  
Mayor's Youth Council-City of Ankeny  
Mentor Iowa  
Merle Hay Neighborhood Association  
Metro Arts Alliance of Greater Des Moines  
Minority Communications Inc.  
Mitchellville Public Library  
MLK Jr. Park Neighborhood Association  
Mondamin Presidential Neighborhood Association  
Mosaic in Des Moines  
Music Under the Stars, Inc.  
Neighborhood Finance Corporation  
New Horizons Adult Day Center  
North Des Moines High School  
North High School Post Prom  
North Polk CSD  
North Polk Post Prom  
North Polk School Foundation  
Northeast Neighbors and Friends  
Northwest Soccer Club  
Oak Park Neighbors  
Orchard Place  
Parenting Way, Inc.  
Parks Area Foundation  
Polk City Development Corporation

# **COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANT AWARDS con't.**

Polk County Agricultural Extension District  
Polk County Community, and Family Youth Services  
Polk County Heritage Gallery  
Polk County Housing Trust Fund  
Prelude Behavioral Services d/b/a Bernie Lorenz Recovery  
Prevent Blindness Iowa  
Prevent Child Abuse Iowa  
Project Fresh Start  
Prospect Park Neighborhood Association  
Rails Wrestling Club-BLH Booster Club  
Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines  
River Bend Neighborhood Association  
Runnells Historical Society  
Saydel High School After Prom  
SCI CAN Foundation  
Science Center of Iowa  
SEP High School-Modeling in Science  
Sheridan Gardens Neighborhood Association  
South Central Iowa Federal Labor Charity  
Southeast Polk Community School District  
Southeast Polk Dollars for Scholars  
Southeast Polk Post Prom  
Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association  
Special Olympics Iowa  
Tai Village Inc.  
The Homestead  
The Italian American Cultural Center of Iowa  
The Valley After Prom Committee  
Theodore Roosevelt High School Senior Event  
Triad Foundation  
Union Park Neighborhood Association  
Uptown Ankeny, Inc.  
Urbandale 4th of July Celebration  
Urbandale Food Pantry  
Urbandale Little League  
Urbandale Optimist Club

# **COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANT AWARDS con't.**

Urbandale Post Prom

Walnut Creek Little League

WDMCS Foundation-Booster Pak

WDMCS Student Scholarship Fund

West Des Moines Historical Society

West Des Moines Human Services

Windsor Heights Foundation

Woodward-Granger CSD Prom Committee

YMCA of Greater Des Moines

YMCA of Greater Des Moines Supportive Housing Campus

Young Women's Resource Center

# Initiatives

---

## **Courts Space**

Since the passing of the \$81 million referendum in November 2013 work has been ongoing 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 2016. 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 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. 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 yet another record breaking year that returned revenues of \$1.9 million to the County, over \$700,000 more than last year. Staff celebrated the announcement of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship First and Second Round games being played in Des Moines in March 2016. 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. Staff has been working countless hours to finalize the financing and the agreements that must be in place before ground breaks in the spring of 2016. 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 the 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.

## **Hunger**

The Polk County Board of Supervisors have been working for over a year 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 have spent the last year interviewing food pantry users and conducting research to find out how we can improve the system to make food more accessible to everyone. Over 100 people are on our email distribution list and we are working with partners like DMARC, the Food Bank of Iowa, United Way, Eat Greater Des Moines and many more. 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. We have also leased a warehouse from the City of Des Moines that will allow food purchasers, such as DMARC, to purchase larger quantities of food at a lower price. We have opened a DMARC food pantry at Polk County's River Place location. It is an ideal location because it is near other social services such as General Assistance and the Iowa Department of Human Services. In its first few months of opening it quickly became one of the most heavily used food pantries that DMARC operates and the majority of the users are new to the system. . DMARC speculates that it is such a heavily utilized site

because it is on a bus line and has regular business hours (M-F 8-5). It will now be staying open on Wednesdays from 5-8:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00am-1:00pm. We hope that this will help to better meet the needs of working adults. We will be raising \$10 million to implement a series of strategies over the next 5 years that will make it easier for people to access food. So far we have raised \$3 million and that money will be spent to help existing pantries expand their hours, to open a warehouse that will allow DMARC to purchase larger amounts of wholesale foods at lower prices, and implement a mobile pantry.

### **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).

### **Sheriff Communication Center**

The Polk County Communications Center was renovated this year as part of the final phase of the Polk County Regional Radio Interoperability Project. This public-private partnership with Racom has been extremely successful in bringing Polk County public safety and emergency communications into the future by replacing old systems with new technology. The old systems were out of date and the Sheriff's Office faced several issues and limitations with this system. In order to improve communication, response time and service to the community we needed a team effort from our partners in the County. Members from the Sheriff's Office, General Services and I.T. all did

their part to make this remodel a success. It took \$1.5M and many hours of work over 6 months to complete this phase of the project. The communications center dispatches for 30 fire and police agencies directly, and also acts as an alternative site for DMPD. The communication center now has the infrastructure and technology in place to meet the various public safety communication needs. Installing new radio consoles, microwave system upgrades and new dispatch stations are a few of the enhancements. These new systems and equipment have prepared Polk County to migrate to an interoperable P25 system by June 30, 2016. Polk County public safety communications will now meet federal standards and have the ability to provide the best response and public safety to the citizens of Polk County.

### **North Community Center**

The Board of Supervisors are pleased to announce plans for the construction of a new North Community Center. The proposed site is located at 6th and Boston and the City of Des Moines transferred the property to Polk County during December. 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**

---

# 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.



**Angela Connolly**  
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](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	515.286.3575
Dog License	515.286.3076
Beer/Cigarette Licenses	515.286.3079
Election Office	515.286.3247
Mapping	515.286.3091
Payroll	515.286.3067
Property Descriptions	515.286.3097
Tax Department	515.286.3097
FAX	515.286-3608

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



**Mary Maloney**  
**Treasurer**

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

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

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



# COMMUNITY, FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

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



**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.

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.



**Rich Leopold**  
**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	515.999.2818
Golf Course	515.999.2903
Easter Lake park	515.285.7612
FAX	515.323.5354

Website: [www.leadingyououtdoors.org](http://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.



**John Rowen**  
**Director**

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
Breast, Cervical and Heart Health	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.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.



**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	515.286.3360
Labor Relations	515.286.3033
TDD	515.286.2003

[www.polkcountyiowa.gov/hr](http://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 and providing testimony upon request.

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	515.286.3726
Planning/Zoning	515.286.3705
Secondary Roads	515.286.3705
Tax Deed Property Management	515.286-3705
Weatherization	515.286.3726
Weed Commissioner	515.286.3005

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

# VETERAN AFFAIRS

The Commission is responsible for the management of a program which provides assistance to veterans and their families with all benefits, federal, state and county which they may be entitled to.



**Becky Buch  
Director**

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)



# Board of Supervisors