



January 15, 2011

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### **Pottawattamie County Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

David Bayer spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on January 15. He works for the Pottawattamie County GIS department. The department has a staff of four people. Their responsibilities include organizing mapping for the county. They map points (fire hydrants) lines (streets, natural gas lines), and polygons (land parcels, buildings). The department started in 2002.

The GIS department spends 60% of their time for county government, 20% for city government, and 20% for the public. For cities, including Treynor, they provide hand-held, highly accurate GPS devices to the city for mapping sewers, water lines, and other accurate mapping information the city needs.

The GIS department contracts for new aerial photography every three years. It is highly detailed photography, with 6 inch pixels. They fly in March and April when there is no snow on the ground, but the tree leaves are not shading the ground. These maps are used to overlay other information on, including voting districts, school district information, fire and medical response areas, and public safety information. They also maintain land ownership maps. Their maps can be seen at [gis.pottcounty.com](http://gis.pottcounty.com).

Pottawattamie County has three departments that are related, the recorders, assessors, and the GIS departments. All three can be accessed through [pottcounty.com](http://pottcounty.com).

Maps produced by the GIS department can also be seen in the trails at Hitchcock Nature Center <http://www.pottcoconservation.com/html/recreationhitch.html>, in the community services at [countyconnection.org](http://countyconnection.org), and in [crimemapping.org](http://crimemapping.org). A new function in 2011 will be oblique photography at a 30 degree angle, letting you see windows and doors on buildings. Some people are also doing

cemetery mapping using county GPS units, adding pictures of the headstones for genealogy information.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Dennis White opened the meeting January 15 with the Pledge of Allegiance and Dale Willenborg gave the opening prayer. Keith Denton provided jokes. There were 21 members and 3 guests at the meeting.

The Jr. Optimist Club will be canvassing Treynor on January 30 for food for the Treynor food bank. The Optimist Club will hold their annual spaghetti dinner on February 4.

Steve Irvin won the 50/50 drawing. Kevin Elwood won the attendance drawing, but did not collect.

### **CALENDAR**

Jan 26 - Next Can Kennel sorting for the Post-Prom Committee is 4:00 pm. Wednesday, January 26.

Jan 30 – JOOI Club food canvassing  
Feb 4 – Optimist spaghetti supper

### **Birthdays**

Jan 19 – Dennis White  
Jan 20 – Penny Nelson  
Feb 1 – Dick Baber  
Feb 12 – Richard Vorthmann  
Feb 13 – Gary Funkhouser

### **Anniversaries**

Feb 6 – Jon & Debra Jacobsen  
Feb 23 – Richard & LuEtta Vorthmann

### **Speakers**

Jan. 22 – Melissa Head  
Jan. 29 – TBA

### **Programs**

Jan – Kevin Abbott

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**CLUB BULLETIN COPYING COURTESY OF TS BANK of TREYNOR**

The Hitchcock Nature Center, acquired by Pottawattamie County in 1991, harbors some of the largest remaining prairie remnants in Iowa and provides refuge for plants and animals found nowhere else in the state. Hitchcock is open every day of the year for hiking, camping, picnicking, bird watching, snow sledding, star gazing, or simply enjoying nature.