



## Welcoming you to Davis County

When finding your way around Davis County and the rest of Iowa, your first stop needs to be the Davis County Welcome Center. The center is located on Highway 63 just three blocks north of the Bloomfield square.

The facility is Iowa's first official welcome center and has been located in Bloomfield for the past 21 years. In the center, you will find information and brochures about various attractions around Iowa and especially all of the fun things to see and do in Davis County.

The center is staffed entirely by volunteer labor. The staff is eager to help you find the information you are looking for and is very willing to answer any questions you might have about Davis County attractions or activities.

The center first opened in 1988 and has directed thousands of visitors to points of interest, lodging locations, restaurants and other attractions.

The center is staffed seven days a week and is open April through October from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1-4 p.m. Sunday afternoons. You can call the center at 641-664-1104.

The center itself is a 1910 Sears & Roebuck mail order house. During 2008, the center played host to 2,218 travel parties and 3,659 individual visitors. Most of the visitors stopping at the center are headed for Iowa or Missouri destinations. Interests of those visitors include historic landmarks, sightseeing, visiting friends and family, traveling scenic by-ways, visiting museums and camping.

The facility is used as a restroom stop, a

place to gain information or a place to simply take a break from traveling.

One room of the center is completely devoted to travel information. Racks and racks of brochures list state and local attractions, lodging destinations, medical services, food services, vehicle services and other general information. Restroom facilities are handicapped accessible, and there is a small kitchen and lounge area for road-weary travelers.

Three rooms of the center display homemade arts and crafts by local residents. The arts and crafts are offered for sale on a consignment basis and help fund the center's expenses. Crafts include items such as souvenirs, cookbooks, books by local authors, quilts, crocheted items, birdhouses, embroidered pillowcases, woodwork, and jams and jellies from the Amish.

If you enjoy the Christmas season, you can enjoy the season year around in the center's Christmas crafts room. New crafts come in almost weekly. The crafts are sold with the crafters earning a share and the center getting a commission to help defray operating expenses.

If you are traveling with a camper, the center offers a dump station for your convenience. A picnic area is available and a pet walking area is also part of the center's attraction for travelers. The center also boasts some of the best-looking flower beds in town each year.

Membership dues, commissions on crafts, and donations fund the center's operating expenses including maintenance of the building and grounds.

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