

CHAPTER EIGHT

COMMUNITY FACILITIES



Audubon County has a large number of facilities which are devoted to serving the community. There are number of facilities that benefit the county as a whole such as the Sheriff's Department and County Hospital/Ambulance, and there are also specialized services.

Audubon County Courthouse

In 1939, the Audubon County Courthouse was constructed at 318 Leroy Street, Audubon, it's current location. The Audubon County Courthouse is home to the Auditor, Assessor, Attorney, Courts, Emergency Management, Public Health, Recorder, Treasurer, Supervisors, Sheriff, and Veterans Affairs.



Sheriff's Department

The Audubon County Sheriff's Department provides of law enforcement to the County. The Sheriff's Department is located in the basement of the courthouse at 318 Leroy Street. The department is staffed by the County Sheriff, four full-time deputies, and one full-time civil deputy. The department provides 24-hour coverage.

Fire Departments

There are four fire departments based in Audubon County. These departments include: Audubon, Brayton, Exira, and Kimballton. These departments serve communities and rural areas primarily in Audubon County, but can extend into other counties through their own jurisdictions and mutual aid agreements. Other departments outside of Audubon County also serve fire protection to Audubon County.



Audubon County Congregate Meals

Congregate Meals are served at two different locations in Audubon County. Meals are served at the Good Neighbor Service Center is located at 410 N Park Place in Audubon and at the Lions Club Building at 104 E Washington Street, Exira. Congregate meals are a program of Elderbridge Agency on Aging.

New Opportunities

The Audubon County Family Development Center is located at 109 Tracy Street in Audubon. New Opportunities is one of 17 Community Action Agencies serving the state of Iowa. Iowa's Community Action Agencies are locally-based private, non-profit organizations that network with a wide-array of local organizations to enhance the opportunities for low-income Iowans (children and families) to meet basic needs and develop their own capacity to do so. The Audubon County Family Development Cetner offers the following programs/services: food pantry, mobile food pantry, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Utility Crisis Assistance Weatherization, Clothing Disaster Assistance, Financial Literacy Counseling & Education, Back to School Supplies, Backpack Program, Christmas Toys, and Holiday Food Baskets.





Post Offices

The Audubon Post Office is located on 428 Tracy Street. There is also a drop box available for after hour drops. The facility is open Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 4:30 PM and Saturdays from 9 AM to 12 PM.

The Brayton Post Office is located on 200 County Trunk Road. There is also a drop box available for after hour drops. The facility is open Monday-Friday from 12 PM to 2 PM and Saturdays from 12 PM to 1:45 PM.

The Exira Post Office is located on 101 N Carthage Street. There is also a drop box available for after hour drops. The facility is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. On Saturdays, they are open from 9 AM to 11 AM.

The Gray Post Office is located on 204 Main Street. The facility is open Monday-Saturday from 11 AM to 1 PM.

The Kimballton Post Office is located on 207 N Main Street. There is also a drop box available for after hour drops. The facility is open Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM and Saturday from 10 AM to 11 AM.

Education

There is one school district headquartered within Audubon County; Audubon Community School District. However, there are parts of other districts within the county and there are some students that opt to open enroll at districts outside the county. Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton schools includes students in Kimballton and Exira, but is headquartered in Elk Horn.



The county is home to one private pre-school, St. John's Christian Preschool. St John Preschool is located in Audubon within St John Lutheran Church. The school offers a Christian based education for children 3 or 4 years of age, with the focus being school readiness skills.

There are also several secondary educational opportunities within a short distance of Audubon County that offer advanced degrees in a variety of fields. Nearby colleges and universities include:

- Iowa State University, Ames
- Creighton University, Omaha
- University of Nebraska, Omaha
- Drake University, Des Moines
- Grand View College, Des Moines
- Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs
- Des Moines Area Community College, Carroll, Ankeny
- Southwestern Community College, Creston
- Western Iowa Tech, Denison



Healthcare

The Audubon County Memorial Hospital located in Audubon is the lone hospital in the County and has 29 beds with an average occupancy of 36.6%. There are also three family physicians, two dentists, optometrists/ophthalmologists, and one chiropractor.

Hospital services include emergency services, acute care, skilled nursing services, laboratory, radiology, respiratory therapy, sleep studies, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and surgical services. In addition, they offer several specialty services including orthopedic, mental health, audiology, plastic surgery, hand and microvascular, sports medicine, pain management, podiatry, dermatology, oncology, spine surgery, cardiology, urology, head and neck surgery, and urology. The hospital also owns and operates two rural health clinics, Audubon Family Health Clinic and Exira Medical Clinic. Their clinics offer complete care from newborns to senior adults by providing well child check-ups, age-appropriate preventative care, sports and school physicals, immunizations, and treatment of occasional and ongoing illnesses.

Emergency medical services are provided by the Audubon County Ambulance with volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians. Audubon County has a county-wide E911 system, and calls are dispatched by three full-time and two part-time dispatchers. Ambulances are stationed in Exira and Audubon. Audubon County is also served by Midwest Transport and Midwest Med-Air. Midwest Transport transports patrons from hospitals to facilities. Midwest Med-Air is a helicopter ambulance service that provides service to the entire county.

Caring & Sharing

Caring & Sharing is a non-profit, non-perishable food/clothing pantry for Audubon county residents. Caring & Sharing is located in the Audubon Memorial Building and is open limited hours.



Daycares

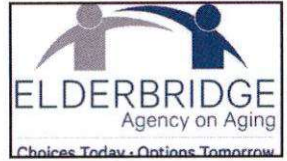
Audubon County is served by one State Licensed Daycare and numerous in-home daycare providers. The Children's Nest is a licensed facility which practices intergenerational programming with the adjacent elderly care facility, The Friendship Home. The Children's Nest serves children aged 6 weeks to preschool. The facility opened in 2015 as a non-profit organization. Audubon County is also served by a number of in-home daycares. These daycares serve children of similar ages as the Children's Nest just in a more private setting.

Exira Food Bank

The Exira Food Bank is located at the Exira Christian Church at 201 E Main Street. The food bank is open to qualified residents of the Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton School District.



Elderbridge Agency on Aging



Elderbridge Agency on Aging is part of a national network designed to address the needs and concerns of older adults. Their goal is to enable our constituents to: Make informed decisions; Easily access home and long-term care options; Remain in their homes as long as possible with a high quality of life; Stay active and healthy; and Promote and experience an ongoing safe environment. Elderbridge provides services to Audubon County through its field office in Carroll. Elderbridge's services fall into seven categories, supportive services; health, prevention & wellness; family caregiver support; older worker employment program; elder justice & adult protective services; Medicare support; and private pay for services.

GOALS

Develop plans for health care provider recruitment

In order to maintain existing services, it will be important for health care providers to have resources available to recruit new providers to existing practices. It will also be beneficial for the cities and counties to have resources available to recruit new providers.

- Action Items:**
- Coordinate with health care providers
 - Meet the needs of the community
 - Ensure needed services are available within the county
 - Explore next steps for healthcare professionals

Ensure Daycare needs are met

Having daycare providers whether licensed or unlicensed is important to the growth and development of the county. For families to work, there needs to be a place for children to go where they are cared for and developed. Having enough quality providers within the county is critical.

- Action Items:**
- Attract licensed daycares to the communities within the county
 - Attract in-home daycares to the communities within the county
 - Assist daycares in attracting staff

Develop plans for teacher recruitment

The current school systems in Audubon County require teachers to be able to continue to provide the high quality education that they currently provide to their students. Teacher recruitment is always a goal to continue to provide a quality education.

- Action Items:**
- Coordinate with school systems to determine teacher needs
 - Assist the schools when possible to help meet their needs