

I believe in **SIBLEY**

It is a wonderful place to raise children, start a business or retire into your Golden Years.



My husband, Andy, and I have ridden motorcycle to many destinations over the years, and the landscapes we have seen are breathtakingly beautiful. But these views were not any better than those we have right here in Northwest Iowa.

The two of us enjoy camping and sometimes camp overnight at Willow Creek. I'm always amazed when we do at the spectacular view when you look to the north in the early morning sunlight.

I was born in Sibley to Ron and Phyllis Huisinga. My parents raised my sisters and me to appreciate the friendship of neighbors, the safety of the neighborhood and our childhood opportunities to run, play and grow up without worry. Sibley is fortunate it's still a safe community today.

I spent many of my summer days at the nearby Sibley pool.

I enjoyed track while in school and played on First Presbyterian's softball team. I was, and still am, a Sibley cheerleader. Back in high school it was for the sports teams. Today it is for the way the community is renewing itself.

Our family's home was next to the bungalow owned by Richard Max, then proprietor of Sibley's Max Theatre.

He was a kind, gentle man who encouraged my sisters and me to excel and reach for the stars. It was just another example of how community members took care of each other.

It was, in fact, that community's willingness to help others

that brought me into the insurance business in the spring of 1987.

I was about to get married that August to Andy and thinking about my future when I found Bill Pearson. He was just starting as the new agency manager at Sibley State Bank, laying brick at my parents' house. Bill was setting himself up in the insurance business then, but he was also still laying brick on the side.

"I need help at the agency," Bill told me, and he hired me on the spot. It was baptism by fire, but Bill helped me learn the business and even arranged for a scholarship to get me started on my studies to earn my Certified Insurance Counselor designation.

When Bill left the agency to form Huisenga-Pearson with Kirk Huisenga in 1991, Kevin Hertz merged his Ocheyedan-based firm with the bank agency. He was a great mentor, and I found myself continuing my education under him for 20 years.

Later, when Kevin bought back his share of the business and reestablished his firm, I found myself as the agency manager. It's wonderful to live in a community where a competitor is willing to help another in the same field.

I appreciate being able to work alongside Sibley State Bank. Sibley State Bank and Sibley Insurance Agency (now FNIC) are affiliates of First National Bank of Omaha. First National ranks as one of the largest bank holding companies, serving Midwest communities for more than 150 years.

We are more than an insurance agency. We are risk managers. It's our role to help our clients create plans to protect them from financial, emotional or property loss. I do not only manage the Sibley and Ocheyedan FNIC offices today, I am also the state director overseeing seven additional offices in Iowa and two in South Dakota.

One reason I love my job is it allows me to continue to live here where I was born and where Andy and I raised our son, Isaac, while continuing to expand my career.

Isaac, having grown up here and then living in a much larger city while attending the University of Iowa, was hoping to return to Northwest Iowa following graduation. The opportunity came when he was offered a nurse anesthetist position in Spencer following his internship there. Isaac tells me he is delighted to be settled close to home in an area with many like values.

My message to visitors and families thinking of moving to Sibley is to take a close look at our town. Our school system is amazing. Students have many exceptional opportunities to learn in the classroom and in the special programs offered each year.

The community is fortunate to have Osceola Regional Health Center. My mother recently suffered a health event and was taken there for treatment. She was given excellent care and felt especially comfortable being looked after by local people she knew.

Be sure to also check out our parks, golf course, walking trail and library.

Do more than just drive down Main Street. Walk along the sidewalks and get a feel for the vibrance of the community. Enjoy a cup of coffee at The Lantern, a fresh baked roll from the Shaughnessy's Bakery, a stroll through Porch on Main and Grace Boutique and a meal at the 1015 Steak House.

We have a wonderful business district, an excellent grocery store, Max Theatres with two screens and a great local locker.

Yes, I do believe in Sibley because it has been good to me and my family.

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Dawn Butler

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