

The Iowa County



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April 2005

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Iowa State Association of Counties

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The Iowa County

April 2005 * Volume 34, Number 4

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Denise Obrecht, EDITOR



ISAC's Mission:

To promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

ISAC's Vision:

To be the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.

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Inmate Labor for Iowa Communities

*By: Lettie Prell, Assistant to the Director,
Iowa Department of Corrections*

Ninety-five percent of all state prisoners will be released to Iowa's communities someday. Job skills and meaningful employment for inmates are important components of offender re-entry. An unemployed offender is three times more likely to return to prison than one with a job. Nearly three-fourths of offenders ranked employment as the number one issue at the time of release. Vocational training, traditional prison industries, and the relatively new private sector employment programs for inmates are all obvious ways to address the employment issue. However, there is another, less obvious way to facilitate offender re-entry: community service work.

During FY04, offenders from Iowa's prison system provided over half a million hours of work to state and local governments, school districts, non-profit organizations and others, saving taxpayers millions of dollars and in some cases accomplishing projects that would simply not have gotten done due to lack of resources. Examples of community service work projects include:

- Assisting communities hit by tornados. Offenders removed debris, cut up fallen tree branches and uprooted stumps, and straightened fallen tombstones.
- Grooming pioneer cemeteries, including mowing, weed removal and trimming trees and shrubs.
- Planting trees for a city parks and recreation department.
- Laying a brick patio for a non-profit organization.
- Tearing down a greenhouse for a church. Portions of the greenhouse were salvaged and transported to institutions for use in erecting prison greenhouses.
- Tearing out a small raised stage at a community center that was not ADA compliant.
- Painting — interiors and exteriors of public buildings, recreation shelters, etc.



- Moving government offices and helping to set up for the state legislative session.

The Iowa Department of Corrections' model for offender work looks nothing like the old "chain gang" model. Offenders assigned to work in the community are classified for minimum security, carefully screened, and are usually nearing their release dates. Unlike the "chain gang" model of forced labor, offenders see community work as a privilege, and because of that view, they take great pride in their work.

Communities and organizations that have used inmate labor often remark that the inmates work hard, are courteous and motivated. Some have expressed their appreciation by treating our inmates to meals and snacks while on the work site, spelling their names on bricks to commemorate their involvement in a project, and in one case, constructing a report documenting what inmates have accomplished in their area.

The Iowa Department of Corrections is utilizing an advisory group of state union, business and trade leaders to guide offender community work projects and to mediate issues of concern. Inmates cannot be used to perform tasks that require licensure, such as electrical work, furnace installation and plumbing. However, there may be projects in which inmate labor may be used alongside licensed professionals.

Offender community work projects, which are not associated with the state's work release program, limit liability significantly for the counties. For example, if an inmate is injured on the job site, the offender is treated as a "state employee" for purposes of workers' compensation. The Iowa Department of Corrections provides training for counties to supervise the offenders, and where appropriate, provides supervision by correctional officers. Communities may utilize inmate labor for as little as \$5 per day per inmate, to help offset correctional supervision and transportation costs. The warden has discretion to waive fees for communities unable to pay.

Another option to on-site community work is for labor to be provided by inmates who remain inside the institutions. Currently, inside work projects are in place to support a number of Habitat for Humanity initiatives. Inmates at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison build kitchen cabinets for Habitat homes. In-

mates at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility make small novelty items such as birdhouses for Habitat to use in their fund-raising activities. Other projects inmates have completed while remaining within the security perimeter of the institution are:

- Working in greenhouses on the prison grounds. Inmates have grown poinsettias and other flowers and plants for placement in government offices and grounds around



government buildings.

- Working in prison kitchens - baking cookies for government events.
- Rehabilitating used bicycles and tricycles to give children from low-income families.
- Socializing dogs and cats for adoption as pets by families, and socializing and training puppies and young dogs as part of the Leader Dog Program for the blind.

How To Get Started

Starting an inmate work project in your county is simple. Identify a project that you need done, and then contact the Department of Corrections Director Gary D. Maynard's office. Inquiries should be directed to Lettie Prell, Assistant to the Director, by phone at 515-242-5718 or at 420 Watson Powell Jr. Way, Des Moines, Iowa 50309. The Department of Corrections will determine whether the project falls within the scope of what inmates can do; will contact the appropriate union, business and trade representatives to seek their advice on taking on the project; will make the initial contact with institutions regarding the availability of inmates to do the work; and will have the institution contact your designated county representative to discuss number of workers, time frames, materials needed and other logistics. Counties should be aware that, while some of our prisons may be able to provide some of the tools to be used in a project, in most cases tools and materials would be the county's responsibility.

Counties/Cities That Use Inmate Labor

"We have been very proactive with getting prisoners working for over 10 years. County jail inmates working on work release have often done custodial work around the courthouse and at the city recreation center. We have a few dozen prisoners performing a few thousand hours of community service each year, either as credit toward fines or costs or with payments to victims. We only select people who appear to be committed to work and make amends with society and their victims. The main measure of success is that I don't often have to prosecute these people again. This is no panacea, it is not designed to have chain gangs for public display, it is not a big solution. It is a one on one opportunity to make a difference in a young offender's life."

- John Werden, Carroll County Attorney

"The types of work that our inmates perform are, laundry services for the jail, cleaning the jail and offices, and yard maintenance. They also wash and clean the deputies patrol cars. Our program has been in place for approximately 20 years. The program is very successful. The inmates are very eager to work at the jail. The program also allows the inmates to work off fines, attorney fees, court costs and community service hours as ordered by the judges. I would recommend other county jails use the program."

- Capt. Scott Bonar, Jail Administrator, Lee County

"Here in Breda, we have used the inmates for approximately four years. The inmates that we have used have been from the Rockwell City Correctional Facility. For us, the program has been very successful. I think anyone that would take part in this program would realize what a win-win situation this is. The inmates get so much out of this - they get to use skills that they had before they were put in prison, but also they get to learn new ones. They work hand-in-hand with our maintenance crews on all the jobs that they do around here, and we give them some responsibility in doing some jobs also. We have not had any serious problems with any of the inmates. They have been a joy to work with, they have been hard workers and they take pride in what they are doing."

- Diane Lucas, Breda City Clerk

"We started an inmate labor program seven years ago. It has been a very positive experience. We can handle 28 prisoners a day working for the county and in six towns in Cherokee County. Through this program we have been able to do very labor intensive projects that could not have been done otherwise. Inmates do welding, carpentry, masonry, sheet rocking, painting, institutional food service, wash cars and conduct various jobs in the parks and recreation departments."

- Rick Forkenbrock, Director of Support Service, Cherokee MHI

Representative Government

There is a legislative proposal before the Iowa General Assembly for a constitutional amendment designed to control taxation in the state of Iowa. HJR 3, Voter Approval of Tax Increases, would require approval by a majority vote of the people at a general election for any tax increase of at least 1% of the state budget of the previous fiscal year before the tax increase could go into effect. (Sound complicated? My point exactly.) The plan primarily applies to sales and income taxes. The 1% increase would be at least \$45 million if it were in effect after FY05.

HJR 3 even applies to any policy decision by the legislature that would have an aggregate impact on property taxes of \$45 million or greater. For example, if the Homestead Property Tax Credit was short funded by more than \$45 million and Iowa cities and counties had to absorb the cost, then that amount would be a statewide burden for property taxpayers. Accordingly, under HJR 3, that legislative decision would necessitate approval by the voters before lawmakers could shift funding of the credit to local governments.

At first glance, this proposal sounds wonderful. Everyone wants to control *“those politicians spending our hard-earned tax dollars.”* And who wouldn't want *“more money in the pockets of the taxpayers?”* HJR 3 may sound great but it is really a bad idea. ISAC registered against this legislation for one major reason: we live in a representative democracy and we elect representatives and senators to make informed decisions. We trust them with the public treasury and to operate our government in the most efficient way possible while still meeting the needs of our state and its citizens.

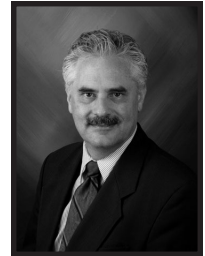
Fiscal Calamity In Colorado

Concepts like this have been enacted in a number of other states. A similar constitutional amendment called the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights (TABOR) was approved by the Colorado voters in 1992. Under that plan, taxes are limited to a formula based on inflation and population growth. Meanwhile, another constitutional amendment (Amendment 23) was approved by the voters to require annual spending increases in primary and secondary education.

The economic downturn in the last few years has shown the true nature of the TABOR amendment. State revenues plunged when the recession hit in 2002. Each year since, revenue increases have been held to the formula, causing a gradual increase from year to year. It will take many years before Colorado revenues reach the pre-recession level. Meanwhile, annual spending increases for public education are guaranteed under Amendment 23. “Unprotected” services in the rest of the state budget were squeezed by the conflicting amendments and suffered record cuts. Through the TABOR amendment, elected officials lost the flexibility necessary to balance revenues with services. Their hands are tied.

By: **John Easter**

ISAC Director of
Intergovernmental Affairs



Can That Happen In Iowa?

TABOR and HJR 3 are very similar. If HJR 3 is ratified by Iowa's voters, no one can predict exactly what the impacts will be. During the recent recession, state lawmakers agonized over tough choices in order to make state budget ends meet. Numerous programs were cut while few were relatively spared the budget axe. HJR 3 would have hamstrung state legislators in that situation. The autopilot formula would strip flexibility for lawmakers when making such decisions. It could quickly take Iowa down the same path as Colorado.

Just as in Colorado, the people in Iowa are proud of our educational system. Iowa has a strong tradition of supporting the K-12 system through the school finance formula. The pressure to continue growth in educational support while living under the constraints of HJR 3 could have severe impacts on such areas as public safety, higher education and health care.

How Is A Constitutional Amendment Ratified In Iowa?

In order to become part of the state constitution, a proposal must receive approval from two consecutive general assemblies in identical format and then be ratified by a majority vote of the people. The measure does not go before the governor for consideration as is the case for all other legislation.

HJR 3 was approved by the 80th General Assembly last year. Now it is before the House of Representatives of the 81st General Assembly in the same form. Even if it does not move any further in the process this year, lawmakers still have through the 2006 legislative session to determine the fate of HJR 3. Then the measure would go before the voters in the 2006 general election. If approved by voters, it becomes an amendment to the Iowa Constitution.

Educated Choices

People are elected to office to make the hard public policy decisions. They are in a position to collect all of the information necessary to make informed choices on tax and budget policies. They are better able to see the “big picture” and how flexibility in revenue raising and budgeting can guide the state through lean economic times.

Each and every citizen cannot be expected to provide himself or herself with all of the information necessary to make fully informed decisions on complicated public finance issues; that is why we elect state representatives and senators. If the voters are unhappy with decisions made by their elected representatives, they can express their dissatisfaction at the ballot box. That risk alone has a restraining effect on those who want to stay in office; they are not likely to indiscriminately raise taxes.

We now have an opportunity in Iowa to learn from the disastrous experience in Colorado. Do we really want to go down that same road?

Court Clarifies Immunity Doctrine

Discretionary Immunity

Iowa Code §670.4(3) is the discretionary immunity statute. Basically, it says that government officials (including county officials) are not liable where the challenged conduct involved a matter of choice or an element of judgment. In other words, there can be no “Monday morning quarterbacking” of policy decisions county officials make.

Governments rarely succeed when they claim that their actions were covered by discretionary immunity. But in *Anderson v. State of Iowa*, decided on February 11, 2005, the Iowa Supreme Court did hold that the state officials involved were entitled to discretionary immunity.

That case arose from events at the UNI library. On the evening involved, Cedar Falls was in the midst of an ice storm. Library officials contemplated the severity of weather, determined the number of students in the library, and decided to remain open. Later that same night Kecia Anderson was injured when she fell on the icy steps outside of the library.

She sued, alleging that the school was negligent in failing to close the library early due to weather conditions. The district court entered a directed verdict in favor of UNI, finding that the decision not to close the library was based on considerations of public policy, and therefore was covered by the discretionary function immunity.

On appeal, the Supreme Court agreed with the district court, and found in favor of UNI. In the course of its decision, the Supreme Court reviewed its most recent cases, all of which denied the government body’s claim of discretionary immunity:

- in *Bellman v. City of Cedar Falls*, an unattended golf cart killed a young boy during a school safety program. The Court held that the teacher’s decisions regarding supervising the students were not based on policy considerations, so discretionary immunity did not apply;
- in *Doe v. Cedar Rapids*, a teacher engaged in sexual conduct with three female students. The Court held that the “school’s judgment concerning this teacher did not involve the permissible exercise of policy judgment;”
- in *Ette v. Linn-Mar Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, a student on a school trip to Texas violated school rules. Chaperones decided to put the student on a bus and send him home without adult supervision. The Court held that this decision was not “a judgment call driven by social, economic or political concerns.”
- in *Graber v. City of Ankeny*, the plaintiff was injured in an intersection collision and brought a claim against the city for failing to properly set the timing of the traffic signals. The Court held that the city was not immune because there was no evidence that “anyone of authority balanced any priorities of competing importance;”
- in *Messerschmidt v. City of Sioux City*, a drunk driver struck and injured the plaintiff. The plaintiff brought a negligence ac-

By: David Vestal

ISAC General Counsel



tion against the city, claiming that the city improperly removed a road barricade. The Court said that the city had “not met its burden to prove that considerations based on social, economic or political policy were involved in its decision to take the barrier down;”

- in *Schmitz v. City of Dubuque*, a person was injured due to a 1.5 inch drop-off on a bike trail caused by the city’s decision to add an asphalt overlay. The Court denied the discretionary immunity, saying that the decision regarding the overlay was not the sort of decision “that the discretionary function immunity intends to protect.”

The difference in the UNI library case, said the Court, was that in all of the previous cases the record failed to show “that the governmental entity based its actions on the required policy considerations, as distinguished from an action arising out of the day-to-day activities of the business of government.”

There was evidence in this case that the school had a policy of keeping the library open, even during periods of severe weather, in order to afford the maximum opportunity for students to use the library. The testimony in this case was that when they were deciding whether to remain open during the ice storm, the library staff “considered and balanced the same factors used by the university when it formulated its policy.”

This case is noteworthy because the Supreme Court went out of its way to provide some guidance as to how it will be applying the discretionary immunity doctrine in the future.

Medical Costs of Prisoners

One recent Wisconsin Supreme Court case shows how some counties deal with prisoner medical costs. In *Meriter Hospital v. Dane County* (689 N.W.2d 627), Michael Gibson was an indigent prisoner in the Dane County jail. He was taken to a hospital, where he soon went into major organ failure. Three days into Gibson’s hospital stay, sensing where this was headed, the county moved to dismiss all charges against Gibson. The court agreed to the dismissal. Ultimately, Gibson stayed in the hospital for 34 days and ran up nearly \$190,000 in bills.

The hospital sued the county, claiming that the county’s financial obligation continued for the length of Gibson’s stay. On appeal, the Wisconsin Supreme Court disagreed with the hospital, and held that the county’s financial obligation ended when the charges were dismissed.

Parting Ponderable: The “buffalo” that Americans refer to is actually a bison. The term “buffalo” refers to “a group of African and Asian mammals that includes the African cape buffalo and the Filipino tamarou but does not include any North American species.” (Colorado College *Bulletin*, November 2004)

health check

Healthy Eating

Weight loss has been a hobby of mine for many years – sometimes you work on it, sometimes you don't. You know like all those craft projects in the back of the closet! Healthy eating is a key to maintaining not just our weight but our health in general. You can reap great rewards by making healthy eating a lifestyle. Here are some suggestions to get you on the right path!

Keep A Record

Write down what you eat and also how you feel when you eat it. This helps us recognize times of the day to be careful, realize we are skipping breakfast, and discovering both good and bad habits. It also helps us keep in balance. Some days we overdo but that is balanced by a very veggie day.

Discover Vegetables

Maybe the number one thing we can do to eat healthier is to get in those five fruits and vegetables every day. Spring is coming and this would be a good time to try out some new flavors that we haven't tried before. If you had mushy, flavorless vegetables in your past, you may be surprised how wonderful new cooking methods can make them taste. (The American Institute for Cancer Research has a website filled with recipe ideas at www.aicr.org.)

By: **Sandy Longfellow**

ISAC Administrative Assistant



Remove Temptations

Avoiding foods that tempt you is much easier than resisting them when you are staring at them. Keep healthier food in your home. If you want to indulge in a treat make it a special occasion. Take the family to the Dairy Queen and have an ice cream cone. We will always want snacks – try to find ones you like that are healthier. It might also be helpful to buy smaller containers of things – buy a one serving bag and share it instead of getting a giant bag.

Don't Give Up

When you have a bad day, accept it as a bad day and try again tomorrow. We tend to think we have failed and can never be successful again so we give up and indulge. You might also enlist the help of a friend. It seems like when you have a supporter to talk to it is uplifting. We often use food as a reward – try to find other non-food ways of treating yourself such as a movie, massage or a long hot bath with soothing music.

Have a Healthy Day!

in memory

Harry Vannausdle

Harry Vannausdle, age 75, of Red Oak, Iowa passed away Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital. Harry was serving on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. He was a member of the First Covenant Church where he was a former trustee. He was a former park board and board of adjustment member.



Throughout his life, Harry was very active with all sports. He enjoyed golfing, bowling, basketball, volleyball, horseshoes, ping pong, and pool. His hobby was his lifelong work in the carpentry business. Survivors include his wife: Marilyn, three sons, 11 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

classified ad

Outcome Coordinator

Opportunity Village/Eagle Grove Office is looking for a self-motivated, caring, and enthusiastic individual looking for a new challenge. Full-time Outcome Coordinator: responsibilities include working with adults and children with mental and physical disabilities, developing and implementing life plans, attending staffings, tracking on-going progress, communication with families and other team members.

Qualifications include high school diploma and three years experience working with people with disabilities, or BA degree and 1 year experience. Prefer Med Aide training or must be willing to get within 6 months to 1 year. Mandt, CPR and 1st Aide required within 3 months. Please contact Elizabeth Helmers, Administrator, at (515) 448-5464, or by sending a resume to Opportunity Village/Eagle Grove Group Home, 605 E. Broadway, Eagle Grove, IA. 50533. Applications must be received by June 1, 2005.

Steering Committee Application Process Available Online

ISAC has made some improvements to the steering committee process. You will now be able to go to the ISAC website (www.iowacounties.org) and view information regarding the ISAC steering committees and actually apply online to become a member of a steering committee. This is an exciting new benefit for you which allows you to express your interest in becoming part of the legislative process while sitting at your computer.

By April 1st the online form will be available to submit steering committee member application forms via the Internet. You will have the ability to view information on each of the seven steering committees and the types of legislative issues each committee deals with. A listing will also be available of who currently is on each of the steering committees. Once you complete the application process indicating which steering committee you would like to participate in, a notification will be sent out to your affiliate president. Each committee is limited to three members per affiliate, with one alternate member. The affiliate president decides who represents their affiliate and this process will be of assistance in notifying them of interested parties. If your affiliate president approves your appointment, a congratulatory letter will be sent out notifying you of your acceptance and a list of important dates and responsibilities.

Why is this being done? In the past we have struggled to maintain an accurate database of steering committee members. To aid each affiliate president and our organization, we have

By: *Tammy Norman*

ISAC Technical
Services Coordinator



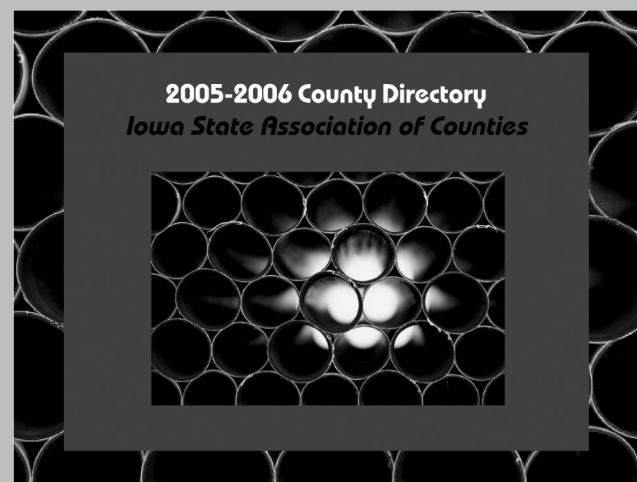
decided to put in place a structured nomination process with deadlines in advance of legislative workshops and the affiliate summer schools. Having the appointment process ahead of these events allows each of the steering committee members to attend these important meetings and become better informed of their affiliate's legislative issues. If our steering committee members are well informed, the more informed our organization becomes, enabling us to better serve you up at the statehouse.

Please take a moment and check out this new feature on the website. If you have any questions or challenges in using it, do not hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to assist you or if you prefer you can contact your affiliate president regarding the appointment process. I hope you will become a part of the steering committees, your involvement is extremely important to us.

Website Note: The affiliate website program has unveiled a new look. Please feel free to take a moment and check out the site. You can sign in by going to the following web address and sign in under "New User." The web address is: <http://affiliates.iowacounties.org/affiliates/>. If your affiliate is not a part of this program but you would like to become part of it, please contact me. Please forward any items that you would like addressed in this column to my attention at tnorman@iowacounties.org or by calling 515-244-7181. Until next month, keep clicking!

2005-2006 County Directory For Sale

The 2005-2006 ISAC County Directory is available for purchase. Order forms can be found on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'County Information.' The directories are sold for \$15 to county officials, \$25 to non-county officials.



ISAC brief

ISAC Fall School 2005

By: Jerri Noboa

ISAC Meetings Administrator



ISAC's Spring School of Instruction went well and I hope everyone found the conference beneficial. Though our next conference is many months away, it isn't too soon to make your hotel reservation for ISAC's Fall School of Instruction November 13-15, 2005 at the Downtown Marriott and Renaissance Savery in Des Moines.

Hotel Reservations

The Marriott and Savery are offering rates of \$69/flat with suites at \$175. The Hotel Fort Des Moines' rates are \$69/flat with suites at \$89. Hotel reservations can be made at the Marriott (700 Grand Ave, 515-245-5500/800-514-4681), Renaissance Savery (401 Locust, 515-244-2151) and Hotel Fort Des Moines (1000 Walnut, 515-243-1161/800-532-1466, booking #3428).

The following affiliates will be meeting at the Marriott: Auditors, Conservation, Engineers, Supervisors, Treasurers, Zoning. The following affiliates will be meeting at the Renaissance Savery: Assessors, Community Services, Emergency Management, Information Directors, Public Health Nurses, Recorders, Sheriffs.

On-line registration for the ISAC Fall School of Instruction will be available in August.

Thank You to Companies That Support ISAC

Thank you to the 60 exhibitors that attended ISAC's Spring School of Instruction. Exhibitors not only support the association financially, they also add to the wealth of information on how county officials can improve their individual counties through the use of their products and services.

Also, thank you for the 16 companies that advertised in the Spring School program. Their advertising allows ISAC to offset the cost associated with printing the program. *To view the ISAC Spring School program visit ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) and click on 'Publications.'*

Spring School Sponsors

Please thank and support the following companies that offset the costs associated with the Spring School through their conference sponsorship.

The Sidwell Company	<i>Platinum</i>	\$2,000
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TrueNorth Companies	<i>Gold</i>	\$1,000
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Spring School 2005

More than 800 county officials traveled to Des Moines for ISAC's 62nd Spring School of Instruction March 16-18 at the Marriott and Renaissance Savery in downtown Des Moines. ISAC awarded scholarships to eight outstanding high school students during ISAC's General Session on March 17. The winner of the top scholarship, in the amount of \$2,500, was Sara Voss from Decorah (Winneshiek County). Six other students received scholarships in the amount of \$1,500: Ashley Hickle from Boone (Boone County); Michael Cronin from Holstein (Ida County); Alicia Davison from Bedford (Taylor County); Katie Lorber from New London (Henry County); Anne Porter from Iowa City (Johnson County). Elizabeth Walker from Mondamin (Harrison County) received a scholarship in the amount of \$250 from the ISAC Alumni Association. Ivy Martinson from Marengo (Iowa County) received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 from the BureauCats, a band almost entirely comprised of Scott County employees.

Also during ISAC's General Session, more than 300 county officials were honored with Years of Service Awards to acknowledge their dedication to serving citizens through county government. Curtis Younker, Mitchell County Sheriff, was recognized for 45 years of service. Other highlights included keynote speaker Yvonne Conte with her presentation - The Positive Power of Humor. And of course, everyone had a great time at the ISAC Dance with the BureauCats Band.



Top left: Carl Neu presented the ISAC seminar "Major Trends Reshaping the Future of County Government." Above: Sandy Markwood was the presenter for the ISAC seminar "Developing Elderly Friendly Communities."

Above and right: County officials that attended the ISAC seminar "Understanding the Full Cost of Jail Construction" participated in small group discussions.



Left: ISAC's keynote speaker Yvonne Conte. Bottom left: Lynde Lundquist, Cherokee County Treasurer, received an ISAC Years of Service award for 40 years from ISAC President Angela Connolly. Below: Alfred Tebbe, Jr., Jackson County Treasurer; was honored with an ISAC Years of Service award for 40 years from ISAC President.



Top left: Michael Cronin receives scholarship award from ISAC President. Above: Top scholarship winner Sara Voss accepts award from ISAC President. Left: Ivy Martinson was honored with the BureauCats music scholarship for her singing ability.

ISAC brief

The First Annual **ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser** Hosted by the Iowa State Association of County Supervisors

Jester Park Golf Course - Granger, Iowa - June 15, 2005

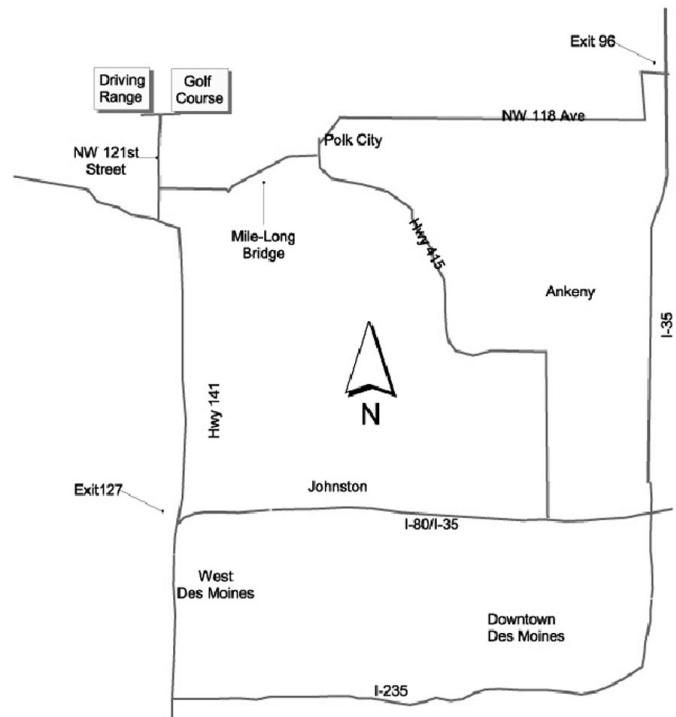
The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) announces the 1st Annual ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser to be held Wednesday, June 15 at the Jester Park Golf Course. Jester Park is a par 71, 18-hole golf course that has the ability to accommodate 144 golfers. The Jester Park Course is located off I-80/35, exit 127, 30 minutes northwest of downtown Des Moines. Follow Highway 141 west 6 1/2 miles to NW 121st Street and turn right. Go north two miles to the golf course.

The Iowa State Association of County Supervisors will be hosting the event to raise money for ISAC's scholarship program. ISAC scholarships are awarded to high school seniors that are children of county officials or county employees.

The 18-hole scramble (best-shot) with a shotgun start will begin promptly at 11am. Registration begins at 10am. You may register individually or in a group of up to four people. The \$75 fee includes golf with cart, box lunch, beverages, welcome gift, one raffle ticket, prizes and dinner. Soft spiked or soft soled shoes are acceptable. Metal spikes are prohibited.

Individuals wishing to golf or just attend the dinner (5pm) should fill out and return the attached form before June 1, 2005. Payment must accompany registration. The course is limited to 144 golfers, so register early to reserve your spot! If you have any questions please contact Jay Syverson at (515) 244-7181.

We look forward to seeing you on June 15! Remember registration begins at 10am and golf begins with a shotgun start at 11am sharp - please be prompt.



What: ISAC Scholarship Fundraiser: Hosted by the Iowa State Association of County Supervisors

When: Wednesday, June 15, 2005
10am - Registration
11am - Golf - 4-person scramble (best shot)
5pm - Dinner

Where: Jester Park Golf Course
11949 NW 118 Avenue, Granger, Iowa (515) 999-2903

Cost: \$75 (18 holes, shared cart, box lunch, beverages, welcome gift, one raffle ticket, prizes and dinner)
\$30 (dinner only)

_____ I will play in the ISAC Golf Tournament on June 15, 2005. My \$75 is enclosed.

_____ I have organized a group to play in the ISAC Golf Tournament. Our total entry fee is enclosed.

_____ No golf, dinner only - \$30 is enclosed.

Name: _____

County/Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

If you wish to arrange a group of players, please confirm your group prior to indicating the names on this form. Individuals and groups of less than four will be paired with other players.

1) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

3) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

4) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment MUST accompany registration and is non-refundable. Make checks payable to ISAC Scholarship Fund. Entries must be received by June 1, 2005 and are filled on a first come, first served basis. Mail to: ISAC, Attn: Golf Fundraiser, 501 SW 7th St., Ste. Q, Des Moines, IA 50309.

associate member highlights

Midland GIS Solutions, a professional Geographic Information System (GIS) development company, recently concluded a comprehensive, county-wide GIS computerized mapping program for Clarke County, Iowa. The project started in March 2003 and was finalized in December 2004. The GIS mapping program has already proved to be extremely beneficial to the County on a daily basis.



"The system is working above & beyond our expectations," said Walt Paschell, Clarke County Assessor and GIS Administrator. "We use the system daily, and wonder how we ever got along without it."

The Clarke County project proved a classic application for GIS mapping technology, taking the County's aging tax maps and converting them into a state-of-the-art computer mapping system. "Clarke County's original maps were drawn in pencil on quarter-inch grid paper," said Matt Sorensen, GIS Project Manager for Midland GIS Solutions. "We didn't even want to move the county's tax books for fear of damaging them, so we scanned them onsite."

The new system includes new 1/2-foot/pixel digital aerial photography for urban areas, 2003 near-infrared rural photography, land ownership boundaries linked to the county's tax database, and numerous related base map and district boundary layers. All of the data is quickly accessible from numerous individual desktop computer systems.

"The GIS is accessible from all computers within the courthouse," Paschell added. "We have linked it to our taxing database and our CAMA database, giving quick access to our information to all departments within the county. This information is invaluable to the zoning, environmental, auditor, and secondary road departments. The County Supervisor's even have a terminal in their office, so they can readily access information if someone has a question while in the office."

One of the additional benefits of the new system lies in its ability to quickly determine Corn Suitability Rating values for lands throughout the county. These ratings are the basis for accurate assessment of farmable lands within the county. "It was really a pleasure working with Clarke County," Sorensen said, "and helping them develop a system that works well for the county."

Midland GIS Solutions, based out of Maryville, Missouri, is an active member of ISAC.

At ResCare, Inc. we live by our motto, "Empowerment through Choice." We do this by advocating for the rights of the people we serve, and by offering an array of services and supports. We also focus on convenience, by providing services in over 20 Iowa counties.



ResCare provides 24-hour support in Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver homes in various locations, and six residential care facilities in various southeastern Iowa counties, including Des Moines, Muscatine, Washington and Jefferson counties, and an Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Mental Illness (ICF/PMI) in Davis County.

For people with mental illness and/or mental retardation, ResCare offers on-site Supported Community Living and CARF-accredited Supported Employment. Additionally, we recognize that people with serious and persistent mental illness sometimes require more intensive supports to help them stay out of the hospital and focus on role recovery. Therefore, ResCare was one of the initial providers of Intensive Psychiatric Rehabilitation (IPR) services, and we currently provide that service in a number of locations.

"Empowerment through Choice" is highlighted at ResCare's Recovery Centers and in the Peer Support Program. These services are designed to utilize the experience, abilities and skills of individuals who are recovering from a mental illness to work in partnership with other mental health consumers as peers. Peer Support Specialists provide a variety of supports to other Recovery Center members. Recovery Centers are located in Des Moines, Fairfield, Muscatine and Mount Pleasant.

Finally, ResCare has a fine staff of mental health professionals to provide individual and group therapy for anyone needing support through a difficult situation. Mental Health Centers are available in Fairfield, Ottumwa, Muscatine, Mount Pleasant, Burlington, Fort Madison, Keokuk and Des Moines.

For further information contact ResCare's Central Office in Fairfield at 641-472-1684 or visit our website at www.iowarescare.com.

associate member highlights

The Sidwell Company is a professional mapping services firm, serving local government since 1927. Sidwell specializes in the development and implementation of geographic information systems (GIS), cadastral mapping and digital orthophotography. The company also provides full data conversion and integration services; geodatabase development; client training and support in the use and implementation of GIS; complete photogrammetric services including aerial photography; and website design and hosting for GIS data.



Throughout the Midwest, Sidwell has a reputation for quality services, strong partnerships and long-term service to clients. Sidwell's knowledge of local government needs and operations, and a commitment to excellence has made them an industry leader in serving local government. This fact is clearly supported by the numbers: the company has a track record of successful implementation of more than 150 completed GIS and mapping projects covering more than eight million parcels of land. Sidwell's experienced staff knows that today's decisions about GIS must support the stability, growth and maintenance of any GIS as well as any future GIS-related projects.



Recent developments at the company include the release of Parcel Builder™, a software suite designed exclusively by Sidwell. An extension to ESRI's ArcGIS 9.x™,

Parcel Builder provides users with the most comprehensive set of Geodatabase-compliant mapping productivity tools available. Parcel Builder features simplified interfaces and requires fewer mouse clicks to accomplish most common cadastral mapping tasks. The Parcel Builder suite consists of three modules:

- Parcel Builder-Administrator™ - tools for parcel management and integration
- Parcel Builder-MapEditor™ - tools for cadastral map capture & maintenance
- Parcel Builder-MapPlotter™ - tools for creation of high quality cadastral map output

Users may select the entire Parcel Builder suite, or just the module that best suits the needs of their operation. For more information on Parcel Builder, contact Sidwell at 630-549-1070 or at PBInfo@sidwellco.com.

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ISAC Associate Members

ISAC currently has 76 associate members! Visit our website at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Associate Members' to see the complete list of the 2005 Associate Members. Our associate members are architects, engineers, financial planners, consultants, insurance providers, and IT professionals to name a few. Use an ISAC Associate Member the next time you are needing services of any kind!



NACo's Grants Clearinghouse Makes Finding Money Easier

With the budget constraints and revenue uncertainties currently faced by many counties, outside revenue sources, such as grants, are becoming an increasingly important aspect of a county's financial structure. Federal and private foundation grants can be valuable revenue sources for counties. However, having the time and patience to locate grants, which counties are eligible to apply for, is not always easy.

In an effort to help counties with this difficult process, NACo has developed the Grants Clearinghouse. The Grants Clearinghouse streamlines and simplifies the grant-seeking process for member counties.

The Grants Clearinghouse is a major initiative for NACo's Research Division, with the purpose of establishing a central location that provides member counties with a current and comprehensive source of county eligible grants.

This is a multifaceted project that allows counties the convenience of a one-stop location for external funding opportunities, including both federal and private grants. The mission of the Grants Clearinghouse is to provide a service that lessens the burden and confusion of members by providing comprehensive and specific information and tools regarding federal and private sources of external funding.

The Grants Clearinghouse consists of three main sections: a searchable database containing only grants that counties are eligible to apply for (although, not all grant programs in the database are currently funding projects or accepting applications), an up-to-date website listing grants that are currently funding projects and accepting applications, and an e-mail notification system to alert counties of newly announced grants.

The newest feature of the Grants Clearinghouse is the grant notification service. Member counties can now sign up to receive e-mail alerts of newly announced government grants and private foundation grants.

The two areas that set the new grant notification system apart are, first, only grants which counties are eligible to apply for are e-mailed; second, the counties' ability to receive grants notification by interest area. This means that a county only receives e-mail notification of grants that are in its area of interest, or it can choose to receive e-mail notification of all newly announced grants.

For example, if a county is interested in grants that focus on providing funding for training or equipment for first responders it would select to receive all grants dealing with homeland security. If, however, the county does not specify an interest area, it can receive notification for all newly announced county-eligible grants. By providing these features, the county

is not forced to sift through grants for which it has no interest.

To receive e-mail notices of new grants visit www.naco.org. On NACo's homepage, run your cursor over the top to "County Resource Center," then click on "Grants Clearinghouse." Lastly, click on the link to sign up for e-mail notices under the heading "Grants Clearinghouse."

The second service provided by the Grants Clearinghouse is an up-to-date website listing federal and foundation grants currently accepting applications and for which counties are eligible to apply. This page is updated as new grants are announced.

A searchable database of federal grants is another service of the Grants Clearinghouse. This database contains a comprehensive listing of federal grants, all of which are county eligible. However, many of these grants are not currently funded or accepting applications. But, counties can still use the database to search for potential funding sources that could come available in the future.

Having all these services under one roof on the NACo website significantly benefits member counties. The services provided by the Grants Clearinghouse allows member counties to search for government and private grants easily and efficiently, thereby helping to meet the fiscal needs of the county.

NACo's Annual Conference

Every year NACo brings its Annual Conference and Exposition to a different county in the United States to showcase the diversity of this great nation. NACo is pleased to conduct its 70th Annual Conference and Exposition in the city and county of Honolulu, Hawaii July 15-19, 2005. The conference will provide NACo's membership with:

- A forum to network with peers from other counties from around the country.
- The only national conference and exposition dedicated solely to county government.
- Nationally recognized speakers and experts.
- A forum for strategic discussions about challenges your community deals with on a day-to-day basis.

New Features of NACo's Annual Conference and Exposition include:

- Symposiums and mobile workshops have been added to the educational curriculum.
- The Learning Theater in the Exhibit Hall will provide 45-minute "Best Practices" seminars.
- Technical assistance and NACo affiliate display tables available with information throughout the entire Conference.

For registration information visit NACo's website at www.naco.org.

Building Excellence In Governance

The Public Policy & Administration Program at Iowa State University will hold the Third Annual Conference in Building Excellence in Governance on May 6, 2005 at the ISU Memorial Union. According to program director, professor Kurt Thurmaier, “the conference celebrates National Public Service Recognition Week, and this year’s theme is “Using Networks to Manage Public Services.”

The conference “is designed for all levels of Iowa’s federal, state and local public managers,” Thurmaier noted. “It will address cutting edge issues in public management of Iowa’s state and local governments.” The morning session, “Critical Success Factors for Managing Effective 28e Agreements,” will feature panelists discussing the effectiveness of 28E agreements for economic development, policing, planning and social services. Thurmaier said the session will present results from in-depth interviews with those who manage 28E agreements in Iowa.

The afternoon session focuses on “Community Involvement in Building Collaborative Public Service Networks” and will present results from ISU’s Olive Tree Project. Assistant professor Rick Morse, project director, noted that intergovernmental service sharing and other collaborative approaches to the provision of public services require community support and effective working relationships across communities. Morse said, “The Olive Tree Project is about facilitating community support and working relationships through constructive dialogue in communities and across communities at the county-level.” The process is being piloted in Boone and Poweshiek counties along with a related project (in the same counties) focusing on the role of youth in community involvement.

The luncheon speaker, Dr. George Frederickson, will speak on “Public Administration and Shared Power: Understanding Governance, Networks and Partnerships.” Dr. Frederickson is a leading scholar of public management. Frederickson is the Edwin O Stene Distinguished Professor of Public Administration at the University of Kansas, Department of Public Administration. The luncheon is co-sponsored by the Central Iowa Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

The annual Building Excellence in Governance conference celebrates public service and public servants in Iowa. The conference is a service to the public managers in Iowa, and the conference fee of \$35 (\$30 for early registration) covers only a portion of the expenses. The full program and registration form are available at www.iastate.edu/~mpa/news_events/news_events.htm and early registrations must be received by April 22, 2005. CEU credits will be available through Continuing Education for \$10.

Iowa Stormwater Training Events

The Second Annual Iowa Stormwater Conference will be held April 5-6, 2005 at the Hotel Fort Des Moines in Des Moines, Iowa. Topics that will be discussed during the conference include: water quality and urban impacts; erosion and sediment control; SUDAS standards update; watershed assessments; Iowa rainfall analysis and stormwater flow; stormwater management and mosquito control consideration; and the Iowa stormwater education program. Midwestern engineers and planners are encouraged to attend.

A Stormwater Utility Workshop is being planned for April 14 from 9am - 3pm at the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities (IAMU) office in Ankeny, Iowa. The featured speaker will be Andrew Reese, a nationally recognized expert in stormwater utilities. Based on experience in over 75 cities and counties, this course provides practical and proven keys to successful establishment of stormwater user-fee funding. It will also take officials through an introduction to real-time consideration of key factors in deciding to use user-fee funding. This is done through the “DIMS” quick feasibility process found to be very successful. This portion of the course will be taught in round-table format. Additional presentations include: Iowa City Stormwater Utility- Brian Boelk; Effective Public Relations For Your Stormwater Utility - Eric Woolson; and GIS Considerations - Jim Petro. Municipal and county staff are encouraged to attend.

For registration information on these two events visit ISAC’s website (www.iowacounties.org) under ‘Upcoming Events’ to download the registration form.

USDA Makes Record Investment Into Rural Iowa

In 2004, USDA Rural Development invested a record \$431 million in more than 140 rural Iowa communities. Housing assistance was provided in the amount of \$110 million to rural Iowans living in all 99 counties. This marked the first time USDA Rural Development’s annual investment into rural Iowa topped \$400 million. The USDA Rural Development programs help families find affordable homes and apartments, assist businesses to create economic opportunities and jobs for workers, and allow communities to build essential infrastructure and buildings that offer valuable services to local citizens. During the year, more than 80 public events were held around the state to announce project funding, to celebrate ground-breaking and open-house events, as well as to recognize milestone anniversaries and accomplishments for many of their previously funded projects.

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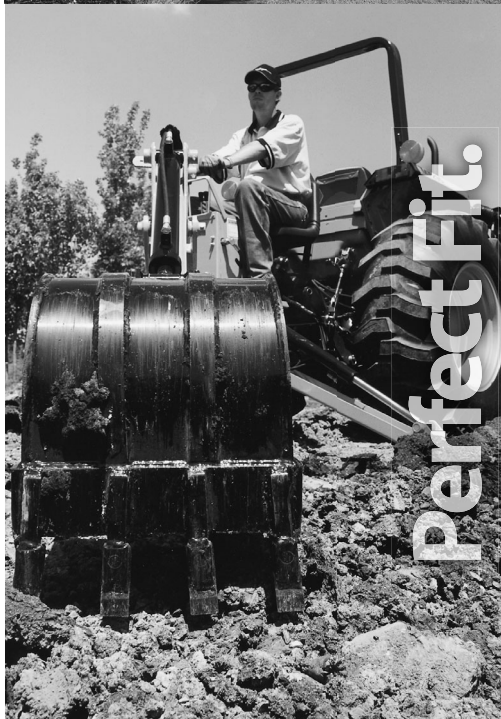
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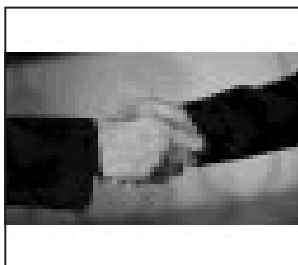
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For more information contact Lisa Cole, NACo Director of Enterprise Services, at 202.942.4270 or email lcole@naco.org.



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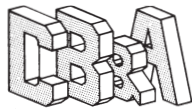
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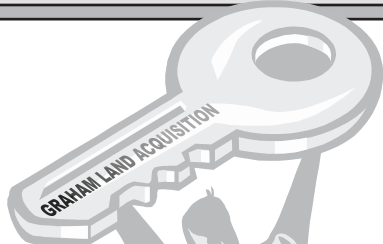
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APRIL

- 6 CCMS NW Support Group
(Seasons Center, Spencer)
- 12 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Baymont Conference Center, DM)
- 13 CCMS Cost Report Training
(Baymont Conference Center, DM)
- 14 CRIS Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 27 ISAC Board of Directors & League of Cities
Board of Directors Dinner/Meeting
(Jester Park, Granger)
- 28 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

MAY

- 11 Statewide CPC Meeting (location TBA)
- 12 CCMS Advanced Case Manager
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)

JUNE

- 7-8 CCMS Supervisors Training
(Baymont Conference Center, DM)
- 8 District II Workshop
(Waldorf College, Forest City)
- 9 District I Workshop (Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 10 District V Workshop
(Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa)
- 15 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Jester Park, Granger)
- 15-17 Information Technology Annual Conference
(Cedar Rapids)
- 17 District VI Workshop
(Grand River Center, Dubuque)

- 22-24 CCMS Fundamentals
(Baymont Conference Center, DM)
- 23 District IV Workshop
(Mid America Center, Council Bluffs)
- 24 District III Workshop
(Buena Vista University, Storm Lake)

JULY

- 12 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 13 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 15-19 NACo Annual Conference (Hawaii)
- 27-29 Auditors Summer Conference (Fort Dodge)

AUGUST

- 4-5 Supervisors Executive Board (Atlantic area)
- 10-12 CCMS Annual Conference
(Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 11-13 Recorders Annual Conference
(Grand Harbor Resort, Dubuque)

SEPTEMBER

- 9 ISAC Steering Committees (location TBA)
- 21-23 CCMS Fundamentals
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 22-23 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

For agendas or additional information on any of the above listed meetings please visit our website at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events!'

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