

The Iowa County



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September 2004



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The Iowa County

September 2004 * Volume 33, Number 9

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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.

Correction:

In the August issue of *The Iowa County* on page 11 it should read that Mike King is a member of Crestmoor Golf and the Eagles.

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County Land Records To Be Available On-Line

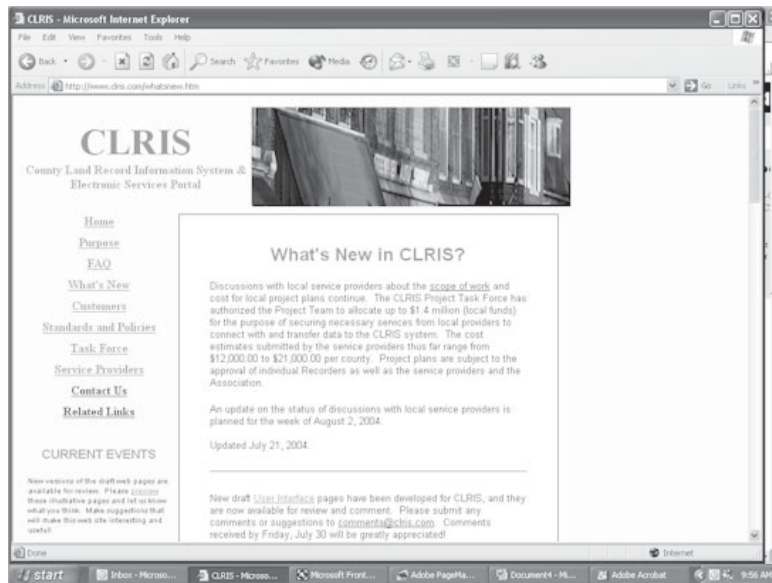
By: *Phil Dunshee*
CLRIS Project Manager

Mortgages, deeds and other recorded real estate documents will soon be accessible through a new statewide website. The Iowa County Land Record Information System (CLRIS) is the title of the project, the result of legislation enacted in 2003. The legislation created a supplemental and temporary \$5 fee for recorded documents, and directed that the resources be used to provide access to land records through the Internet. Since the passage of the legislation the Iowa County Recorders Association and ISAC have been working to develop the new website and create a system for integrating indexing data and document images from each county system. These two “simple” tasks summarize a complex and challenging project that will result in improved service to financial institutions, realtors, attorneys and other users of land record information.

Before developing the system the Iowa County Recorders Association asked representatives of several customer groups to express their opinions about the services that should be available through CLRIS. These customers, or stakeholders, said that they wanted the system to have the following features:

- One website for all recorded county land record information.
- A common user interface for all counties.
- The ability to search land record information in one county, multiple counties or all counties.

- One document image format that would not require different image viewing software for different counties.
- The ability to save search parameters for future use.
- On-line access to frequently used forms.
- The ability to submit documents on line for recording.
- Access to other related land record information managed by other county offices if possible.



Several Iowa counties already provide on-line access to land record information. What is truly unique about CLRIS is the delivery of information from all counties in a common format. While individual county systems may continue to have different methods for indexing data and storing

document images, CLRIS users will be able to access information in a common format based on standards established by the Iowa County Recorders Association. CLRIS indexing standards are based on standards being established by the Property Records Industry Association (PRIA). For example, individual counties may have many different document types in their local systems. The Iowa County Recorders Association is working with every county recorder to identify or “map” how the local document types will be transferred to CLRIS using the document type standards established by the Association. For document images, CLRIS will use the Adobe PDF format as the standard.

The CLRIS system is scheduled to become operational in January 2005. However, the Iowa County Recorders Association's goal for connecting each county to the system is June 30, 2005. The transfer of county indexing and imaging data to the CLRIS system will be phased in according to a schedule that will be developed with each county recorder.

It is important to emphasize that CLRIS will not in any way interfere with the responsibilities and functions of individual county recorders. Each recorder will continue to be responsible for managing the "official" record in their local indexing and imaging systems. The CLRIS database is only a mirror image of each local database. Even electronic recording functions, when enabled, will require the action and approval of the county recorder. Customers will also have the option to continue to work with their county recorder's office as they do today if that is their preference.

CLRIS customers will have several options for accessing land record information. For simple land record searches, customers will be able to look up document information directly from the home page. For access to more advanced searches and related services, customers will be asked to register by setting up a user ID and password. Some services such as viewing document images may require the payment of a fee, although no final fee policy decisions have been made at this time. The system will be enabled to accept credit card or e-check payments.

The Iowa County Recorders Association has engaged ABC Virtual, a West Des Moines information technology firm, to develop the website and provide the hosting services for the system. ABC Virtual was selected through a competitive request for proposal process earlier this year. Other local service providers have been engaged to assist with integrating data from the local systems into CLRIS.

The Iowa County Recorders Association and the CLRIS Project Team are seeking input from customers and other elected officials as development work on the system continues. Information about the project, including draft web pages, is available at the project website. Go to <http://www.clris.com/whatsnew.htm> to learn more, and send your comments and questions to comments@clris.com.

How The Project Began

*By: Sue Vande Kamp &
Joan McCalmant*
CLRIS Task Force Co-Chairs

Almost four years ago, the Iowa County Recorders Association began talking about "what could be" if we had the resources to develop a statewide website for real estate records. Legislative proposals for funding became a reality through the PSG ("Reinvention") bill which was passed in the spring of 2003.

For one year, county recorders were allowed to collect an additional \$5 per document. With the State Treasurer's office acting as our banker, \$4 of the \$5 was deposited into a "pooled" fund, and each of the 99 counties has benefited equally. These dollars are being used to develop comprehensive, customized project plans in each county to transfer data and images to the website. This has been no easy task since there are seven or eight software companies doing business in Iowa counties. The Iowa County Land Record Information System (CLRIS) Task Force, along with our project manager and the CLRIS Project Team, worked to gain the support of those software companies and now have contractual agreements with them to provide the services necessary to move forward with the website development.

The remaining \$1, which is an ongoing fee, has been used to develop the CLRIS portal and will pay for continued maintenance and hosting services in subsequent years, as well as upgrades in hardware and the addition of more e-commerce services.

We would be remiss if we didn't mention the outstanding contributions made by the Iowa Counties Information Technology Organization towards our project. They have been involved from the beginning in the planning and drafting of the Request For Proposal and helping to select ABC Virtual as the website designer. The five affiliate members who are a part of the task force have spent untold hours in offering technical assistance and advice.

E-commerce is the future for counties. The portal is being created to allow other offices and departments the ability to offer additional services over the Internet. Our customers and constituents are no longer just county residents; they come from every state in the union and countries all over the world. They want services offered faster - 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Iowa County Recorders Association website project is just the beginning, and we hope that Iowa will serve as a model for other states to follow.

Challenge!

What would it take for counties to agree to some form of an annual inflationary index on property tax revenues? That was the question Senate Majority Leader Stewart Iverson (R-Wright) asked ISAC early in the 2004 legislative session. He also asked the same thing of the Iowa League of Cities. Furthermore, he asked the Iowa Farm Bureau what policy changes they could live with in order to get a property tax limitation on cities and counties. That was probably the most pivotal meeting I have been involved in on this topic. A key challenge was placed before us!

Background

The biggest legislative conflict facing Iowa local governments in recent years involves reforming the property tax system. I began employment with ISAC in 1993. Every year since, property tax issues have dominated our legislative activities in one form or another.

In the early 90s counties were busy surviving the property tax limitation imposed during a special legislative session held in the summer of 1992. In the mid 90s counties scrambled to secure state funding for mental health in order to help offset the property tax burden. In 1997, counties were about to see the sunset of the limitation and be free from its constraints. Some legislators and interest groups were skeptical.

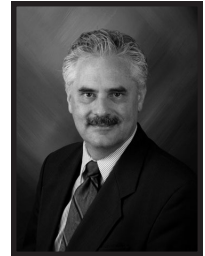
Since that time, counties and cities have fought off tough property tax limitation bills proposed by strong special interest groups. In the late 90s, there was the debate over the "Accountability with Flexibility Plan." In 2001, SF 514 became the most acrimonious legislative battle I have seen since I have worked in Iowa. The bill passed the Senate that year and the bitter battle continued in the House of Representatives until adjournment. The fight continued throughout the 2002 session.

As an alternative to the anticipated SF 514, ISAC proposed the Local Government Fiscal Reform Act and the creation of the Iowa Commission on State and Local Taxation. An ad hoc committee of auditors and supervisors created that proposal and brought it through the ISAC Taxation and Finance steering committee. A bi-partisan coalition of rank-and-file house members eventually latched onto the ISAC proposal as an alternative to SF 514. A stalemate ensued and nothing was passed. Every year since then property tax limitation bills were introduced and legislators told us each time that the bill would pass. Battles continued but no one won the war.

Last year, severe declines in agricultural land values, combined with significant cuts of state funds to local governments brought on a local government revenue crisis. These steep value drops also caused a significant shift in burden among classes of property and spelled trouble for the state in making up dollar shortfalls in the school funding formula. Failure of the "square foot" valuation experiment created in HF 692 was also inevitable. Everyone had a stake in property tax reform.

By: John Easter

ISAC Director of
Intergovernmental Affairs



Senator Iverson's Challenge

ISAC attended the meeting with Sen. Iverson at his request early in the 2004 legislative session. The ISAC staff, League staff and governing boards took his challenge seriously. On February 24, 2004, local government representatives proposed a joint response to Sen. Iverson that was in three parts.

Part one was a pledge by ISAC and the League to craft a reform plan that would address property assessments and valuations, city and county budgeting processes and taxation, and include an alternative property tax limitation. The reform plans would be in keeping with the implementation timelines already laid out for the state Property Tax Implementation Committee, and the final joint proposal would be submitted by December 1, 2004.

Part two requested a commitment by the state to fund the property tax credits and maintain the ability for local governments to prorate the credits if not fully funded. The state met this request. *Part three* requested that the Property Tax Implementation Committee abandon the square foot valuation system and broaden their charge to attempt to reach a consensus in determining *what* property taxes should pay for and *who* should pay them. That committee was recently recreated as a legislative interim committee. Only time will tell what their accomplishments will be.

This summer, ISAC and the League assembled 30 officials to work in three subgroups to construct the promised reform plans. These subgroups held an ambitious schedule of meetings which culminated in a two day session to pull all three reports together. Generally, the comprehensive package contains thoughtful reforms that collectively solve issues pertaining to property tax credits and exemptions, assessment procedures, the rollback, fund balances, budget timelines and yes, an inflationary index on revenues. The specific details will be available for all local officials to examine in the near future. The full package must now journey through the respective governing board and policy processes of the two associations.

What Is So Different This Time Around?

Whoever thought that counties and cities would create a property tax plan with a limitation in it? For years, limitation bills pushed in the Legislature were drafted without local official input. During that time, local officials explained that in order for any plan to work, they must be "at the table" as legislation is conceived and drafted. This time, local officials were invited to discuss the issue in concept and permitted time to draft a thoughtful plan. It is anyone's guess what will happen to the plan in the association policy processes, let alone the legislative process. But issuing the *challenge* and involving local input in the initial table discussions went a long way toward bringing about the package that is coming forward today.

When Can Counties Legally Compete With The Private Sector?

The Noncompetition Law

County officials usually have a vague sense that there is a statute that prevents counties from competing with private businesses. But beyond that, they are often times fuzzy on the exact requirements of the law.

On occasion county officials will call to ask about this law. They usually want the county to start some type of enterprise, such as a day care center, or they want to sell produce grown in county parks, and they wonder if it is legal. My answer has always been the same: this is a very toothless law, and as long as the county formally approves the enterprise, it is legal. Now there is a court case confirming this.

This issue arose recently in *Coralville Hotel Associates, L.C. v. City of Coralville* (03-2057). In that case, Coralville decided to construct a hotel and conference center as part of an urban renewal project along Interstate 80. Several local hotels sued, claiming that the project violated Iowa Code chapter 23A, in that it would put the city in direct competition with private enterprise.

Iowa Code §23A.2(1) provides that a state agency or political subdivision shall not, “unless specifically authorized by statute, rule, ordinance or regulation,” engage in the manufacturing, processing, sale, or distributing of goods or services to the public which are also offered by private enterprise.

In response, the city pointed out that Iowa Code §23A.2(1) permits a city or county to compete with private enterprise if an ordinance specifically authorizes it to do so. Since the city had passed such an ordinance, the district court granted the city’s motion for summary judgment.

On appeal, the Iowa Supreme Court affirmed. The Court said that the law “permits a municipality to compete with private enterprise if it enacts an ordinance specifically authorizing itself to do so.”

This was not a close case. This noncompetition law has always been a paper tiger. It says that cities and counties shall not compete with private businesses. But then in the next breath, it says that they really can do so if they pass an ordinance allowing such competition. I’ll leave for another day the whole issue of whether a city ought to be in the business of owning and operating a hotel.

Note: Speaking of the noncompetition law, here’s one thing I’ve always wondered about. The law says that without an authorizing ordinance, cities and counties cannot compete with private enterprise. Specifically, they cannot engage in the manufacturing, processing, sale, or distributing of goods or services to the public which are also offered by private enterprise. So how do city libraries legally lend videos to library card holders? Isn’t that directly competing with the local mom-and-pop video store? It doesn’t matter that the library isn’t charging for the videos. The law just says cities and counties cannot engage in the “deliv-

By: *David Vestal*

ISAC Deputy Director



ery, dispensing, (or) distributing” of goods which are also offered by private businesses.

Emergency Response Immunity

There was another Supreme Court decision recently which reaffirmed the counties’ emergency response immunity under Iowa Code §670.4(11).

In *Cubit v. Mahaska County* (02-1478), Mahaska County E911 dispatchers received a call reporting a domestic assault by Loyd Hanson. They notified local law enforcement. After that, Hanson called his girlfriend and told her he was going to crash his vehicle into the officers chasing him. The girlfriend called the dispatchers and relayed that message. But the dispatchers never passed that information on to the law enforcement officers. Brad Cubit was a state trooper who joined in the pursuit of Hanson. He heard from the dispatchers that Hanson was headed his direction. Cubit then proceeded to park his car by the side of the road, put down “stop sticks,” and wait by his car for Hanson. When Hanson got there, he deliberately drove his car into Cubit’s vehicle, which struck Cubit.

Cubit sued the county, claiming that the dispatchers were negligent in failing to report that Hanson intended to crash his vehicle into the law enforcement officers. The county raised Iowa Code §670.4(11) as a defense, claiming that the county was immune from liability. The statute provides that counties are immune from claims “based upon or arising out of an act or omission in connection with an emergency response including but not limited to acts or omissions in connection with emergency response communications services.”

Cubit claimed that the statute did not apply for three reasons: 1) the statute does not apply when it is an emergency responder who is injured; 2) the immunity does not apply to his claim since it arose out of a negligent supervision claim; and 3) he had a special legal relationship with the county that took his claim outside of the immunity.

The Court found in favor of the county, pointing out that the language of Iowa Code §670.4(11) immunity “sweeps broadly, encompassing all ‘claims based upon or arising out of an act or omission in connection with an emergency response.’”

This decision is important because the Iowa Supreme Court again refused the invitation to narrow the scope of the emergency response immunity.

Parting Ponderable:

Q: What’s the difference between a lawyer and a catfish?
A: One is a slimy, bottom dwelling, scum sucker. The other is a fish.

Q: What do you call a smiling, sober, courteous person at a lawyer convention?

A: The caterer.

Microsoft Publisher

A User Friendly Marketing Tool

Q: "What is Publisher and is it difficult to use?"

A: Publisher is a software program that Microsoft has included in the Office Professional Edition 2003 and in the Office Small Business Edition 2003. This program enables you to use Microsoft software to design publications for your office. Because it is created by Microsoft, the features that you use in Word and other Office programs are basically the same in Publisher. Like PowerPoint, it is a user friendly program that enables you to create professional looking documents such as brochures, business cards, calendars, letterhead and so on without needing to be a design expert. Publisher, like PowerPoint, enables you to create documents using the templates provided and just by typing in your text or copy and pasting from another document you can quickly create an eye-catching brochure or newsletter for your office. It has many different templates to choose from and as you become comfortable with the software, you can edit these templates or create your own.

Publisher is an economical tool to help you create marketing pieces to be used in your office or perhaps for public relation purposes. Without much effort you can create an informational brochure about your county office and what benefits and services you provide to the general public. If you do not have access to a color printer or copier, you can always opt to print them in black & white or just take it to your local vendor for color printing. Another great feature allows you to upload the documents onto your county website, so that the public can download and print them. You will find Publisher to be a relatively simple program, especially those who are proficient in Word and one that you can find many uses for.

Layout & Design

As an example, I will walk you through how to create a simple brochure. To begin the process you will need to open Publisher and from your toolbar select "File", "New" and a toolbar will appear on the left hand side of the screen. You will have the ability to select from "Publications for Print", "Websites and E-Mail", "Design Sets", "Blank Publications" and "Templates." For our purposes, we will select "Publications for Print." Once selected you again will have a variety of options to choose from, select "Brochures." Publisher takes the work out of design for those of us that are not experts, by having templates under the brochures option that are for "Informational", "Price List", "Event" and "Fundraiser." You also have two options involving "Special Paper Information" and "Price List." These are templates designed to be printed on paper that you are able to purchase from Paper Direct, a paper

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Technical
Administrative Assistant



company that specializes in preprinted decorative papers and cards. You are able to select from several different designs under each of the templates so it is up to you to decide which to choose. After double clicking on the design you have chosen, you will be able to select between a three or four panel layout, inclusion of a customer's address and a form. These features can be decided upon by determining the purpose of your brochure.

Inserting Text

Now that you have the layout and design of your brochure in place, the next step is inserting the text or the content of the brochure. Again, Publisher is kind to us novices by having an explanation of what should go into each text box. After reading this, you can select the text and delete. Now simply type in your own text or if you have information from other sources just do a copy and paste. Here is where Publisher is at its best for Microsoft users. If you have a Word document created and would like to take some of the content and place it in the brochure you are creating, you can do it with a quick copy and paste - no importing or exporting, simplicity at its finest. Once you have your text in place, it will default to the template's settings, but you can easily change font size, color, and type as you normally would with any Microsoft product.

Another point, text boxes can be moved and resized if you wish to modify the look of the brochure. Pictures/clip art that come with the template can easily be removed and replaced by your pictures/clipart. The brochure template can be used exactly as it is or modifications can be made, the choice will be up to you. Once you are finished with the brochure, just perform a final "Save" and the document is ready to be sent off to the printer or printed on your own. The benefit is that you will come away with a professional looking document that you can use internally or outsource for public information purposes without much time or effort.

Website Note: ISAC's Fall School online registration form is on the ISAC website. The deadline to register is November 10th. We are offering exciting seminars on the first day of the conference. If you plan on attending the GIS seminars, you will need to sign up quickly because space is limited. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at tnorman@iowacounties.org or by calling 515-244-7181. Until next month, keep clicking!

IAPSRs Conference

On May 16, I was fortunate enough to fly to San Diego, California to attend the 29th annual International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services (IAPRS) conference titled *“The Value of Psychiatric Rehabilitation: Resourceful Partnerships in Our Communities.”* The conference was great and so was the chance for an Iowa girl to go to sunny San Diego after a long winter of shoveling snow! The conference itself was held at the Town and Country Resort, which was a small city in itself.

The IAPRS conference is widely known for bringing together not just professionals in the field, but also administrators, consumers, family members, researchers and advocates. There were more than 150 workshops or institutes to choose from, which made scheduling the week rather difficult. I set out early Monday morning to plan my schedule, only to find out the first all day session I had pre-registered for had been cancelled. This was disappointing but I didn't have any trouble finding another workshop to attend, with 149 others to choose from.

The most thought provoking workshop I attended was entitled *“Intentional Care: Professional Boundaries that Support Recovery and Empowerment.”* This workshop was presented by staff from various agencies, including Advocates, Inc., Framingham, MA; San Diego Mental Health, San Diego, CA; and Creative Opportunities, Vista, CA. Some of the presenters were also peer employees, meaning they suffered from a severe mental illness and were in recovery and employed by these various agencies. The Intentional Care Approach is the result of a 10 year collaboration between Advocates, Inc. and Patricia Deegan, PhD. The collaboration resulted in the development of performance based guidelines that help to bridge the gap between the principles of recovery and empowerment, and the real world application of these principles in the every day work of direct service staff and their supervisors. The Intentional Care Approach offers practical tools to help staff establish professional boundaries that support recovery.

Going into the workshop, I felt that I had a strong handle on professional boundaries in the workplace and was comfortable with this knowledge. My understanding of professional boundaries was the result of several years of case management practice and required ethics trainings. This workshop gave me a whole new insight into boundaries and the role they play in recovery for an individual with a serious mental illness. Because of my knowledge of the practice of targeted case management in Iowa, which is a brokerage type system with no direct services being provided by the case manager, this was a 180-degree switch in thinking for me. The Intentional Care Approach is utilized by direct service workers, with the premise being you must first understand what the client needs from staff/peers at any different stage of recovery, and the personal boundaries/approaches of the staff in service delivery.

The presenters provided various scenarios of a client/staff interaction, role playing of these various scenarios with different

By: *Deb Eckerman*

ISAC Case Management
Specialist



approaches varying from the “usual” professional boundary position to the Intentional Care Approach. Some of the scenarios included a client asking you to his/her apartment for dinner, what do you do? Or a client asks for a hug, how do you respond? Within my framework, my initial thought was, absolutely no to both of these situations. The Intentional Care Approach focuses on the client needs and what they are comfortable with, along with the comfort level of the staff person involved. This approach believes that the client and the people they are working with in recovery are more of a peer working team instead of a professional delivering service under the strict professional guidelines of boundaries and ethics. The Intentional Care Approach does take into account the client history and clinical information when deciding the appropriate response to these situations. This knowledge, coupled with the client need and the staff comfort level, assists in steering the response of the staff person.

This approach is not completely unheard of in Iowa with programs such as the PACT model, Supported Community Living, Intensive Psychosocial Rehabilitation, or Capitation projects. Although there are some very clear right and wrong situations regarding ethics and boundaries in the human service delivery field, ethics and boundaries are not always totally black and white. This workshop clearly identified many of these difficult situations and provided thought provoking discussion interjected with current research in recovery processes.

Another outstanding session I attended was a plenary session with the keynote topic of *“Recovery-A Paradigm Shift or Just Another Adaptation?”* Amy K. Long was the presenter and has worked as a psychiatric nurse for 17 years in both community mental health settings and on inpatient units. She currently is an educator/trainer for the National Empowerment Center in San Francisco and is a seasoned speaker at both national and international conferences. This was an excellent session by an enthusiastic presenter that gave every audience member a challenge in their thinking of mental illness and service delivery. Amy herself is a person in recovery, having received four or five different diagnosis while in the mental health system. She refused to be defined by the “labels” placed on her and fought to regain her voice and take charge of her own recovery. She addressed where the mental health system has been and where it is going, and questions whether recovery in its current form is just another billable word. She challenged the audience, professionals, administrators, and persons with psychiatric illnesses alike to look to the future and take control of the recovery process. To no longer accept “containment” by the system, but to use their collective voices to define and construct true quality of life as defined by the individual not the system.

ISAC Fall School 2004

By: *Jerri Noboa*

ISAC Meetings Administrator



New Construction Information

In the July magazine I gave you instructions on how to find the parking ramps in downtown Des Moines. That information now has to be updated. The 6th Avenue & 7th Street bridges have been demolished and the new bridges will not be built by November. There will be changes in directions when you travel to downtown Des Moines (see the July magazine). When traveling to the Marriott from I-235, take the 7th Street exit from the west and 3rd Street exit from the east. Leaving you will need to use 7th Street (now a two-way street), not 6th Street; and follow the signs to I-235 for east or west entrances.

Additional Parking Information

If you come in on Sunday and are parking in the city parking lots, 7th & Grand, 9th & Locust, 4th & Grand, 10th & Walnut or 7th & Center, you will not be given a parking ticket. Someone from the parking garage will put a parking ticket on your windshield Monday morning. When you leave you will use that ticket to get out and will only be charged for Monday and Tuesday.

Keynote Speaker Confirmed

Whether she is presenting a motivational speech or headlining a comedy show, Juli Burney brings a smile to your heart. She is employed by Employee and Family Resources (EFR). Juli is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor with a background in business, as well as a M.S. Degree in Educational Psychology from Northern Illinois University. Her keynote address is entitled "Individuals Count!" She will discuss the importance of being able to laugh at ourselves in order to combat fatigue, alleviate burnout, and establish good working relationships.

Directory Of Past Magazine Articles

I began writing articles in January related to ISAC's Fall School. Here are the topics that were discussed in each of the magazine issues: why we moved (January); how to make sleeping accommodations (February); explanation of hotel reservation and billing process (March); which hotel your affiliate will be meeting in (April); skywalk and parking ramps location (May); mileage and parking expense question (June), and how to get in and out of Des Moines (July). These articles can be accessed by visiting ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) then clicking on 'Upcoming Events', 'ISAC's Fall School', 'Fall School Updates From ISAC.'

Iowa Recipient For Wetland/Watershed Grant

Johnson County was recently announced as a recipient of the 2004 Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program from the National Association of Counties (NACo). This year, as a part of the Five Star Partnership, NACo will award \$92,800 in grants that will fund projects in 9 counties across the country to help them implement locally-driven wetland and watershed restoration projects. Awards are between \$5,000 and \$20,000; the average grant is \$10,000.

Five Star Restoration projects involve a high degree of cooperation with local government agencies, elected officials, community groups, businesses, schools, and environmental organizations all working together to improve local water quality and restore important fish and wildlife habitats.

"I'd like to offer my congratulations to the 2004 NACo Five Star grantees," said Angelo D. Kyle, NACo President and Lake County, Ill. Board Member. "Year after year, counties across the nation continue to demonstrate their commitment to restoring America's wetlands through their participation in the Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program. I have seen firsthand how community-based wetland restoration and education programs can foster the type of environmental stewardship that is vital to the future of this country."

The Five Star funds act as seed money that leverage a larger amount of funds and services already in place and coordinated by the grantee. On average, for each dollar of Five Star-sponsored funds, five additional dollars in matching contributions will be provided by local restoration partners in the form of funding, labor, materials, equipment, or in-kind services.

Since 1997, NACo has reached out and helped fund projects in more than 85 counties across the country, providing a total of over a half a million dollars for community-based environmental restoration and education. To date, over 300 projects have been funded through the Five Star Program.

The 2004 NACo awarded Five Star grantees are: Johnson County (Iowa) Soil and Water Conservation District, Clearwater County (Idaho), Whatcom County (Wash.), Southern Nye County (Nev.) Conservation District, Ramsey County (Minn.) Parks and Recreation Department, DeKalb County (Ga.), Alachua County (Fla.) Board of Commissioners, The Wind River Alliance (Fremont County, Wyo.), and Thurston County (Wash.) Conservation District.

For further information visit www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/ or contact Jason Shedlock with NACo at jshedloc@naco.org or (202)942-4252.

associate member highlights



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Some of our exciting products include Facilities Archive, Touchscreen Kiosks and an online ACH payment system which is scheduled for release later in 2004. Facilities Archive is an Internet based document management system that allows facility managers to easily and securely store, organize and retrieve any and all digital files related to their facility. This includes blueprints, CAD files, pictures and other documents.

Touchscreen Kiosks are the perfect way to enable visitors or residents of a facility to get the information they need about your organization and or the facility itself. They can include features such as an interactive facility directory, event calendars, news tickers and even a real time feed from existing databases.

The online ACH payment system is being developed to allow medium to small businesses and nonprofit groups to accept payments from their customer's checking accounts online. Working with Wells Fargo, the ACH payment system will make paying bills, fines or donations fast, easy and secure for both the business or organization and the customer. Example uses include churches accepting tithing and municipalities accepting parking ticket payments online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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in memory

The former Monona County Recorder, Harriett Gray, passed away July 14. Harriett served as recorder from 1976 to 1994. Harriett first ran for office of Monona County Recorder to fill an unexpired term. She campaigned and won a three-way primary contest, and then a hotly contested general election. Thereafter, she was re-elected to four consecutive four year terms between 1978 and 1990. She was responsible for reorganizing and modernizing the Recorder's office, supporting the success of local drainage districts and participating in ISAC and Iowa County Recorders Association events. Following retirement, Harriett was an active member of the Loess Hills Historical Society. She was a life long Democrat, active in county, regional, state and national politics. Funeral services were held July 19 in Onawa, Iowa.



Governor Rescinds Part of Across the Board Cut

Governor Vilsack recently rescinded 10% of the 2.5% across-the-board cut he ordered last year. As a result, local governments will receive nearly \$800,000 in reimbursements for property tax credits and replacements that were cut as part of the Governor's order last October. The FY 2004 appropriations for the homestead and agricultural land credits, as well as the machinery and equipment replacement, will each have 10% of the cut, or 0.25% of their initial appropriations, restored. In addition, the low-income credit will be almost completely restored to its original appropriation. County treasurers were directed by the Iowa Department of Revenue to apportion these funds to the various taxing entities based on FY 2005 levy rates.

Two Iowa Treasurers Receive National Award

In an unprecedented move the "Outstanding County Treasurer in the United States" Victor E. Martinelli award went to not one, but two very dedicated and deserving members of the Iowa State County Treasurer's Association - Judy Miller, Pottawattamie County Treasurer, Past President of NACTFO; and Kim Reynolds, Clarke County Treasurer, Chair of the NACTFO Education and Certification Committee.

The "Victor E. Martinelli Outstanding Treasurer's Award" is presented annually by the National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers (NACTFO), an affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo), to a person who has been an active member of NACTFO for at least two years and who serves as a leader in their home state and as a professional of the highest caliber in the operation of their own county office.

A distinguished panel of judges, who are not affiliated with NACTFO nor known to the organization, selects the winner based on the nominee's local office development, improvements in cash management and other related programs, NACTFO activities and involvement, and civic, community, and family involvements and activities. The award is presented at the NACTFO Installation Banquet at the annual NACo Conference held annually in July. This year the conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona. Local peers and/or associates of the nominee generally make nominations for the award. Recipients of the award are not known or announced prior to the Installation Banquet. Congratulations Kim and Judy and thank you for representing Iowa Local Government at the national level with both honor and pride.

Training Events For County Officials

The Performance Institute will be offering two training events for state and local government officials across the nation. The two events will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Downtown Chicago.

The 2004 City & County Performance-Based Contracting Forum is scheduled for September 20-21, 2004. This forum is for municipal procurement offices. The focus of this forum is on examining best-in-class performance-based contracts from state and local governments. By attending this forum, participants will see how other agencies are using innovative approaches, such as the *Seven Step Process* to aide in tracking and reporting the performance of different contracts. This event will feature key note speakers, Professor Lawrence L. Martin University of Central Florida and Geoffrey Segal Director of Government Reform, Reason Public Policy Institute.

The 2004 City & County Technology Summit is scheduled for September 22-24, 2004. This summit is geared for city and county IT departments. The focus of this forum is on reducing IT expenditures through activity-based costing and management, stimulating economic development through effective and targeted e-Gov, improving performance by utilizing the Government Performance Logic Model, enhancing citizen services through strategic partnerships and one-stop service delivery. The event will also feature key note speakers, Michael Moore, CIO, County of San Diego, Reynaldo Arellano, Deputy City Manager, City of San Diego, and Carl DeMaio, President and founder, The Performance Institute.

Visit ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Upcoming Events' for detailed agendas, hotel information and registration information. As a member of the Iowa State Association of Counties you are eligible for a 15% discount on tuition. To receive this discount please contact Jason Inskeep at 703-894-0481 ext 219 or send an email to Inskeep@performanceweb.org.

Register on-line for ISAC's Fall School of Instruction November 14-16, 2004

Visit www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events' for information regarding:

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- agendas
- entertainment
- lodging
- parking

Pilot Program Launches For Public Health Administrators

Many skills can be learned in school and on the job, but sometimes the most valuable lessons are gleaned from professional peers who have years of experience in the field. This spring, a group of 15 new Iowa public health administrators had the opportunity to gain insight from their more experienced colleagues.

The new administrators took part in a pilot program designed by the Institute for Public Health Practice (IPHP), based at the University of Iowa College of Public Health, and the Iowa Association of Local Public Health Agencies (I-ALPHA), a statewide public health practice-based, non-profit organization.

The participants of the Pilot Program pose for a group picture during the two day Institute meeting in Urbandale.



The participants of the Pilot Program pose for a group picture during the two day Institute meeting in Urbandale.

“This project came about because of the perceived need to train new local public health administrators across Iowa,” said Jörg Westermann, director of continuing education with the Institute for Public Health Practice. “These new administrators come from a variety of backgrounds and don’t necessarily have training in the issues that a director of a public health agency encounters on a daily basis. Since most of the local agencies do not have the capability to provide an in-depth orientation, I-ALPHA and IPHP collaborated to develop an online training course for new public health administrators.”

I-ALPHA benefits from this project by demonstrating that it is taking a leadership and collaborative role to improve the public health workforce in Iowa. It is providing a service to local public health agencies that they themselves are unable to provide, i.e. subject matter that administrators need to conduct day-to-day operations.

At the beginning of the project, a number of tasks were immediately identified. The first task was to determine what practice-based content would be most useful to new public health administrators. Over 30 topics were identified content priorities. In order to make sure that the course fit the needs of new public health administrators, it was offered as a pilot program. The first phase of the course (delivered via the Iowa Communications Network) was taught in six two-hour block sessions every two weeks. The second phase was a two-day on-site session with 12 hours of presentation at the “Learning Institute.” There was a total of approximately 25 hours of instruction. Over 30 guest lecturers

By: Institute for Public Health Practice Staff Jörg Westermann and Christopher G. Atchison
Iowa Association of Local Public Health Agencies Staff Frances Sadden and L. Graham Dameron



with experience in the topic areas were contacted and asked to make a presentation either at the ICN sessions or at the two-day learning institute. All of the presenters were practitioners who could relate to the topic and had hands-on experience in public health.

The pilot program began in February 2004 and ended in May 2004. Evaluations of the pilot program were very positive. The pilot program won a 2004 Linkages Award from the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice. The award recognizes exemplary community-based collaborative activities between public health practice agencies and academic institutions of higher learning.

In order to make this course available to a wider audience the intention is to make the course available online in the fall and to integrate the course in the Learning Management System (LMS) at www.prepareiowa.com. The LMS allows individuals to assess their public health competencies and monitor their progress along those competencies.

The pilot project was funded in part by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through a cooperative agreement with the Association of Schools of Public Health. As part of its project activities, IPHP has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with I-ALPHA. In order to carry out this collaborative pilot project, I-ALPHA contracted with a public health consultant to accomplish the activities identified in the MOU, including public health workforce development.



Jörg Westermann, Institute for Public Health Practice; L. Graham Dameron, Public Health Consultant; and Fran Sadden, Iowa Association of Local Public Health Agencies; receive the Council on Linkages Award, Second Place during the July 15th annual National Association of County and City Health Officials meeting.

As Importance Grows, Public Health Nurses Vanish

By: Nancy Dykstra RN, MA, APRN, Executive
Director of Community Health Partners of Sioux Co.

What is happening to the number of registered nurses employed in public/community health settings? Did you realize that the percentage of Registered Nurses with the “public Health Nurse” title has decreased from 39% in 1980 to 17.6 % in 2000 according to the 2000 National Sample Survey of RNs. This comes at a time when a new smallpox vaccination program is being initiated and bioterrorism and emergency preparedness is an important issue for the population.

The public health nurse’s role is vital in protecting and promoting the health of individuals, families, and communities. Public health nurses are the primary providers of well child care, including immunizations and preventative health for pregnant women and people at risk. Linking clients with resources in the community and health care providers in a timely fashion helps prevent more serious health problems.

Need Federal Funding

You may be aware of recent federal funding for public health infrastructure and bioemergency preparedness. The 2003 Institute of Medicine’s report found this increased support to still be insufficient. The local public health agencies have many requirements to fulfill in educating, planning, and preparing the community for emergencies. Without federal funds to attract and retain more public health nurses, there is increasing difficulty in gaining sufficient staff for the public health workforce. Local and state dollars are rapidly decreasing at a time when the demand for public health workforce is rapidly escalating. The adage “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” was never more true for our state and nation than the present.

The essential functions of prevention, education, and health promotion for our communities by the public health workforce urgently need federal funding for public health compensation. In addition, the public health infrastructure needs enhancement of its information system so all parts of the state can communicate effectively for disease surveillance and emergency preparedness. Nurses must work together to get funding to strengthen public health infrastructure to enhance prevention efforts in Iowa and the nation. The health of our residents depends on it!

Iowa Community Entrepreneurship Academy

The Community Vitality Center is hosting its first Iowa Community Entrepreneurship Academy on Wednesday, October 20th in Fairfield, Iowa. This academy is open to county officials, city/community leaders, chambers, economic development groups, bankers, entrepreneurs and others interested in what can be done to support and grow entrepreneurial ventures across the state.

“Iowa depends heavily on small businesses,” says Mark Edelman, Director of the Community Vitality Center in Ames, “yet we rank 49th in new business start-ups. This academy is designed as a first step to improve our performance in creating new start-ups.”

According to the Small Business Association 2003 State Profile, 97.5% of all businesses in Iowa are small businesses. They provide an important lifeline for Iowa’s economy, particularly rural communities who do not have the large job markets available to them. Entrepreneurship is an opportunity to create jobs and economic growth in all areas of the state, especially rural areas.

Edelman said, “This Academy is about making things happen by providing the tools, an introduction to resources and information for communities to create an atmosphere of proactive support to grow their own businesses.”

Registration is \$35 if received by October 12th and \$50 thereafter through October 20th. Registrations should be sent to Becky Johnson, blj@iastate.edu, CVC, 478 Heady Hall, Ames, 50011-3091 or by calling 515-294-3000. Registrations and the complete agenda are available online at www.cvcia.org including a list of hotel accommodations.

Apply For Prestigious Innovations Award

Harvard University invites you to apply for an Innovations in American Government Award. Administered by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government, the Innovations Award is heralded as the premier public-sector award in the nation. It is given annually to programs that serve as examples of creative and effective government at its best.

All units of government—federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial—are eligible to apply. Each of the five winners of the 2005 Innovations Award will receive a \$100,000 grant to support replication and dissemination activities. Applications and additional information are available on our website: www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu. Applications are due September 15, 2004.

readership survey

Tell Us What You Think!

Please take part in this survey to determine what the ISAC staff can do to improve this publication. We want this magazine to be useful and an important piece of mail that you look forward to getting each month. Visit our website under "Publications" for additional copies of this survey. **Thank you for taking this time to tell us your opinion and suggestions for future issues!**

1. The general appearance of The Iowa County is:

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Average
- Below Average
- Poor

2. Each month I read:

- All of the articles
- Most of the articles
- About half of the articles
- A few of the articles

3. Articles in The Iowa County are:

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Average
- Below Average
- Poor

4. Rank the articles in order of interest to you:

- Feature story
- Around the Statehouse
- Legal Briefs
- Health Check
- Technology Center
- Case Management
- NACo News
- Calendar of Events

5. Rank the feature stories in order of interest to you:

- Who is PSG? - July
- Sentencing Reform in Iowa - August
- How Legislators Voted - September
- Streamlined Sales Tax Project - October
- Changes in Utility Tax Program - November
- Interview with Rep. Rants - December
- Interview with Sen. Iverson - January
- ISAC Innovation Winners - February
- SEAT Training - March
- Public Funds Collateralization Law - April
- Local Government Innovation Winners - May
- Reinvention: One Year Later - June

6. Your county patronizes *The Iowa County* advertisers:

- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Seldom
- Never

7. Each month I look at:

- All of the ads in the magazine
- Most of the ads in the magazine
- A few of the ads in the magazine
- None of the ads in the magazine

8. The overall letter grade I would give *The Iowa County* is:

- A (Excellent)
- B (Very good)
- C (Average)
- D (Below Average)
- F (Poor)

Areas that need improvement are:

Suggested topics for feature stories are:

Other comments:

When completed, fax the survey to 515-244-6397 or mail to 501 SW 7th St., Ste. Q, Des Moines, IA 50309. Thanks again for taking the time to help the ISAC staff. We depend on your input!

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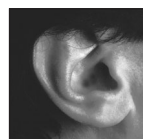
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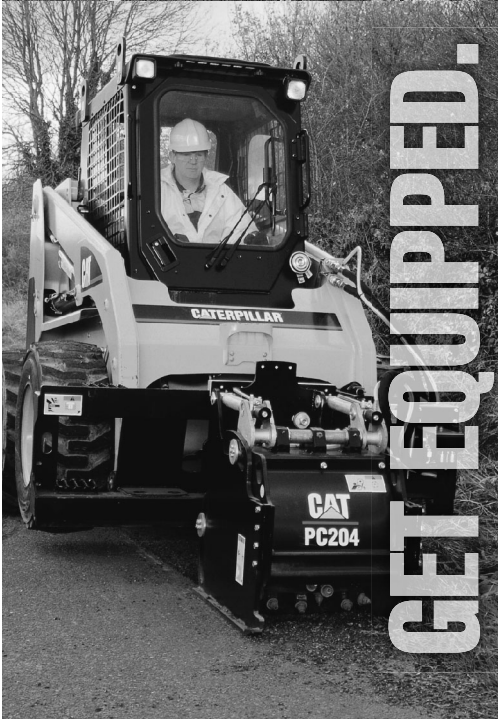
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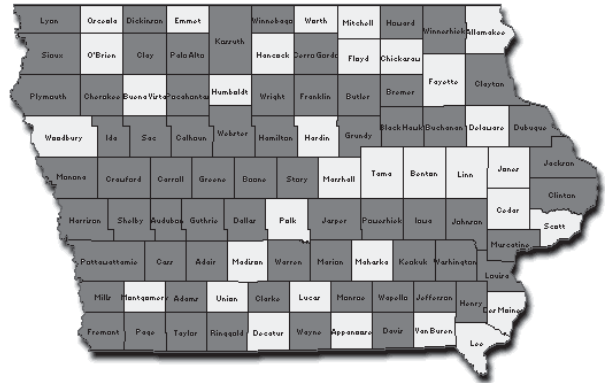
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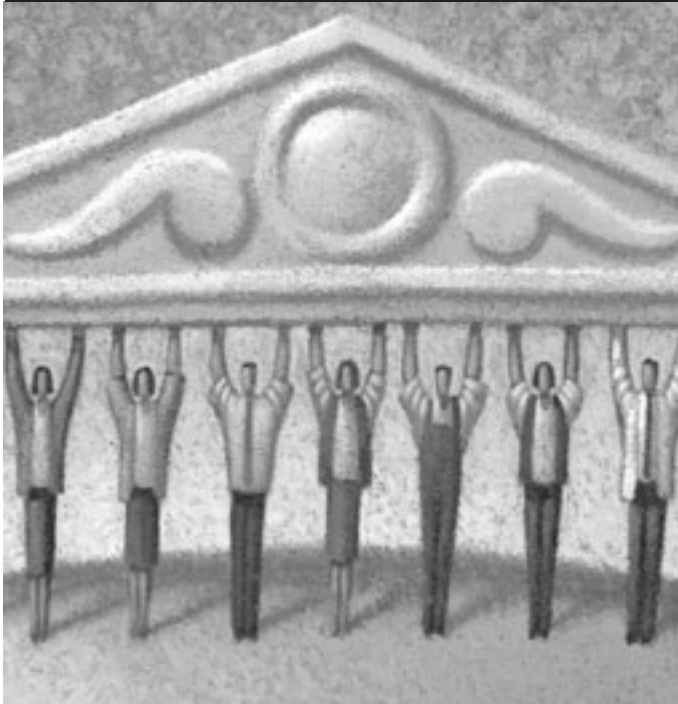
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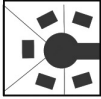
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Quote of the Month:

On a tombstone:
"I TOLD YOU I WAS SICK."

- *Anonymous*

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SEPTEMBER

- 1 ISAC Steering Committees
(Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 2 CCMS Central Supervisors Work Group
(ISAC Office)
- 14 Recorders Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 15 CCMS East Support Group
(Wildcat Den State Park, Muscatine)
- 16 CCMS North Central Support Group
(Clear Lake State Park, Clear Lake)
- 16-19 Conservation Directors Annual Conference
(LeMars)
- 19-22 Sheriffs & Deputies Jails School
(Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 22-24 CCMS Fundamentals
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 23 IEHA Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 23-24 ISAC Board of Directors
(Sheraton Hotel, Iowa City)
- 23-24 CPC Statewide Meeting
(Hotel Winneshiek, Decorah)
- 29 ISAC Steering Committees
(Stoney Creek Inn, Des Moines/Johnston)
- 30 Public Records (ICN)

OCTOBER

- 3-6 Assessors Fall School (West Des Moines)
- 12 Recorders Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 12 CCMS Administrators
(Baymont Conference Center, Des Moines)
- 20 CRIS Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 21-22 CCMS Strengths Based Training
(Baymont Conference Center, Des Moines)
- 28-29 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

NOVEMBER

- 4 CCMS Advanced Case Manager
(Baymont Conference Center, Des Moines)
- 9 Recorders Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 9-12 County Attorneys Fall Conference
(Cedar Rapids)
- 14-16 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (Downtown
Marriott/Renaissance Savery, Des Moines)
- 15 CCMS Board of Directors
(Downtown Marriott, Des Moines)

DECEMBER

- 1 District 4 Winter Meeting (location TBA)
- 2 District 2 Winter Meeting
(Elks Lodge, Charles City)
- 7-9 Engineers Annual Conference
(Scheman Center, Ames)
- 12-15 Sheriffs & Deputies Winter School
(Downtown Marriott, Des Moines)
- 14 Recorders Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 16 IEHA Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 17 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! If you have any questions about the meetings listed above, please contact Jerri at (515) 244-7181 or by email at jnoba@iowacounties.org.



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