

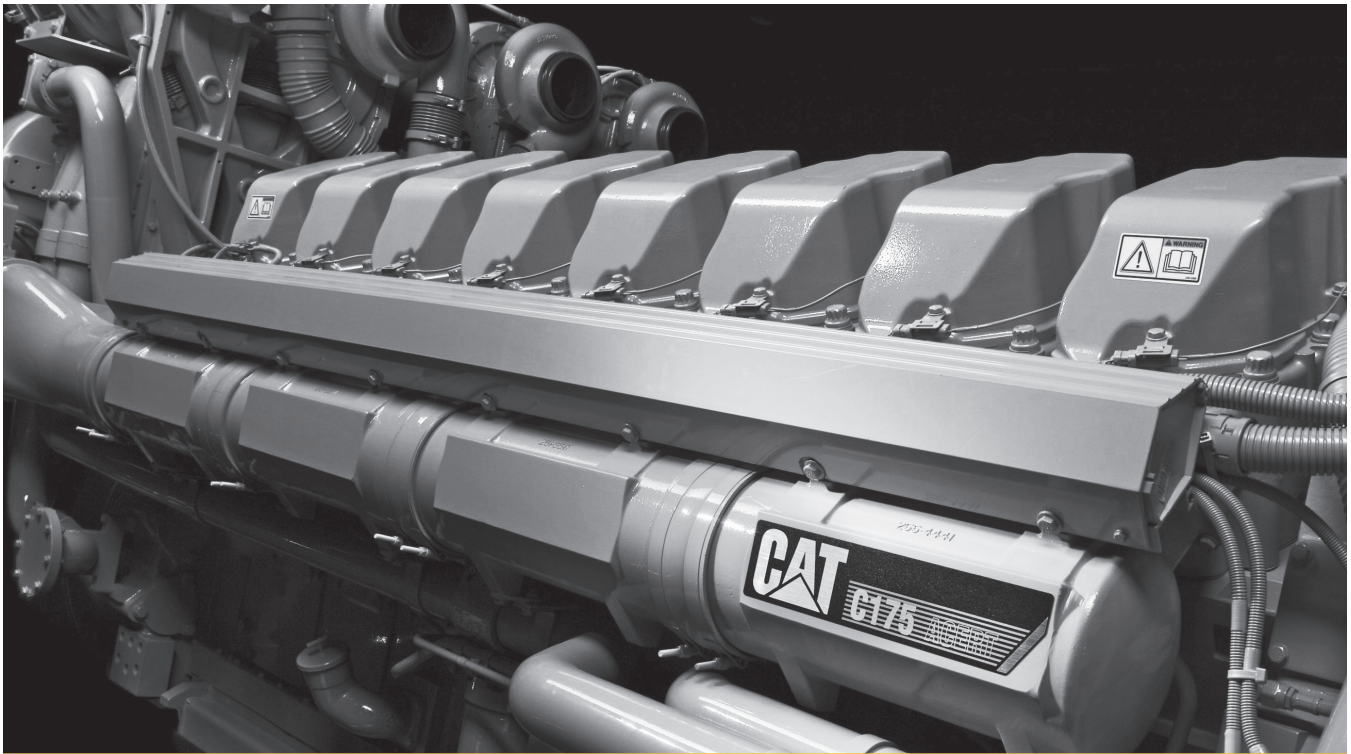
The Iowa County



July 2017



Clinton County Law Center
Parks to People



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The Iowa County

July 2017 * Volume 46, Number 7

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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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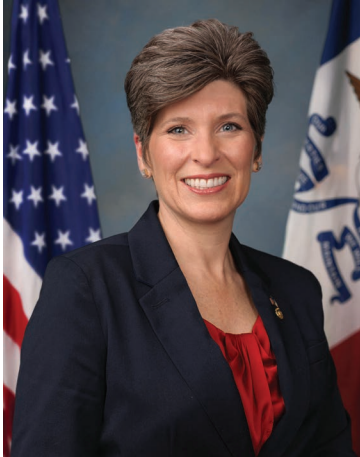
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**** The views and opinions expressed in articles authored by anyone other than ISAC staff are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of ISAC.**

ISAC Annual Conference



ISAC GENERAL SESSIONS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

We're waiting on more exciting confirmations, and we'll keep you updated as they come in!

Welcome General Session 10:00 am - 11:30 am

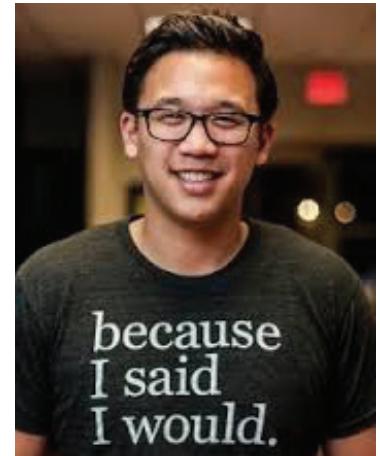
What does it take to be a U.S. Senator? You won't want to miss this insightful and interesting discussion. Senator Joni Ernst has confirmed her attendance!

The 2017 ISAC Excellence in Action Award winner will be announced during this session as well.

Closing General Session 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Alex Sheen is the Founder of because I said I would, the international social movement and nonprofit dedicated to the betterment of humanity through promises made and kept. Sparked by the loss of his father, Alex began sending promise cards to anyone who requested them at no cost. Since his father's passing on September 4, 2012, because I said I would has sent over 6.64 million promise cards to over 150 countries. Alex's commitment to the betterment of humanity has inspired millions around the world. The story of his promises have been shared virally throughout social media and international news.

The 2017 ISAC Golden Eagle will be honored during this session as well.



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION SUCCESSES AND WOES

Registration opened on June 14 with record numbers of registrations and hotel rooms - like us, you are excited for the Annual Conference! Because of those record numbers and bugs within the system, we did experience some lag within the first 10 minutes of registration. However, the system did not crash and a lot of improvements were seen in the user experience due to upgrades to the system that were made due to past issues.

We did discover two minor bugs within the system that translated into a lot of confusion on registration day. We apologize for the troubles with the sessions and invoices. These fixes have been made to the system, and it is up and running smoothly again. We are working on making phone calls to all registered members to correct all invoices and to clear up any confusion.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as issues are experienced. We continue to work hard to correct issues, and we are looking forward to an amazing conference!

ISAC Annual Conference

WELLMARK CHARITY WELLNESS WALK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

6:45 AM - 7:30 AM

WELLMARK YMCA

The Wellmark Charity Wellness Walk is the 2017 ISAC Annual Conference Community Service Project. All money raised at the event and donations accepted throughout the conference will be donated to the Iowa Heart Foundation.

Pre-registration is requested for this event in the amount of \$20. Registration will include a t-shirt, a snack and bottle of water, and free entry into the YMCA for the morning walk. Walkers will set their own pace and desired distance.

All pre-registrants can pick up their shirt on Wednesday at the Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Exhibit Booth – booth 5.

Thank you to event sponsor Wellmark! Also, a special thanks to the YMCA for allowing us the use of their air conditioned space.

**Transportation will not be provided for this event; however, all ISAC hotels provide free shuttle service. The Wellmark YMCA (501 Grand Avenue, Des Moines) is also connected to the skywalk. A skywalk map is available on the website and will also be available on the conference app.

2017 ISAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE



ISAC
Iowa State Association of Counties

Wellmark
Iowa
Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

EXHIBIT HALL

New Layout

Upgraded Food

Great Networking

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**ISAC REGISTRATION
AND INFORMATION**

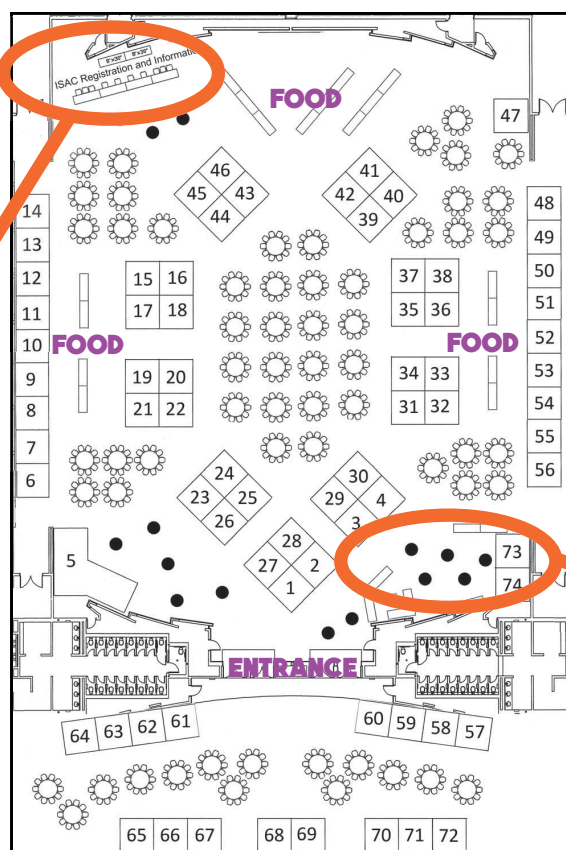


EXHIBIT HALL EVENTS

Thursday, August 24

7:30 am - 12:30 pm

Registration and hall open

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Morning Refreshments

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Exhibitor Lunch

EXHIBIT HALL EVENTS

Wednesday, August 23

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Registration and hall open

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Morning Refreshments

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Exhibitor Lunch

COFFEE LOUNGE HOURS:

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

7:30 AM - 12:30 PM

*Coffee will be available on the meeting room level after this time and on Friday.

ISAC Annual Conference

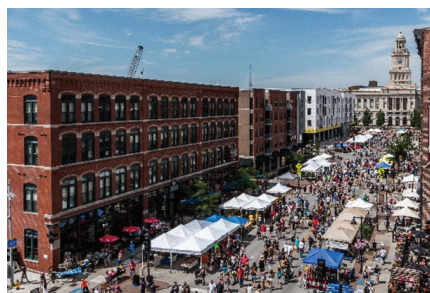
Catch Des Moines. A city full of excitement and ease.

Experience **Greater Des Moines Restaurant Week** August 18-27. Pick from more than 40 restaurants and enjoy two lunches or one three-course dinner for just \$28! Options include everything from James Beard nominated restaurants to As Seen on TV destinations.



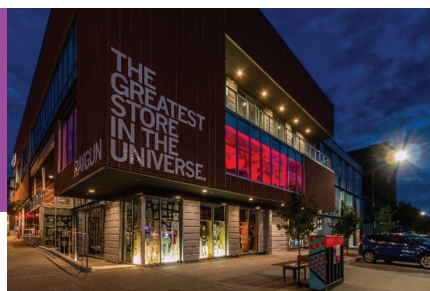
Tour the award-winning **Des Moines Art Center**. Recognized by international art critics as a world-class museum in the heart of the Midwest, the Art Center has amassed a collection representing artists of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Spend Saturday morning at the **Downtown Farmers' Market**. Rated one of the country's top Farmers' Markets by *The Daily Meal*. Enjoy produce, baked goods or a breakfast burrito. Explore handmade products and crafts from producers across the state of Iowa.



Connect with nature at the **Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden**. Browse 15,000 exotic plants in the interactive display greenhouse. Enjoy lunch inside at **Trellis Café**. See why the botanical garden is among the best examples of American Victorian Second Empire architecture.

Shop **Historic Valley Junction**. More than 120 retail businesses line the renovated railroad district. Catch antique shops and specialty stores. Fashion boutiques and a shop that is perfect for your sweet tooth. Then head back downtown to experience the **Historic East Village**. A neighborhood with eclectic flair. A hub of restaurants, activity and trendy shops.



Find your way through the 28-piece **John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park**. Enjoy 4.4 acres of world-renowned art in the heart of Downtown Des Moines. Snap pictures by your favorite pieces from John and Mary Pappajohn's personal collection, valued at more than \$42 million.

Learn the history of the **Salisbury House**. A 42-room mansion built in the 1920s. Explore original art, rare books and antique furnishings from around the world. Then stop by **Hoyt Sherman Place**. Built in 1877, the facility is Des Moines' first public art gallery which serves as a home for a distinctive collection of 19th and 20th century artwork.



Test your luck at **Prairie Meadows Casino Racetrack and Hotel**. Place your bets on thoroughbred and quarter horse racing or on one of 1,900 slot machines or table games. Spend the day and grab a bite to eat at **AJ's Steakhouse**.

Greater Des Moines is arts and culture. Adventure and entertainment. There are thousands of ways to experience Des Moines. Catch it all at catchdesmoines.com/ things-to-do.

Miscellaneous

New Marketing Services Provider for IPAIT Selected

In partnership with the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC), the Board of Directors of the Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust (IPAIT) is pleased to announce it has selected PMA Securities Inc. as the Fund's marketing services provider and the Fixed Term Automated (FTA) program provider (along with PMA Financial Network, Inc., an affiliate of PMA Securities, Inc., PMA), effective July 1, 2017.

PMA Securities, Inc., PMA Financial Network, Inc. and Prudent Man Advisors, Inc. (collectively "the PMA companies") offer investment management, fixed income investment products and services, public finance/financial advisory services and financial planning, as well as comprehensive services for local government investment pool ("LGIP") clients which include portfolio management, fund administration and marketing. The PMA companies have been leaders in providing financial services to public entities since 1984 and currently serve over 2,400 local governments in 11 states. PMA has had significant experience in all aspects of LGIP management and operations, including working for a total of ten LGIPs similar to IPAIT in varying capacities. The company has built a reputation as a reliable, professional financial organization offering unique products and services to its public-sector clients.

PMA brings to IPAIT a team of experienced staff dedicated specifically to serving the FTA and marketing functions of the Fund. Along with being a registered broker dealer capable of offering a full suite of Iowa State Statute-compliant investment vehicles such as U.S. Treasury and Government Agency securities, PMA also brings its over 30+ years of financial institution relationship development experience. PMA has been working in tandem with other public entities in the state of Iowa for the last half-decade in cultivating relationships and programs with local banks and other financial institutions to bring the most competitive and innovative investment vehicles to its clients. Through its credit division, PMA augments the FTA program by providing a proprietary credit screening model that monitors each financial institution participating in the program, ensuring that the tenets of safety, liquidity, and yield are maintained. PMA is excited for the opportunity to bring its unique set of relationships, expertise, experience and ingenuity to ISAC through its new partnership with IPAIT.

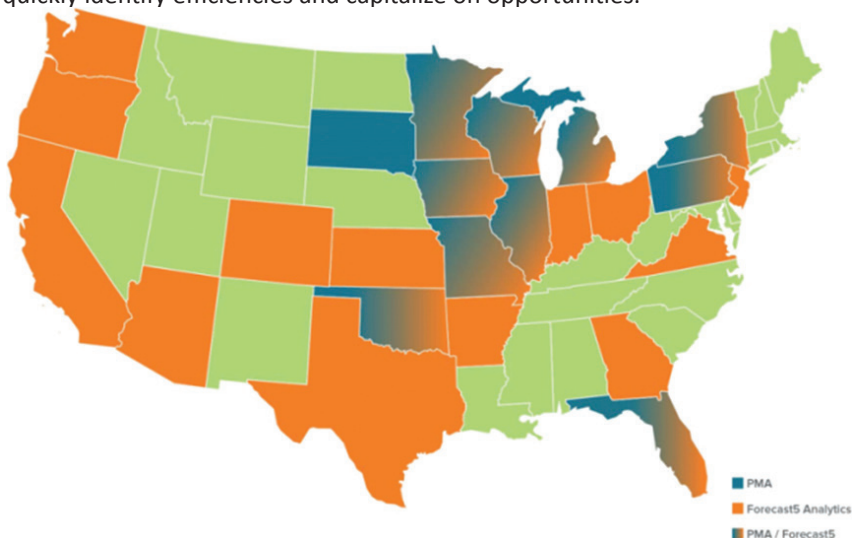


While a team of experienced PMA professionals will service the Fund, [Paul Kruse](#), PMA Senior Vice President and Director - Iowa, will be the primary marketer and contact for Participants, including for fixed term investments. Paul will serve as the liaison between IPAIT and the Fund's Participants. Some of you may be familiar with Paul, as he's attended many conferences as the PMA representative and previously marketed the IPAIT program from 1992 to 2003.

In addition, PMA's affiliated company [Forecast5 Analytics, Inc.](#) ("Forecast5") provides strategic software solutions to public clients to address budgetary and financial planning needs. The focus of both the PMA and Forecast5 companies is to serve public entities. Forecast5 is transforming the way local governments use data to synchronize financial resources and strategic plans. Schools, cities and counties benefit from a unique analytics platform designed to accelerate insight. By combining powerful financial applications inside a next-generation collaboration platform, local governments can quickly identify efficiencies and capitalize on opportunities.

PMA and Forecast5 continue to expand their national footprint, servicing a combined 3,400 public entities in 24 states throughout the U.S.

Since 1987, IPAIT has proudly served the investment needs of members of the League of Iowa Cities, Iowa State Association of Counties and the Association of Municipal Utilities. Both the IPAIT Diversified fund and FTA program offer safe, competitive yielding investments to Participants. Through PMA, IPAIT Participants will continue to have access to safe, competitive yielding fixed term investments from PMA's extensive network of statute compliant financial institutions.



Feature - Clinton County

Clinton County Law Center

You've just finished sending your final email of the day, you shut down your computer, gather your personal belongings, and then cover your workstation with a tarp. Is your office undergoing a remodel or getting a fresh coat of paint? No, you work at the Clinton County Law Center below the jail cells and sometimes an unruly inmate will intentionally flood a toilet sending water (at the very least) dripping down to the offices below. This is just one of many design flaws the current facility faces. The layout of elevators, in-processing, and cells creates an inefficient flow for the intake process. Several areas have multiple uses so different inmate classifications and genders can cross paths. The rectangular design provides for dangerous choke points, inmates passing visitors, and poor visibility. Downstairs near the tarp-covered workstations the communications center is squeezed into a small room with nowhere to expand to fit a needed additional dispatcher. And when it's time for a court appearance, inmates are taken across the public parking lot to the courthouse. In 2008, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) concluded "the current facility is outdated, antiquated, and obsolete. It was a poor design in 1969 and remains so today." The poor design has been at least a contributing factor in two inmate suicides, inmate escapes, and assaults on correctional officers.



Lucas Beenken

Public Policy Specialist

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In addition to the public safety risks, the taxpayers are also at risk of lawsuits and increased insurance costs. And how do you maximize employee morale with an unnecessary risk of injury, an office that could be intentionally flooded at any time, or a cramped workspace with not enough personnel to best get the job done? The sheriff, jail administrator, justice coordinating commission coordinator, communications manager, county attorney, and board of supervisors among many others inside and outside of county government knew that a new law center was the only answer. The next question was how to get the voting public and taxpayers onboard with a project that would cost over \$20 million? That's a big ask of the property taxpayer, and the great majority of the public would have no idea of the severity of the issues the current facility faced because they wouldn't have had occasion to be inside; and it looks pretty good from the outside.

After a needs assessment study by an outside consulting firm and both internal and external research, plans were developed for the new law center. The proposed facility would be approximately 59,000 square feet, and would house the jail, sheriff's administrative offices, and the 911 emergency communications center. The old 42 bed linear design would be replaced with a 96 bed podular design. The podular design allows for better monitoring of inmates from a central control station, adequate separation of classifications (such as male and female, felons and misdemeanors, and adults and juveniles), and provides for a better flow from arrival to in-processing to pod. The risk associated with moving inmates to the courthouse would also be greatly reduced with the addition of an overhead glass walkway connecting the jail to the second floor of the courthouse. Finally, there would be adequate space for staff including future expansion, and the work environment would be greatly improved. The projected total cost would be approximately \$21.2 million on a 20-year bond. This was broken down to about \$21.33 per year on



Four-in-one: Medical; OWI; morning court; storage



Jail office: finger printing; book-in; staff break table

Feature - Clinton County

\$100,000 property value or \$0.75 per year per acre of ag land. On a side note, Clinton County has other bonds that will sunset in 2019/2020 timeframe, and it is expected that the jail bond would be close to a net zero increase in property taxes at that time.

After the needs assessment and design work, the Clinton County Justice Coordinating Commission (CCJCC) and other stakeholders kicked the public education component of the project into high gear. They knew it was a lot to ask of the county taxpayers, they knew there would be a lot of questions and a lot of skepticism, and they knew that other counties have had tremendous difficulty reaching the 60% voter approval on a bond referendum for similar projects.

One of the first steps CCJCC undertook was the educate the Clinton County employees on the plan and the project as a whole. They knew that the curious public would be asking their friend, neighbor, or family member that works for the county about the project. So they held forums after working hours, kept them up to date through email, and distributed information they could use to spread the word. They wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page, had the same talking points, and had the same facts. Having the same facts was the most important. They didn't want exaggeration or overpromising; the new law center could be sold on its merits if they could talk to enough people and educate them on the current need and future benefits. Next, they got to work on educating the public through several different avenues. Bulletin boards with important information were placed in county buildings, and throughout the county at libraries and other public buildings. Sixteen forums were held throughout the county in order to get face-to-face with voters, present them with information, and answer their questions. Through this process the group developed a large list of frequently asked questions that they could use to sharpen their presentation as well as place on the county website. The presenters had to explain why a new jail and law center was needed and why they couldn't just remodel the current facility. They talked about the working conditions of the employees and the liability the taxpayers faced. They explained the needs assessment study that justifies not only the new facility itself, but also the design and size. Of course they talked about the cost of the project and the investment the property owners of Clinton County would be asked to make. They showed how the rate of inflation for construction costs made the project much more expensive with even a couple year delay. The overall message was inaction is not an option and we believe this is a sound plan for the county. Aside from the public forums, the CCJCC and other stakeholders took opportunities to talk to community groups. Local organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau, and Landlord Association supported the initiative, giving a boost to the effort. Letters to the editor were consistent, and stakeholders met with the editorial boards from the local newspapers to make their case. The current facility was also opened up for tours on select dates and by appointment so the public could see all of the problematic issues described at the forums and in this article. After all of the public education, the final step at this stage was to get the approval of the voters of Clinton County.

A special election was set for May 3, 2016. As many of you know from being elected officials, you work as hard as you can but ultimately, it's in the hands of the voters. The final count was 73.91% in favor of Proposition B (Replacement Jail Bond Referendum). Other counties know how difficult it is to reach the 60% threshold for approval, so getting nearly three-quarters is very impressive. It is a testament to the preparedness of the CCJCC, the approach they and other stakeholders took in reaching out to and educating the public, and the entire team earning the confidence of the voters with their forward thinking and thoughtful plan.

For information about the Clinton County Law Center initiative and progress including photos of the current facility, videos of the educational community forums, details about the needs assessment, other outreach efforts, and an extensive list of frequently asked questions, please visit http://www.clintoncounty-ia.gov/CCJail_Project. If you have questions or would like more information please feel free to contact Clinton County Justice Coordinating Commission Coordinator Margaret Kuhl at mkuhl@clintoncounty-ia.gov.



Feature - Parks to People

Grant Wood Loop: A Region of Partnerships

Our story began with a challenge from the state in 2014. A Green Ribbon Commission, appointed by Governor Branstad, created a vision to initiate a Parks to People program. Enter the Iowa Parks Foundation, whose focus was to make this plan and vision a reality. The Iowa Parks Foundation laid out the challenge. They wanted to find a region of rural and urban counties that could work together across governmental lines.

According to Joe Gunderson, President of the Iowa Parks Foundation, "The vision of IPF's Parks to People initiative was to help create the park system of the future which is based on local leadership, connectivity (physically, fiscally and virtually), collaboration and community engagement. It is all about connecting people to their parks and communities to identify local needs and develop and implement long-term strategies that bring together all levels of parks, recreation and communities. Through this effort we not only want to address current and future needs but also build long-term support for parks, trails, and outdoor recreation."

They also wanted a region that would create public-private partnerships at a scale that was broader and more encompassing than most.

Jackson and Jones County representatives came together and then asked Dubuque County to join them. A connection between rural and urban began. The planning document of the Green Ribbon Commission laid out the vision of great places and experiences, connected parks, healthy parks and people, as well as community and cultural vitality. Representatives of the three counties came together around a common focus - parks and people. They are sprinkled throughout the entire area—four state parks, county parks and city parks large and small, in cities large and small, some connected with trails.

We were drawn together by a beautiful landscape depicted by Grant Wood and a mighty river, the Mississippi. The Grant Wood Mississippi River Region was born. The name exemplifies who we are and the landscapes about which we care so deeply.

We started out as business associates, friends, non-profits and governmental representatives from each county, knowing only those from our own counties. We came together because we care deeply about our parks and the outdoors. We came together because we had a huge heart and belief in how important our parks are. As representatives of three counties, we shared that passion and promise of collaboration and partnership across our region with the Iowa Parks Foundation. We told them we could do it. We can work together! The Foundation believed in us and chose us as the one pilot region in the state to receive \$1.9 million which required a five to one local match.



Marie Ware

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Dave Heiar

Director, Jackson County Economic Alliance
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We committed to each other the following guiding principles at the beginning of this journey:

- Have fun!
- Together make the Parks to People program come alive.
- Consider locally, think and act regionally.
- Create a shared vision of what is possible and then methodically achieve it at the level appropriate, whether by city, county, state, private or partnership.
- Have fun!

We have become common allies who have created a regional vision together. We created short-term projects to be completed in a timeframe of three years. We have also adopted a plan that outlines our 20-year vision. We considered locally and yet thought and acted regionally and even beyond our region. Some of our meetings have

been filled with hard conversations and have gotten a little "loud," but the relationships we have built have allowed us to walk away at the end of the meeting feeling good about the vision and where we are going. Those hard conversations have made us stronger.

Feature - Parks to People

The conversations that happen are collaborative. They are about action. They are about how we complete our projects. They are about making those projects bigger and more connected than we had originally dreamed they could be. They are about sharing expertise and resources. They are about how we did it. They are about possibilities for the future. The discussions are collaborative with a region that does not see boundaries, city or county lines. Conversations happen on a regular basis between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, local and district state parks, county conservation board staff, city parks and recreation staff, tourism leaders, the Iowa Parks Foundation, the Iowa Department of Transportation, Farm Bureau, economic development organizations, local and regional planning agencies, local community foundations and non-profits.

Our common vision has helped us to see beyond our city, county and state governmental lines that so often constrain us. It has also moved from relying on government to involving non-profits, private citizens and more to help make the vision a reality. The relationships that have been created allow us to accomplish things that we could not do alone. We celebrate each other's success as projects are awarded grants, and we celebrate together at each other's ribbon cuttings. The energy that is in the room when we gather is contagious.

We have already completed some projects, and over the next two years we intend to complete projects valued at over \$22 million. But we didn't step in to this for the short-term. Our plan takes us beyond that. We committed for the long haul. We are the Grant Wood Mississippi River Region.

Bringing Parks to People on the Web

How do you make travel plans? The norm these days is to do a little online research to investigate the trails, shopping, or where you're going to eat. The Grant Wood Loop is making it even easier for residents and tourists to plan their daytrip, week vacation, or just an afternoon out through the GWLoop.com.

With the support of Regional Planning Affiliation 8 (RPA 8), Iowa Tourism Department, Jackson County Tourism, Jones County Tourism, and the Dubuque Convention and Visitors Bureau, this regional partnership has launched a new innovative website. GWLoop.com is a first of its kind, user-driven website highlighting the recreational, cultural and arts assets in Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones Counties.

Taylor Cummings

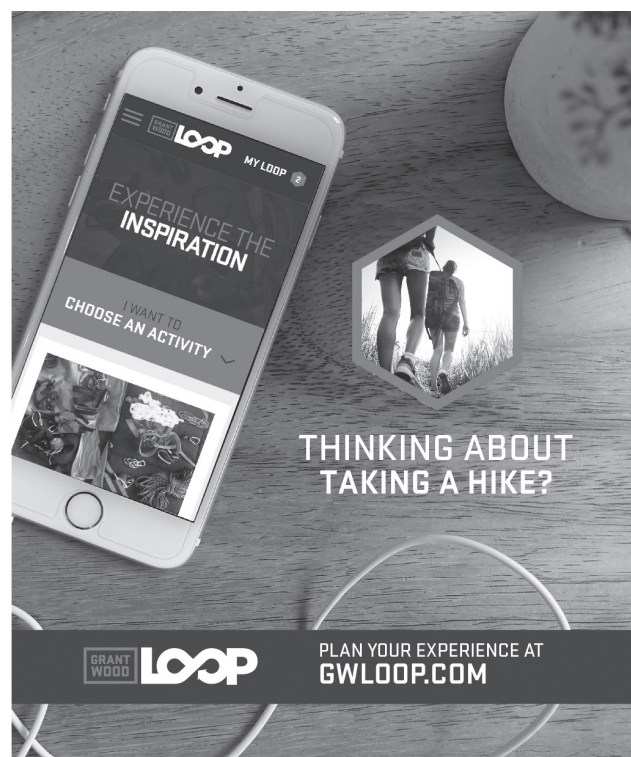
Travel Dubuque

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Nicolas Hockenberry

Jackson County Economic Alliance

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The mission of this website is to highlight the incredible experiences for residents and tourists alike as well as the extensive existing and planned trails in the region. The website, which launched earlier this year, allows the user to explore the region's museums, trails, and unique retail establishments and build a customized itinerary based on their interests.

"We think this tool will be valuable to residents and tourists. This region has something for everyone. This website will allow them to build a day trip or weekend vacation start to finish. From hotel accommodations to activities and eating establishments, the user can map out their entire trip," said Taylor Cummings of the Dubuque Conventions and Visitors Bureau.

This initiative was accomplished by a wide group of partners. "I am pleased to see this kind of collaboration on a regional level, and the RPA 8 was excited partner with the Grant Wood Loop. This partnership is creating an innovative new tool from which everyone will benefit," stated Chandra Ravada, East Central Inter-governmental Association (ECIA) Transportation Director.

Visit the regional website at www.gwloop.com, and look for the Grant Wood Loop. For more information on the GWMRR and website.

Legal Brief

Levels of Data in CSN 3.0

The Community Services Network (CSN) is a program run by the Iowa Counties Technology Services (ICTS) whose primary function is to help Iowa counties and mental health and disability services regions (regions) pay claims for services provided/paid by Iowa counties. As a result, CSN houses various kinds of confidential information. CSN allows counties and regions to have access to their own client information but there are a few reasons why Iowa counties and regions might need to share client information in CSN. A client might receive services in one county or region but a different county or region is required to pay for that claim or a client might move to a new county or region. In order to facilitate the sharing of client information in CSN and also be compliant with the various laws that protect the information stored in the system, client information is separated into two categories: level 1 and level 2. Access to the different levels of data in CSN is driven by a multi-party release (release) that assures only the appropriate people have access to information in the system.



Beth Manley
Compliance Officer
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There are numerous laws that protect confidential information in CSN. The main law is the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA prohibits covered entities from disclosing a patient's protected health information (PHI) unless an authorization is signed or the disclosure falls within an exception. 45 CFR §164.502. An exception to HIPAA's prohibition against the disclosure of PHI without an individual's authorization is set forth in 45 C.F.R. §164.512(k)(6)(ii). Simply stated, this exception allows governmental entities to share a person's PHI with another governmental entity if they are coordinating program benefits for a similar population. This exception would allow counties and regions to share PHI in CSN without first obtaining a client's consent. However, there are other laws that prevent counties and regions from having full access to the information contained within CSN.

Three types of health information in CSN are protected by additional laws: mental health information (Iowa Code §228), HIV/AIDS related testing information (Iowa Code §141A), and substance abuse information (Iowa Code §125 and 42 CFR Part 2). None of these laws allow Iowa counties and regions to share client information in CSN without first obtaining the client's written consent. For this reason, ICTS created a release that allows counties and regions to share client information in CSN if the release is signed by the client.

Multi-Party Release

CSN 3.0 is programed around whether a Release has been obtained. Information within CSN 3.0 is broken into two categories: level 1 and level 2. Information about the different levels of data is provided in the section below.

The purpose of confidentiality laws is simple, it allows an individual to have control over who has access to their information. The release does just that. The release gives the clients the option on whether they want to share their information with other Iowa counties and regions. Clients have the option to check whether they want to share their mental health information, HIV/AIDS related testing information, or substance abuse information. A client can check none, one, two, or all three options. This information will be entered into CSN 3.0 so the system will know whether that type of information can be shared with other entities in CSN 3.0. The client also has the option to exclude specific users or entities from accessing their level 2 information. It is important to mention there was a recent change to the federal law protecting a client's substance abuse treatment information (42 CFR Part 2). The federal law now has very strict rules on the authorization form requirements. There was no practical way to make CSN and the release comply with the new requirements. Even though the Release has the option to allow a client to share substance abuse treatment information within CSN, anything marked as substance abuse treatment information will remain confidential and only the county or region that entered the substance abuse treatment information into CSN will have access to it. CSN 3.0 will automatically make substance abuse treatment information confidential no matter how the client marks the release.

Level 1 Data

Level 1 information is information that can be seen by any county or region within CSN, regardless if the client has signed the release. This information is allowed under HIPAA because regions and counties are governmental entities that are administering a government program that provides benefits to a similar population. Level 1 information is considered anything that could fall under the definition of “administrative information” under the Iowa mental health law. “Administrative information” includes:

An individual’s name, identifying number, age, sex, address, dates and character of professional services provided to the individual, fees for the professional services, third-party payor name and payor number of a patient, if known, name and location of the facility where treatment is received, the date of the individual’s admission to the facility, and the name of the individual’s attending physician or attending mental health professional.

Any information falling within this definition would be considered level 1 data because it is considered “administrative information” and is not “mental health information.” Generally, any information contained within CSN that is not mental health information and is considered “administrative information” under Iowa Code §228 is considered level 1 data.

The Iowa Code does not contain similar exceptions for HIV/AIDs related testing information or substance abuse treatment information. Any information that could identify an individual’s HIV/AIDS testing or substance abuse treatment information is not considered level 1 data.

Level 2 Data

Level 2 information includes any mental health information (unless it is considered “administrative information”), HIV/AIDS related testing information, and substance abuse treatment information. Information that is considered level 2 may only be accessed by individuals within the county or region that entered the information or if the client signed the release.

Remember, because of the recent change in the federal substance abuse law, substance abuse treatment information will automatically be marked as confidential and will not be shared between counties and regions even if there is a signed release.

Substance Abuse Information

Substance abuse information is considered level 2 data but will not be shared like other level 2 data because of the recent change to the federal substance abuse law. This means a client’s substance abuse treatment information may not be shared with any other county or region even if the client marks they want to share their information on the release. There was no practical way to make CSN or the Release comply with the new federal substance abuse law so a client’s substance abuse information will remain confidential to the county or region that entered the data into CSN. If another county or region needs access to a client’s substance abuse treatment information, that information will have to be shared with the client’s permission outside of the system.

CSN 3.0 Rollout

The rollout of CSN 3.0 will occur on July 3. Trainings were held throughout the state in May and June with great success. Thank you for everyone who was involved in the process, and we will be sharing more information in the future.

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A Cybersecurity Wakeup Call

The calls for vigilant cybersecurity efforts have achieved the status of background noise. The steady drone of warnings and cautions threatens to become self-defeating. Why bother resisting when even hyper-alert computer users can be tricked by hackers using sophisticated methods and legitimate-looking communications?

Still, we can't give up our efforts, because what we do in county government is pretty darn important. Do you need some examples of how important? That's a dumb question; of course you don't. But what might be helpful is a real-life example of how local government sources can be hacked, and the actual or potential damage that can result. Here is such an example, one that was for me a cybersecurity wakeup call.

We will take a look at top-secret National Security Administration (NSA) information about Russian intrusion in last year's presidential election that was illegally leaked to the news media. Yes, this is the deal where the leaker with the funny name was arrested. She gave the NSA report to an online publication called The Intercept. With a quick google you can find their whole article on the web. I want to hit some of the article's high points, and talk about implications and consequences that we should be thinking about. (NOTE: THIS IS ABOUT HACKING A VOTING SYSTEM, BUT THE PRINCIPLES APPLY TO ANY COMPUTER SYSTEM.)



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According to The Intercept, the leaked NSA report "indicates that Russian hacking may have penetrated further into U.S. voting systems than was previously understood," to the point of possibly intruding into local election databases. Election officials previously considered these safe due to isolation of that information from the internet. How did the hackers go about it? "[I]n order to dupe the local officials, the hackers needed access to an election software vendor's internal systems to put together a convincing disguise." Though unnamed in the secret report, The Intercept deduced that the vendor involved was VR Systems, a Florida-based voting equipment company with customers in eight states: California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The first step was to trick VR Systems employees (at least seven "potential victims," according to the NSA) into opening "a malicious, faux-Google website" and handing over their login credentials. Three of the malicious emails were blocked by a server because the "mail to" addresses didn't exist, but at least one employee account was compromised.

This, as you know by now, is called cyber-phishing. Rather than trying to break through all of the protective firewalls and alligator moats and force fields, you just need to be clever enough to fool someone with password access to an electronic system into giving you their password. That's what the Russian hackers did with VR Systems.

Their next step was to use this access to VR Systems to gain access to their customers. On October 27, the hackers set up a gmail account "designed to appear as if it belonged to an employee at VR Systems, and used documents obtained from the previous

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Technology Center

operation to launch a second spear-phishing operation ‘targeting U.S. local government organizations.’” This is what I find especially disquieting. You receive a document that you recognize as coming from a vendor you know and trust. How can you distinguish a fake from the real thing? Well, in this case, would you expect that company to contact you via a gmail account? Anyhow, they sent out these spear-phishing emails to 122 local government addresses. The emails had Microsoft Word documents attached that when opened would use default Microsoft software to give the hackers control over a system’s settings and functions. “Essentially,” says The Intercept, “the weaponized Word document quietly unlocks and opens a target’s back door, allowing virtually any cocktail of malware to be subsequently delivered automatically.”

This is where the trail goes cold. Says the NSA report, “It is unknown whether the aforementioned spear-phishing deployment successfully compromised the intended victims, and what potential data could have been accessed by the cyber actor.” Alerts about prior threats during the runup to the election (this one wasn’t identified until May of this year) put election officials on their toes, and may have prevented further penetration. But we don’t know for sure. The Intercept article points out some of the possible dangers, such as the following:

Small or non-existent IT staffs lead many counties to contract with their machine vendors to program their ballots. Even if the hacker couldn’t move votes for Candidate A into Candidate B’s column, glitches timed to occur after ballot testing is completed could create considerable confusion, and negatively affect confidence in the integrity of our results.

VR Systems sells the EViD electronic pollbook system, which IS connected to the internet. The EViD FAQ page says “A voter’s voting history is transmitted immediately to the county database, eliminating the massive effort for post-election processing.” It could also spread a virus that modifies or removes information, potentially causing voters (perhaps in targeted areas) to have to cast provisional ballots, which may or may not be counted.

In the wake of this leak, the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office has assured county auditors that Iowa voting systems “are resistant to hacking or malevolent penetration.” Still, Deputy Secretary of State Carol Olson says “we take seriously the need to remain vigilant, so are providing ongoing security measures and resources” like “Securing the Human” training, login improvements, additional access control listing security, e-pollbook security protocols, etc. We would be wise to follow their example.

Finally, this example has been about elections, which is the current hot topic. But the spear-phishing described is a chilling look at how any system, not just an election system, can be hacked. Such an attack could:

- make sensitive information available to malicious third parties;
- make all the information in a hacked system vulnerable to manipulation – someone could, for instance, scramble property values, or criminal justice data, or (gasp) payroll; and
- expose a system to ransom schemes.

These are troublous times in many ways. To get through them, we need to do our best to make people believe that they can rely on county government. So be reliable. Be disciplined. Be awake.

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The Iowa County

July 2017

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NACo News

“Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.” Benjamin Franklin

Last May, NACo’s Western Interstate Region Conference was held in Deschutes County, Oregon. The area is covered with a multitude of dormant volcanos. One of these, Mt. Newberry erupted only seven or eight thousand years ago. The lava flow extends for miles and is still exposed. When I first saw it from the highway, I thought some cattle feeder was cleaning out his manure lagoon. Huge piles of rough blackness. There were a few plants taking root in the cracks of the obsidian rock. It’s amazing what can happen in a few thousand years. The main industry used to be forestry. With pressure from anti-logging groups, that has virtually come to a halt. A local commissioner said that all their lumber now comes from Canada. But, a new industry is brewing. Literally. There are over 30 craft breweries in the county. This is helping to add to the growing tourism industry there also. They say they’ve gone from “logging to lager.” The place is really hopping!

So, naturally one of our workshops was at a brewery. Our Ag and Rural Affairs Committee visited one, and I hoped to find that it was aiding the local farmers who might be growing hops or barley. Not so. All the hops come from the coastal regions of the Northwest and the malt comes from as far away as England. The distillers grain, though, is sold to a local feed lot (beers to burgers) and other byproducts are being used as fertilizer. It is interesting (to me anyway) that the Nebraska Brewing Company is in the process of sourcing all of their ingredients within the state. The hops, the barley, the wheat, and even the yeast which is a unique strain developed at the University of Nebraska. Go Huskers!



Melvyn Houser
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Well, enough about beer. Let’s ease on down the road to the marijuana farm. Many states have legalized cannabis for medical as well as recreational use. I wanted to see how counties are dealing with the regulations and ordinances that counties would need to enact and enforce. The decision to legalize is made at the state level, but it is left up to the counties to develop the permitting, regulatory, and land use framework. Even Iowa’s recent enactment for the sale of fireworks is causing confusion for our counties and cities, trying to get processes in place in a short period of time. Here is Scott Belt’s quote from a recent news article regarding the fireworks issue. “Legislators didn’t think this one through and left it to local governments to sort out.” So, what Deschutes County has is five types of growing permits, land use regulations that may conflict with rights to farm, retail sales ordinances, and dealing with slightly less than half of the public who thought it was not such a good idea to legalize it in the first place. I think what enlightened me more were stories from others on the tour, who had, or knew of others who had good experiences with the medical oils and balms that are derived from cannabis. Some told of immediate pain relief or a few drops that can be helpful to an autistic child. If Iowa is going to do any sort of legalization, it has a lot of things to consider. Maybe we better get through the fireworks thing first.

I really liked this Conference because I got to go on not two but three mobile workshops. The last was a two-hour train ride on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe “NACo Express.” This train of several passenger cars travels the country promoting rail transportation. BNSF officials were on board to discuss with us the benefits of rail and how our local economies depend on it. Did you know that the BNSF started in Burlington, Iowa? I didn’t. Did you know that Warren Buffet owns the BNSF? I did. We were able to walk through most of the cars. There was, among others, a dome car, a regular car, a sleeper car, and a dining car. Someone said that the table at which I was seated was where Warren Buffet played bridge with Bill Gates. Then somebody took a picture of it. Another guy asked if the gum under the table might have been chewed by Bill Gates! I’m kind of getting away from NACo issues, but I wanted to make the point that county folks are just regular folks who are fun to be around. Steve from the Carton Council, a NACo sponsor, goes to all the NACo Conferences as well as other association’s conferences. He looks forward to the county conferences, he says, because we are so much friendlier and fun. Other vendors have said the same thing. Why do you suppose that is? So, if some of you are hesitant about attending a conference, fearing that you won’t somehow “fit in.” Don’t be. It’s more like going to the local coffee shop or cafe. You may not know everybody’s name, but you’ll like everybody you know.

I joined another group of friendly people at the Board of Directors meeting. This was the main reason for me going in the first place. Director Chase highlighted some the achievements and happenings that were covered in his 35-page Executive Summary. NACo legislative staff is working closely with both Hill and White House staffers. They are focusing on four main issues. The Affordable Care Act, tax reform, the infrastructure package, and unfunded mandate reform. They are getting the local officials more involved, 11 of whom have given Hill testimonies. But, just because we may not be invited to speak at a Senate hearing, doesn't mean we can't still stay in touch with our Senators and Congressmen when they are back home. NACo is also heading up the Big Seven state and local coalition, working with Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi on establishing a House task force on intergovernmental relations. Legislative Director Deborah Cox talked about the President's and Congress's 20% approval rating, the tug of war between the Freedom Caucus and Republican moderates, and the political theater making things interesting, but difficult. One thing that can affect counties is the issue of ICE requests for the detention of suspected non-citizens and sanctuary counties. Since the request is not a court order, the county jail doesn't want to hold a person for very long. Otherwise they risk the chance of getting sued. This is a U.S. Constitution thing. So, the Sheriff is in Catch 22. If they let them go, they are branded a Sanctuary County and may lose any federal funding. If they detain them too long, they could be looking at a civil suit. My Sheriff Danker thinks a court-ordered warrant would suffice, and it would be really nice if ICE got one.

Here is something your government teachers might want to use in their classes. Public Affairs Director, Brian Namey talked about the new and improved update to the "Counties Work" online game. It was created through a collaboration between NACo and iCivics. iCivics is the vision of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to help educate students about our government. "Counties Work" is the only game on the website that focuses on local government. It is designed for both middle and high school students. To learn more, go to www.naco.org/iCivics.

After doing a little research, I learned that Benjamin Franklin didn't really say that beer was good for us. It is thought that it is a misquote by Homer Simpson. Franklin was actually referring to wine in a letter to the French Abbe Morellet. "We hear of the conversion of water into wine at the marriage in Cana, as of a miracle. But this conversion is, through the goodness of God, made every day before our eyes. Behold the rain which descends from heaven upon our vineyards, and which incorporates itself with the grapes to be changed into wine; a constant proof that God loves us, and loves to see us happy!" I don't know if Franklin was referring only to wine or to anything else that comes from God's gifts of sun, water and soil. Like maybe barley or hops or marij.....uh er uh....marigolds!

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2017 Calendar

July 2017

- 12-14 ISACA Conference
(Isle Casino and Hotel, Waterloo)
- 21-24 NACo Annual Conference
(Columbus, Ohio)

August 2017

- 2 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill)
- 22 ISAC LPC Retreat
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)
- 23-25 ISAC Annual Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

September 2017

- 14 ISAC LPC Meeting
(ISAC Office)
- 17-20 ISSDA Jail School
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 27-29 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Humboldt County)

2018 Conferences

- March 3-7 NACo Legislative Conference (Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.)
- March 15-16 ISAC Legislative Conference (Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center)
- July 13-18 NACo Annual Conference (Gaylord Opryland, Nashville, TN)
- August 22-24 ISAC Annual Conference (Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center)

October 2017

- 17-19 Veterans Affairs Fall Conference
(Embassy Suites Downtown)

November 2017

- 16-17 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

December 2017

- 3-6 ISSDA Winter School
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC calendar, please contact Kelsey Sebern at ksebern@iowacounties.org.

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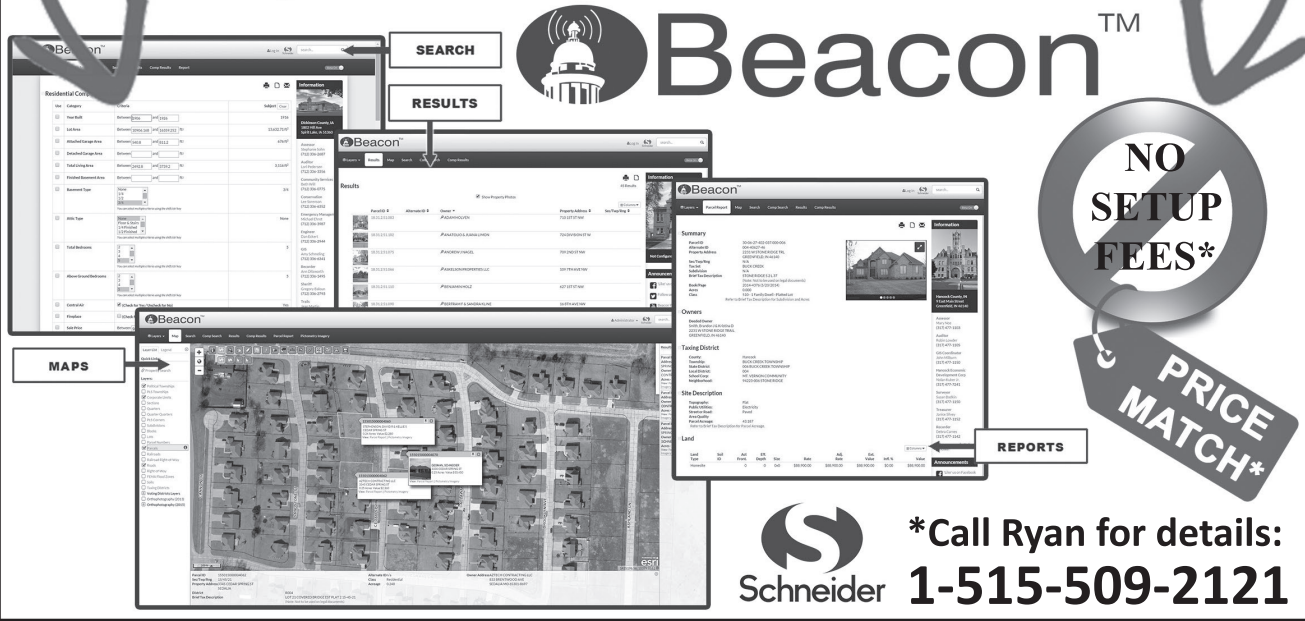
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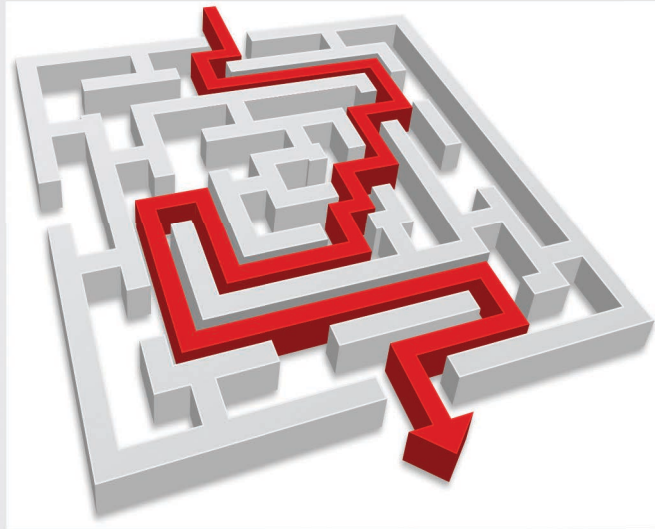




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