



Take advantage of Home Start Advance Loan

With the federal tax credit deadline fast approaching, the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) reminds potential first-time homebuyers to take advantage of the Home Start Tax Advance Loan. The deadline for the loan, which offers up to \$6,000 in down payment assistance, is December 1, 2009.

"This is an ideal time for buyers who are contemplating purchasing their first home," said IHDA Executive Director Gloria L. Materre. "With the Home Start Loan created under Governor Pat Quinn, Illinois homebuyers can borrow securely and affordably with the added benefit of the federal tax credit."

This year IHDA launched its new comprehensive Illinois Home Start homebuyer package, enabling hundreds of residents across the state to benefit from historically low interest rates and home prices. According to the Illinois Association of Realtors, Illinois' median home price in August was \$165,000, which was down approximately 15 percent from \$193,750 in August 2008.

Homebuyers purchasing their first homes can achieve the dream of homeownership with IHDA's 30-year fixed rate Home Start loan and an advance loan of up to \$6,000 on the federal tax credit created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The advance loan, which offers a zero-interest loan for down payment assistance, must be used with the Home Start 30-year home loan.

Homebuyers interested in applying for the Home Start Loan Program should contact an IHDA partner lender to find out if they qualify.

A list of lenders is available at www.ihda.org under statewide resources.

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Message from the President

by Ruth Anne Tobias, ICA President, DeKalb County Chairman



More than 3,000 conventioners attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee this summer – all working to find information and program resources for their counties back home. The main goal of the Board of Directors is to 'Restore the Partnership' between local and federal governments, so that all of their actions help, rather than hurt, county government.

NACo also provides a wide variety of services for local government member officials as well as for your citizens – items like the Discount Drug Card, and the new Dental Discount Card that was unveiled this summer. There are even cooperative purchasing programs that not-for-profit agencies in your county also have

access to, along with your county government. NACo members have also been eligible to participate in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act webinars on stimulus funding, and they receive regular e-mail newsletters and legislative updates. There's something for everyone!

Another important activity soon to appear on your horizon is the 2010 Census. Having all your citizens counted means dollars for your county – about \$100 per person per year between 2011 and 2021 in funds returned to your county through various federal and state programs. That adds up, especially in difficult budget times. As an elected official, you can help to raise awareness and encourage participation. Having an accurate and complete count also influences your congressional and Illinois statehouse representation.

Go to www.census2010.gov to find out more about how you can promote the census in your county. **'It's in our hands!'**

Finally, I hope that you are weathering the economy and will be able to cover your budget obligations. If you're lucky enough to receive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, good luck. I hope they do stimulate your economy and provide some additional jobs and help lower your jobless rate. In DeKalb County, unemployment was at 11.3% in June – practically unheard of for us in prior years. We'll be working carefully with our Workforce Investment Board to distribute stimulus youth training and adult retraining dollars as soon as we can to help out.

Vince Demuzio Broadband Initiative

Bringing affordable Internet service to Macoupin and Montgomery counties

On September 19, 2009 Governor Pat Quinn announced a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership between the State of Illinois, local governments, Norlight Telecommunications, Motorola, and Royell Communications that will bring high-speed, affordable broadband Internet service to the counties of Macoupin and Montgomery. As part of the Vince Demuzio Broadband Initiative, underserved rural communities will have the access they need to stimulate economic development, job growth, and increased competitiveness for the state.

"We want to have world-class, high-speed networks everywhere in Illinois – especially in our rural communities," said Governor Quinn. "The future of Illinois depends on our ability to use the latest in technology and I am proud to say the people of Macoupin and Montgomery Counties will not be left offline; everybody in – nobody left out – that's my philosophy."

Without Broadband Access:

- Public safety needs cannot be fully addressed.
- Educational needs cannot be fairly addressed.
- Emerging Healthcare needs for high bandwidth cannot be met.
- Business growth is delayed.

The Vince Demuzio Broadband Initiative addresses these needs by ensuring that high-speed data and communication services will be offered in Macoupin and Montgomery counties even though they lack a large concentration of customers. With affordable broadband, these counties will attract new human, financial, physical and technological capital to the region.

In 2006, Governor Quinn took the lead to secure state seed funding to invest in this project. The Demuzio project partnership represents the first of many more like it in Illinois, thanks to an unprecedented \$7.2 billion national investment in broadband technology, made possible through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).



Online ticket payments launched in St. Clair County



Circuit Clerk's website also allows for victim restitution payments by credit card

St. Clair County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Brendan Kelly, announced that guilty pleas and fine payments for traffic tickets will now be accepted online through the Circuit Clerk's website. This is an electronic pilot initiative approved by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Supreme Court. St. Clair County is the fourth county of the 102 counties in Illinois to implement a paperless online guilty plea system. Other counties accept a variety of payments online, but still require a signed paper guilty plea and ticket to be mailed in separately. With St. Clair County's e-guilty initiative, the process is completed online. The online process payment process works with the Illinois Treasurer's E-Pay system and information is protected through several layers of security. If a violation requires a court appearance, an online plea of guilty will not be available for that case.

This system will also allow defendants to make credit card payments towards outstanding fines they owe to the court on other traffic, misdemeanor, and felony cases. Defendants can also pay delinquent probation fees using a credit card with this online program.

Additionally, in cases where the court orders restitution to be paid to victims of crime, this restitution can be paid using a credit card through the clerk's website and processed through the clerk's office for payment to the victim or victims.

This new program is a result of great efforts of the St. Clair County Data Processing Department in cooperation with the Circuit Clerk's office. For more information contact the St. Clair County Circuit Clerk's office at 618-277-6600, ext. 2323.



Robot to protect deputies in bomb disposal

DuPage County Sheriff John Zaruba announced that the Sheriff's Office Hazardous Device Unit has been granted a new bomb disposal robot to help protect the citizens of DuPage County and the northern region of Illinois.

The Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) and the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) provided an equipment grant that purchased the latest in robot technology for the DuPage County Sheriff's Office Hazardous Device Unit. The funds to purchase the robot came from Federal Department of Homeland Security.

A Remote Andros F6A Bomb Disposal Robot, valued at \$150,000, was awarded to the Sheriff's Hazardous Device Unit to make bomb disposal safer for the Hazardous Device technician. This robot can remotely render an item safe without having to send a bomb unit member to approach the bomb. It is able to climb stairs and operate in any terrain. The robot has four cameras with infra-red technology for low light operations, 2 way communication, and light attachments that allow for safer searching and examination.

"The most important consideration in dealing with a potentially explosive device is the safety of the public and the bomb technicians," said DuPage County Sheriff John Zaruba. "When our Unit is called to an incident, it is unknown how sensitive the device is that they are dealing with until it is dismantled. The Remotec Andros F6A will allow them to examine the suspicious device and transport it to a location for disposal or examination, minimizing the danger of those involved."

The DuPage County Sheriff's Office Hazardous Devices Unit has been in existence for 33 years and is one of only eleven FBI certified operational units in Illinois. The original unit that was started in 1976 was comprised of two members and has grown into a unit of seven highly skilled technicians that respond to over 150 requests for service a year, including actual bombings, recovery of illegal devices, VIP protection, bomb threats, suspect packages, and post-blast investigations. The events of 9/11/01 initiated the increased demand in expertise, technology and critical pre-event planning in the areas of Hazardous Device recognition and disposal.

NACo Prescription Drug Card FREE to your County and your residents



Counties across the country are providing valuable savings for their residents though NACo's Prescription Discount Card Program.

Is your county?

The prescription drug cards are free to NACo member counties and their residents. More than \$179 million has been saved by consumers in the past five years.

If your county is not one of the 1,140 counties participating in the program, get started today.



For more information contact Andrew Goldschmidt at 202/942-4221.

Keep up with ICA online at www.illinoiscountiesassociation.org

DuPage County Board Member Debra Olson calls for sweeping ethics and procurement reform

Proposals mirror recommendations made by Collins report and take advantage of new state law

DuPage County Board Member Debra Olson (R-Wheaton) proposed a package of sweeping ethics and procurement reforms for DuPage County Government including a ban on campaign contributions from county vendors; a total ban on gifts to county officials and employees; limits on contributions from members of appointed boards and commissions; reverse online auctions for commodities; and increased disclosures for contributors who bundle donations, and county vendors and lobbyists.

"We live in a great county, and serve a constituency that has high expectations of its governmental leaders. I believe it has been the desire and practice of our elected county officials through the years to serve ethically and honestly," said Olson. "Four years ago I led efforts along with fellow County Board Members to bring about reforms to County government that resulted in long-term budgeting, greater transparency and accountability, and more. We are continually seeking to provide better governance in DuPage. These proposals represent an evolution in the already high standards of accountability and transparency we have in DuPage County."

According to Olson, "as the County Board considers Ethics Reform, I believe it is time to do in DuPage what Springfield has failed to do – pass meaningful and dramatic reforms. These should include Campaign Finance, Gift, and Disclosure reforms that extend beyond-in many cases far beyond-what our Ethics Policy currently encompasses. Whistleblower protections and Procurement Reforms are also vitally necessary for Ethics enforcement." "Due to the extensive research and testimony contained within the Illinois Reform Commission 100-Day Report, April 28, 2009, more commonly known as the Collins Commission Report, it should serve as our guide," notes Olson.

The proposed changes submitted by Olson to the County Ethics and Procurement Ordinances include:

Campaign Finance Reform:

- Ban County Board Members and the County Board Chairman from receiving campaign contributions from Contractors, Vendors, Professional Service providers, Unions involved in collective bargaining negotiations or agreements with DuPage County, and Corporations (including limited liability companies, partnerships, and similar entities), or their lobbyists, agents or representatives, or PACS or Unions in which their owners, officers, managers, lobbyists, agents or consultants are members, who have obtained or are seeking contracts with DuPage County of \$15,000 or more, or change orders causing a total contract amount to exceed \$15,000.

- Limit individual contributions to \$1000 per year (less than half of the federal limit) and bundled campaign contributions to \$5000 per year (less than one-third of what is recommended by the Collins Commission report) from persons appointed by the Chairman and/or County Board Members to boards or commissions under the direct or indirect authority of the County, such as the DuPage County Health Department, the DuPage Housing Authority, the DuPage Airport Authority, the DuPage Technology Park Board, and the DuPage Water Commission.

Gift Ban:

- A complete ban on gifts, food, or refreshment to County Board Members, the Chairman of the County Board, and county employees from persons or entities or their lobbyists or agents, or PACS or Unions in which their owners, officers, managers, lobbyists, agents or consultants are members, who are seeking or holding contracts with DuPage County of \$15,000 or more, or Unions or their representatives who seek or have collective bargaining agreements with DuPage County.

Procurement and Disclosure Requirements:

- Adoption of the Connelly Legislation HB 379 Reverse Online Auctions for procurement of supplies and services other than professional services. "Immediate disclosure of Owners, Officers, Managers, Lobbyists, Agents, Consultants, Bond Counsel and Underwriters Counsel, Subcontractors, and Corporate entities or Political Action Committees under the control of County Professional Service providers, Contractors, Vendors, Corporations, Lobbyists, and Unions whose members are county employees, or who are seeking or who have obtained contracts with the county. Ongoing updating of information should be required.

- Disclosure within 5 business days of all individual and bundled campaign contributions to County Board Members and the County Chairman and candidates for County Board Member and County Board Chairman from persons appointed by the Chairman and/or County Board Members to boards or commissions under the direct or indirect authority of the County, such as the DuPage County Health Department, the DuPage Housing Authority, the DuPage Airport Authority, the DuPage Technology Park Board, and the DuPage Water Commission. This also requires disclosure by the Appointed Official of contributions made by a contractor, company, corporation, vendor, or professional service provider for which they are an owner, officer, manager, lobbyist, agent or consultant, and of contributions from Political Action Committees and Unions of which the Appointed Official is a member or contributor.

- Require that all procurement staff and staff from departments letting bids keep a log of all contact with vendors and contractors, their lobbyists, agents, and other interested parties seeking to obtain a contract or make a change order of an existing contract with the County.

- Enhance the County's Procurement webpage for greater transparency on contractor, vendor, and lobbyist lists, bid awards and contact logs.

Whistleblower Protection:

- Adopt reporting methods and protections for employees who suspect abuse of authority, inappropriate and/or criminal behavior of another employee. Reporting avenues should include the DuPage County Auditor.

"We are continually seeking to provide better governance in DuPage. These proposals represent an evolution in the already high standards of accountability and transparency we have in DuPage County." – Debra Olson



While the rules on campaign finance, gifts, and procurement would apply, by virtue of the Ethics Ordinance, to DuPage County Elected Officials but in most cases not to candidates seeking County offices as non-incumbents, Olson also proposes that the DuPage County Ethics Ordinance and Procurement Policy be distributed by the DuPage County Election Commission to all candidates seeking elected DuPage County Office as recommended campaign finance and reporting guidelines to which all candidates are encouraged to adhere.

DuPage County does not have the authority to implement further restrictions on campaign contributions and campaign disclosure. Therefore, a resolution from the DuPage County Board outlining the changes to the DuPage County Ethics Ordinance and Procurement Policy should be included in the DuPage County Legislative Priorities to allow all Counties in Illinois to adopt similar reforms, campaign finance and reporting rules, and mechanisms.

"I am proud to offer a first step in Reform legislation for DuPage County, and I welcome debate and discussion" said Olson. "I also welcome further recommendations to strengthen these proposals so that we can deliver genuine Ethics Reform that will reassure residents of DuPage their government is free from the pay-to-play politics for which our state has become notorious."

Olson says she encourages all DuPage County Board members and Countywide Elected Officials to support these reforms and formally adopt them.

"It is my hope they will serve as a model for the other 101 counties in Illinois, and for reform in our state government as well," says Olson.

IDOT launches construction website

The Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) new innovative website, *The Construction Zone Dashboard*, is now live. The new website provides up to date information on currently active construction contracts, including those funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, after contract execution.

The public can search for contracts by location, IDOT District, or a contractor. The website provides a means for viewing the location of the contract on a map. It also provides information on the current status of the project as well as the location of the work, how far along the work is and an estimate of the completion date. The user friendly website will be updated daily.



DuPage becomes first county in Illinois to ban video gaming

The DuPage County Board approved an ordinance on August 11th that will ban video gambling machines in unincorporated DuPage County, making DuPage the first county in Illinois to enact such a ban.

"I applaud the County Board for approving this ordinance and for protecting our residents from the negative effects of video gambling," said DuPage County Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom. "Our families should be able to go to dinner without addressing legalized gambling and video gambling machines. The state passed this bill without weighing the consequences, without an implementation plan or budget, and without reliable revenue estimates. The legislation is reckless at best, making it incumbent on County and Municipal governments to stand up and say 'no'."

The new ordinance, which takes effect immediately, was drafted and brought forward by DuPage County Board Member Brien Sheahan (District 2) and will affect 35 establishments in unincorporated DuPage County.

"I brought this initiative forward because I believe video gambling would have an adverse effect on county government and our citizens," said Sheahan. "I want to thank my fellow County Board members for supporting this initiative, which will continue to make DuPage County a great place to live."

Under Section 27 of the Video Gaming Act, which was enacted on July 13, 2009, "a municipality may pass an ordinance prohibiting video gaming within the corporate limits of the municipality. A county board may, for the unincorporated area of the county, pass an ordinance prohibiting video gaming within the unincorporated area of the county."



A county board may, for the unincorporated area of the county, pass an ordinance prohibiting video gaming.

Cook County announces selection of new CFO



Jaye Morgan Williams brings 25 years of experience in banking, corporate finance and strategic management to position

Cook County President Todd Stroger announced his selection for Cook County Chief Financial Officer: banking professional Jaye Morgan Williams. Williams spent more than 25 years in financial services, with most of those years at JP Morgan Chase's predecessors First Chicago and Bank One, where she was Senior Vice President.

"Jaye is widely experienced in financial services and strategic management. She's worked through a range of business cycles and understands the challenges they present," said President Stroger. "Her history of successful engagement with new initiatives, combined with her extensive experience in corporate finance, strategic management, and project management make her an outstanding selection for the position of Cook County's Chief Financial Officer."

Williams was senior banker to large energy companies in the earlier stages of her career. While in corporate banking, she was engaged in management roles in leveraged buyout advisory services, acquisition debt syndications, treasury management electronic banking, credit and portfolio management, product and project management, private investing and lending, and international banking. She took on the nationwide community development business activities of the bank and served as President of Bank One's Community Development Corporation.

In her philanthropic endeavors, Williams has focused on a wide range of projects and initiatives, including educational programs, community and economic development, and mentoring of young professionals. Among her current activities, Williams serves as Board Member to the educational project Facing History and Ourselves, as Board Member and Steering Committee Member of the University of Chicago Women's Board, and as a member of the Economic Club of Chicago.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign and an MBA in finance and accounting from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

"Cook County is fortunate to be on good financial ground compared to literally hundreds of other state and local governments across the nation, and I'm committed to preserving and improving our financial stability," said Williams. "I'm also committed to ensuring that County executives are provided with precise information – without bias – about the County's fiscal bottom line, as well as strategies and best practices to improve financial performance, allowing them to make policy decisions that serve the best interests of the people of Cook County. It's vitally important that we focus on the financial integrity and performance of the County, including financial accountability and fiscal integrity, while preserving, and where possible enhancing, our bond rating. The hallmarks of operating efficiency and service quality as critical drivers to the budget process are key, and I look forward to furthering the performance-based long term financial focus that President Stroger has brought to Cook County's budget process. I'm thrilled at the opportunity to serve the public trust as Cook County's Chief Financial Officer."

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Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal.

(A) Amount per pay adjusted for inflation by 4% annually.
(B) Assumes an average annual return of 8%. Also assumes savings are invested at the end of each month. Total balance of \$92,015 does not reflect deductions for Federal or state taxes. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income.
This illustration is hypothetical and is not intended to serve as a projection of the investment results of any specific investment. Neither the accumulation or other tax amount takes into consideration fees or expenses associated with any particular investment. Investment return is not guaranteed and will vary depending upon your investments and market experience.
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Will County surpasses one million pound mark in electronics recycling

This important milestone in Will County is a model for what other communities can achieve

Will County officials are celebrating passing an important milestone – having collected more than 1 million pounds in electronic recycling in just a little more than two years.

“In July 2008, we opened our first four permanent recycling sites in Bolingbrook, Channahon Township, Troy Township and a joint effort between Washington Township and Beecher,” said Will County Executive Larry Walsh.

“Today we have 10 sites open and are scheduled to open an 11th at the Monee Reservoir on Friday, September 4. At the last two sites, in Lockport and Mokena, residents had been bringing in electronics before we had the official opening,” added Walsh.

Steve Batchelor, Illinois and Indiana market area manager for Waste Management, said, “This important milestone for Will County is a model for what communities can achieve. Society’s ever-increasing volume of electronics waste offers us the important challenge of safely removing it from the environment and preserving landfill space, and, at the same time presenting us with an opportunity to recycle the material for use in new products. Will County has set both a good example and a high standard.”

To get an idea of what 1 million pounds of electronics means, if the grand total was represented by only one type of item, it would equal 23,700 microwave ovens, 13,650 televisions or 63,350 printers, said Marta Keane, Recycling Program Specialist for the Will County Land Use Department’s Waste Services Division.

“Certain items are particularly harmful,” she said. “For instance cathode ray tube, or CRT, television monitors contain, on average, four to eight pounds of lead, a highly toxic heavy metal. All the electronics contain useful materials such as glass, copper, aluminum, plastic and other components that are extracted for reuse or recycling.”

Ahead of schedule

In the first six months of permanent electronic recycling sites, there were 3,862 participants. That number grew to 7,795 in the next six months. In the first seven months of this year the number had grown to 12,468, meaning an estimated 25,125 people have used the sites.

Based on 2008 data, it was predicted that Will County would hit the 1 million pound mark in September 2009. But when the July invoice came in from Vintage Tech, the Plainfield company which collects and recycles the electronics for the County, it showed that the total hit 1,005,002 pounds as of July 31, after the pickup in Bolingbrook.

It didn’t hurt that Will was so well prepared for the switch from analog to digital televisions this year. Many people shopped ahead and changed over the holidays. “We were ready,” said the County Executive. “The program was in place as people throughout the area replaced analog televisions over the holidays in 2008, in time for the Super Bowl and the actual switchover.”

Cost of recycling

As of July 31, the County had spent \$137,000 or about 14 cents per pound to recycle its collected electronics. Keane explained the funding comes from the County’s Prairie View Landfill, managed by Waste Management. The cost of recycling has fallen in the past 25 months, as well.

“Some televisions are free thanks to manufacturers that are already responding to state legislation that calls for manufacturers to recycle some



“I believe this means Will County people realize the importance of keeping these electronics out of our landfill and recycling all of the parts possible.”

– Larry Walsh, Will County Executive

electronic items beginning in 2010. Other items, such as printers, cables and phones that we paid for at first are also free thanks to better markets for the plastics, metals and components,” she said.

Keane went to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency calculator at www.epa.gov/climatechange/wywd/waste/calculators/Warm_Form.html to find out the impact of recycling 1 million pounds of electronics. She found out that it saved the equivalent of 205 households’ annual energy consumption or 3,790 barrels of oil or 176,860 gallons of gasoline.

“Those are significant numbers,” said the County Executive. “There are just so many reasons to recycle. Recycling electronics saves energy, natural resources, reduces carbon dioxide, greenhouse gas emissions, other air emissions, water pollution, use of toxic materials, as well as landfill space. When you consider the bad effects of just dumping old electronics into a landfill, there is just no reason not to recycle.”

“I’m proud that our staff works so hard to educate people and make it as easy as possible to recycle in order to keep our environment as clean and healthy as possible. Congratulations to Land Use Director Curt Paddock, Waste Services Division Manager Dean Olson, Marta Keane and all of the rest of the staff that works so hard to make this possible. I’d also like to thank and congratulate all our partners who keep the sites going so our citizens have places to safely dispose of their electronics.”



New Skokie Valley bike path connects Lake County to North and South neighbors!

For the first time, you can now bike to and from Wisconsin and Cook County without ever leaving a bike path! The Lake County Division of Transportation extended the Skokie Valley Bike Path more than one mile to the north where it now connects with the North Shore Bike Path at Illinois Route 176. This long awaited connection is the latest addition to the LCDOT’s more than 50 miles of bike paths. Officials gathered on September 10, 2009 to celebrate and officially launch this new and exciting route option.

Bicyclists, pedestrians and joggers can now safely and continuously travel to and from the Lake-Cook line to the Wisconsin state line without ever leaving a bike path. The project is more than one mile in length and features a new lighted tunnel under the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The construction cost was \$2.7 million.

This bike path project is a great example of the Lake County Board, Division of Transportation, and several other government agencies working together to provide safety and convenience to Lake County residents. The Village of Lake Bluff and the City of Lake Forest provided support for the project and have agreed to maintain their respective sections of the bike path. Commonwealth Edison allowed a section of the bike path to be located on their property. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources granted a \$200,000 Bike Illinois grant to help with the project. The Union Pacific Railroad allowed a 36-hour closure for construction. Finally, Lake Forest Open Lands and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission worked to have the path located and constructed in a way that would help protect adjacent wetland and natural prairie resources.



The 2010 Census is here! Complete Count Committees are key to making it happen

The 2010 Census is on the horizon and the U.S. Census Bureau wants to ensure that everyone is counted. We are developing partnerships with tribal, state, and local governments; community-based organizations; faith-based groups; schools; businesses; the media; and others. Through these collaborative relationships, we can reach our shared goal of counting all residents in the 2010 Census. By being informed about the census and better understanding the census process residents are more likely to respond to the census questionnaire.

The Complete County Committee (CCC) program is key to making this happen in communities all across the country.

"The Complete County Committee turned out to be an excellent way to reach all segments of the community and educate them about the Census," said Albert Pritchett, Chairman, Complete County Committee, Cook County, Illinois. "Our efforts resulted in a mail-back response that was higher than anyone had anticipated."

CCCs incorporate local knowledge, influence, and possible resources to educate residents and promote the census through a locally-based and targeted outreach and promotion effort. CCCs provide a vehicle for coordinating and nurturing a cooperative effort between local governments, communities, and the Census Bureau. Local governments and community organizations can help the Census Bureau get a complete count in 2010.

A CCC is a team of community leaders appointed by the highest-elected official or assembled by community leaders to develop and implement a locally-based outreach and awareness campaign for the 2010 Census. This team's primary focus is to promote the 2010 Census in a particular community and to ensure that every resident in that area is counted. Community leaders are most qualified to understand the best way to reach all populations that reside in their area. **The process starts NOW! It's up to you!**

For more information about the Complete County Committee Program, please contact your regional census center and ask for the partnership area or visit www.census.gov/2010census. If you reside in Illinois call 312-454-2770.



Report on the NACo 2009 Annual Conference and Board of Directors Meeting

by Cook County Commissioner Greg Goslin

It was a pleasure to visit with many fellow Illinois county officials at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Counties (NACo), this year in Nashville. For those that had to miss it, it was a substantive event, notably filled with unprecedented access to White House representatives eager to work cooperatively with counties. Key actions included:



Executive Board Expanded

A contentious and hotly-debated action expanded the association's executive committee by adding four regional members. Originally proposed by the By-laws and Governance Task Force to elect these positions from the board, a long line of members passionately addressed the board speaking against this structure. Originally designed by the Task Force to expand the representation of all members, limiting it only to current or past board members was perceived as actually promoting only an "inside" group. The issue was resolved by a compromise motion to open up the Regional positions to any NACo members, with candidates elected by a Caucus of the State Associations. Congratulations to Pat Conway, Commissioner from Buchanan County, Missouri who was elected by our Midwestern Caucus for a one-year term.

Green Government

New President Valerie Brown, Commissioner Sonoma County, pledged to be a strong advocate for county green government initiatives. She believes the counties must do their best to save taxpayer dollars while following environmentally sound practices. "If we are going to create healthy communities where we live and serve, we can't ignore the detrimental effects of poor air quality, inadequate water supplies, or antiquated infrastructure," she said during her inauguration speech.

Board Meeting

During the Board of Directors meeting, on which I serve along with Ruth Anne Tobias, County Board Chairman of DeKalb County, more than 100 policy positions on issues ranging from the Clean Water Act to Transportation Trust Funds to Rural Revitalization were adopted.

Recovery Act Workshops included:

(All workshop materials can be found at www.naco.org)

- **Housing, Employment and the Economy** which focused on the Recovery Act's infusion of funds to the Community Development Block Grant, Neighborhood Stabilization and Workforce Investment Act programs along with additional programs to prevent home foreclosures. Attendees learned how to use these federal programs to enhance housing affordability, maintain quality neighborhoods and spur job creation, training and reemployment.
- **Energy Infrastructure and Economic Development** where participants heard how to use Recovery Act funding to save taxpayer money in the long-term through energy-efficiency improvements and renewable energy, U.S. Department of Energy.
- **Reporting, Transparency and Accountability: Recovery Act and Beyond** discussed the sweeping new rules about reporting, transparency and accountability of federal funds spent.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss these issues in more detail, please call 312-603-4932 or email commissionergoslin@cookcountygov.com.

Rural Road Safety Resource Center

County Solutions to Improve Rural Road Safety



Visit the resource center at
www.naco.org/rural_roads/contents.html

Developed in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration / Office of Safety and the National Association of County Engineers.

For more information contact James Davenport, AICP, Project Manager, at 202-661-8807 or jdavenport@naco.org.

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Take a new look at how prepared you are for retirement

by Bob Beasley, Communications Consultant, Nationwide Retirement Solutions

Most of us have not seen economic times as challenging as those of the past year. It seems as if all the rules that govern how we save, spend, invest and assess risk have changed. In fact, it might be more correct to say that the market suddenly enforced the economic rules again. And that may have you wondering how you can pick up the pieces.

So, what happened?

The easiest answer is, investing – even through a deferred compensation plan – involves market risk, including possible loss of principal. In fact, no investment strategy can guarantee a profit nor insulate against losses, especially in a down market. But for most people, investing for retirement is a long-term process and over the long term, market fluctuations tend to even out. Continuing to contribute into your retirement account through a down market gives you the opportunity to use that time-tested maxim: "Buy low, sell high." That's why you may be seeing articles and industry professionals in the media encouraging you to stay invested in your retirement plan.

Now what?

Participating in deferred compensation is rarely a "start it and let it go" thing. It's best to check up on how your investment decisions are doing, and to consider how you might want to adjust for current market conditions or changes in your personal life.

Your Nationwide Retirement Specialist can help you understand market risk and the strategies that may help reduce its effects of market risk in an overall investing-for-retirement strategy. Information from retirement specialists is for education purposes only and not intended as investment advice. Look for National Save for Retirement Week activities at your worksite. Or contact your local Nationwide Retirement Specialist – someone who can help you understand how to take advantage of the benefits of retirement investing through your employer's deferred compensation plan.



Together with your employer, Nationwide Retirement Solutions is offering onsite workshops, one-on-one visits and extended business hours to help you decide for yourself how to answer the tough questions you may be facing:

- Am I comfortable with how I am investing for retirement?
- Am I investing enough for retirement?
- Why should I continue investing through deferred compensation?
- How can I avoid over-reacting or under-reacting to current market conditions?
- Who can I contact when I have questions about deferred compensation?

County employees participating in the NACo deferred compensation plan can talk with Nationwide representatives to discuss their specific situation and to find out which strategies may help reach long-term goals by calling 1-877-677-3678. Learning tools are available at www.nrsforu.com.

County employees should know that finding creative solutions for employers has been a hallmark of Nationwide's service to the public sector, and especially NACo. For more information on what Nationwide is doing to help participants succeed even during difficult economic conditions, contact Louie Watson, Vice-President of Strategic Relationships, by e-mail WatsonL2@Nationwide.com or by phone 614-854-8895.

Nationwide Retirement Specialists are registered representatives of Nationwide Investment Services Corporation, member FINRA. In Michigan only, Nationwide Investment Svcs. Corp.



Three reasons to continue investing through Deferred Compensation

- 1 Contributions are pre-tax** – This lessens the reduction to your take-home pay. If you pay around 25% in income taxes, then a contribution of \$100 in your employer-sponsored deferred compensation plan results in only a \$75 reduction from your take-home pay. Not only does \$75 out of pocket put \$100 in your account, the \$25 that would have been taxed now has the potential to grow and compound over the years. Note: You will pay taxes on your contributions and any earnings when and as you withdraw them from your account.
- 2 Markets bounce back** – While past performance cannot guarantee future results, over the past 75 years every down cycle has been followed by an up cycle. Most financial experts agree that the market will recover. And that's something that no one wants to miss out on.
- 3 When the market is down, investors who buy may get more for their money** – We have no crystal ball nor can we offer investment advice, but if you believe the market will rise over the long term, right now might actually be a good time to "get more for less" by continuing to contribute (or even increasing contributions) into your deferred compensation account. *Investing involves risk, including loss of principal.*

Local Health Departments lose 8,000 more jobs in first half of 2009

As agencies target flu, budget cuts add strain

Local health departments – the public agencies that work on-the-ground to safeguard their communities against the H1N1 flu virus and other threats to public health – sustained accelerated job losses during the first half of 2009, a new survey shows. Because of budget-related cuts, city, county, and other local health departments eliminated 8,000 staff positions between January and June, according to a survey conducted by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

This loss compounds the disappearance of 7,000 positions in 2008, determined by a previous NACCHO survey, the results of which were announced in January. Departments lost more jobs in the first six months of 2009 than in all of 2008.

The losses hit the field just as local health departments have been gearing up for what may be their most intense flu season in recent history. Beginning in October, departments will support, coordinate, and conduct community-wide immunization campaigns against the highly contagious H1N1 virus, while also immunizing residents against seasonal flu. They also have a host of related responsibilities, including monitoring the course of the epidemic, working with schools, businesses, and other local agencies to mitigate the spread of influenza, collaborating with local healthcare providers to manage a potential surge in demand for medical care, and keeping the public well informed.

"Local health departments will do the best job they can with the resources available to them to protect Americans from the H1N1 flu and continue their daily activities to address other public health threats," said NACCHO Executive Director Robert M. Pestronk. "They have used currently available federal funds for pandemic influenza preparedness well and are working extraordinarily hard to adapt and respond to the evolving epidemic. However, these data demonstrate that the economic strains on local and state government budgets are reducing public health resources at a time when a stable public health system is greatly needed."

The survey found that layoffs accounted for about three in eight positions lost in early 2009, while attrition accounted for the remainder. Besides the 8,000-person drop in positions, departments cut the hours of another 3,000 employees and placed 9,000 on mandatory furloughs. In all, about 20,000 local public health positions have been affected by cutbacks this year. Slightly more than half of the departments surveyed sustained staff losses.

Furthermore, half of the local departments surveyed anticipate budget reductions in fiscal year 2010. Between July 2008 and June 2009, 55 percent of the departments were forced to cut programs in such areas as maternal and child health, emergency preparedness, and environmental health.



NACCHO is the national organization representing the nation's 2,800 local health departments. These agencies work every day on the front lines to protect and promote the health of their communities. NACCHO develops resources and programs and promotes national policies that support effective local public health practice.

GET IN THE RACE TO RETIREMENT



There's no better time to get into the Race to Retirement than during...

Nationwide Save For Retirement Week October 18-24, 2009

Nationwide helps participants enroll in the 457 deferred comp plan and:

- Help create a more financially secure future.
- Enjoy the opportunity of long-term investing.
- Be in control of how to use deferred comp to help reach goals.

Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal.



1.877.677.3678
NRSFORU.com

Nationwide Retirement Solutions (Nationwide) partners with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to provide counties and their employees with a competitive deferred compensation program. As part of this partnership, Nationwide pays a fee to NACo in exchange for NACo's exclusive endorsement, marketing support, and program oversight of Nationwide products made available under the program. For more information, including fees paid, Nationwide encourages you to visit nrsforu.com.

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