



Federal assistance approved for seven counties affected by floods

The state's request for federal assistance to local governments affected by severe storms and flooding in late July has been approved for seven counties.

"This declaration is good news for local governments in these seven counties that are struggling to replace roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure damaged by flood waters," said Gov. Quinn. "While we're very happy to secure federal assistance for local governments in these counties, we will continue to work with the counties that weren't approved to see if they have additional information that would support an appeal."

The federal disaster declaration will enable local governments in Adams, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Pike, Schuyler and Stephenson counties to recover 75 percent of their extraordinary costs related to storm response and recovery.

Assessments conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) in 13 counties impacted by storms and flooding determined that costs to local governments for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repairs or replacement of roads, bridges and other public facilities totaled nearly \$23 million.

"We will work closely with FEMA to help expedite reimbursement to these local governmental bodies," said IEMA Interim Director Joe Klingner.

Information about the state's storm response efforts is available at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.

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Message from the President

by Ruth Anne Tobias, ICA President, DeKalb County Chairman



I hope this summer went well for all your county activities. With this being budget planning season, I'm sure many Illinois counties are facing close scrutiny of their funding levels across departments. This is something new for those of us who have only seen growth in the last decade or more, and we will have to work even harder to get the job done of providing services for our citizens.

This summer's NACo survey of counties across the country, along with all the headlines we see every day, show that many of us are profoundly affected. When our citizens lose jobs, it means they can buy less, so we lose sales tax dollars as well as the income taxes they would have paid. Many times these shortfalls start showing up after the beginning of the fiscal year. Property tax receipts are declining because of the fall of housing prices and the increase in foreclosures.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding helped out in some situations, but that was a short-term 'fix' applied mostly to big ticket infrastructure items we had to do anyway, or for energy conservation projects. Nationally, seventy-one of 104 counties responding indicated that they would lay off workers next fiscal year. We hope it doesn't come to that in Illinois, but I am afraid we are not immune. And with the state's own budget mess, counties will continue to come up even shorter. Now, the state cannot pay all that it owes for our state's attorneys and other court services. If there are any of you out there with some innovative collaborations planned that you hope will save money, please let all the others know. We'd be glad to highlight your story.

ICA encourages counties to become NACo members, even in difficult times. NACo continues to offer counties benefits such as the ability to find and apply for grants; webinars on important issues, such as how the new health care law will affect county government; lobbying for legislative issues so important to all of us; and information about innovative programs counties are putting in place to better serve residents and provide better leadership. NACo membership helps counties save money through cooperative purchasing programs and government employee discount information available only to member counties. ICA will be implementing a program where we will pay membership dues for a county for 1 year, and then 50% of dues in year 2 if counties can commit to a 3 year program, with the county picking up the full tab in year 3. NACo will then offer one free annual conference registration for the first two years.

Finally, ICA is delighted to announce our first round of scholarship awards to six Illinois high school graduates entering college this fall. Checks for \$1,000 were given to Natejah Ford of Will County; Lester Hudson of Peoria County; Megan Johansen of Will County; Mallory Klingenberg of Washington County; Brooke Mosley of Kane County; and Valerie Westendorf of Effingham County. We are thrilled to have such wonderful applicants to reward for their community service and academic excellence.

Will County begins retrofit projects

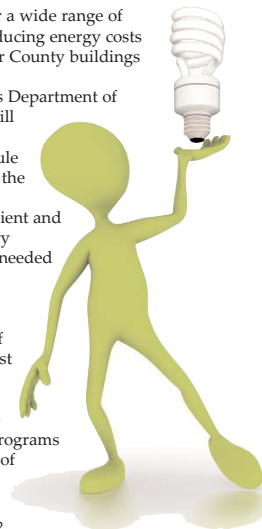
Effort will make older county buildings more energy efficient and less costly

Will County is moving forward with the awarding of contracts for a wide range of energy efficiency retrofit projects on County buildings targeted at reducing energy costs and furthering conservation measures. These projects will make older County buildings more energy efficient and less costly to operate.

The County was awarded a \$3.1 million grant from the United States Department of Energy that focuses on three main areas: a gas to energy plant that will be a future revenue source for the county, a variety of educational efforts that will focus on students of all ages, and an extensive schedule of retrofits for the County Office building, Sunny Hill nursing home, the Highway Department, and the Court Annex building.

"These retrofits will make our County buildings more energy efficient and in turn, will reduce operating costs," said Will County Executive Larry Walsh. "Not only will these investments in our facilities create much needed jobs, but these 'green?' projects are another example of the County's commitment to environmental responsibility."

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, represents a Presidential priority to deploy the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy technologies across the country. EECBG is modeled after the Community Development Block Grant program. It is intended to assist local communities to develop, promote, implement, and manage energy efficiency and conservation projects and programs designed to: reduce fossil fuel emissions; reduce the total energy use of the eligible entities; improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building, and other appropriate sectors; and create and retain jobs.



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NACo appoints Healy as Transportation Vice Chair



“These tough economic times are impacting all facets of local government, and it is important that we come up with creative solutions to our transportation dilemmas.”

National Association of Counties (NACo) President Glen Whitley appointed DuPage County Board Member Jim Healy as Vice Chair of NACo’s National Transportation Steering Committee. NACo President Whitley made the appointment of Jim Healy during the Association’s annual conference in Washoe County, Nev.

“I am very proud to appoint Jim Healy to this post,” Whitley said. “He is a national leader on transportation issues, and I am

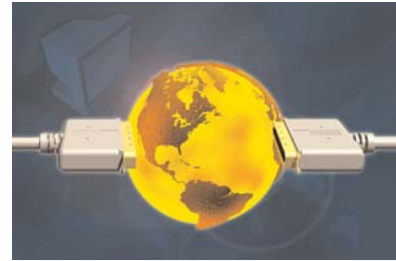
excited about his plans for a national freight conference this spring in his home county of DuPage, Illinois.”

“It is an honor to be appointed by President Whitley to help lead NACo’s Transportation Committee in shaping transportation policies affecting local government,” said Healy. “These tough economic times are impacting all facets of local government, and it is important we come up with creative solutions to our transportation dilemmas.”

Healy, who is also a member of NACo’s Large Urban County Caucus, has served on NACo’s Transportation Committee since 2001. He is Chairman of DuPage County’s Legislative Committee and has been Vice Chairman of the County’s Transportation Committee since 2006.

The Transportation Steering Committee is responsible for NACo policy development pertaining to transportation planning; ocean and inland ports; highways; transportation finance and safety; public transit development; airport development; railroads; waterways; and research and development of new modes of transportation. As the local government leaders on transportation issues, NACo regularly speaks before Congressional committees and works with Congressional staffs on pending legislation. Representing both NACo and his home county, Jim Healy has spoken before several Congressional committees on transportation issues, and is part of NACo’s transportation team working with Congressional leaders and their staffs.

NACo’s Transportation Committee annually reviews and makes recommendations to the NACo Board of Directors on public policy issues and federal legislation. The policy development process initiated by the Transportation Committee leads to the publication of a National County Transportation Platform. NACo uses the Transportation Platform as a guide to deliver the county government message to the White House, Secretary of Transportation, Congress and the American public.



\$70 million infrastructure project to improve broadband service in nine counties

On September 18, state and local leaders announced the start of a nearly \$70 million project to construct high-speed fiber optic broadband infrastructure in nine Illinois counties, including LaSalle, Ogle, Lee, Whiteside, Jo Daviess, Carroll, Stephenson, Winnebago, and Boone. Supported by \$14 million from the Illinois Jobs Now! capital program and \$10 million in private investments, the \$46 million competitive federal award will create approximately 485 jobs.

The federal grant was secured through a highly competitive contest managed by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The successful grant proposal was submitted by Northern Illinois University on behalf of the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership – Northwest Region, a consortium of public and private sector partners organized by Governor Quinn.

“While the short-term impact will be significant, there is no doubt that this will generate enormous benefits for our region in the long-term,” said Congressman Bill Foster (IL-14). “Throughout the country, high quality broadband infrastructure has been the catalyst for industrial growth.”

This project is one of 17 broadband expansion awards secured for Illinois since February.

NACo Prescription Drug Card FREE to your County and your residents



Counties across the country are providing valuable savings for their residents through 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.

Will County Retrofits *continued from page 1*

The first of these projects include approximately \$320,000 dollars for elevator modernization at the Court Annex building, formerly known as the EMCO building. In addition, light retrofitting is scheduled for the Highway Department building at Laraway Road and a new HVAC for both the Court Annex and Highway buildings. The second set of projects include a green roof for the County Office Building, plumbing updates at Sunny Hill Nursing Home and window replacements at the County Office Building, Sunny Hill Nursing Home and the Court Annex for a cost of approximately \$750,000 dollars.

The green roof project will include 7,600 square feet of sedum roof plant life which requires little maintenance and will help keep the building cooler in the summer and retain heat in the winter. The green roof will reduce stormwater runoff and filter pollutants and carbon dioxide while producing oxygen in the environment.

The County’s retrofit projects will use local contractors and suppliers acting as a local stimulus package. Additionally, the use of local businesses will further the impact of this green initiative by reducing transportation emissions.

“We are proud of the talented companies that do business in Will County,” Walsh said. “We are also proud of this project which will have multiple benefits to our local economy, our environment, and our residents.”

In addition to the building retrofits, the County Land Use Department – Waste Services division will also be launching a new conservation Web site. The new site will have practical information on how residents can recycle and reduce energy usage in their homes, along with educational sections geared towards students of all ages. The new Web site is scheduled to launch this fall.

Navistar's headquarters will stay in Illinois

\$205 million investment will support 3,000 jobs and spur economic growth across northeast Illinois



Navistar, Inc., Chairman, President and CEO Dan Ustian announced that the company will be moving to Lisle, Ill., at the former Alcatel-Lucent East campus on Warrenville Road, and credited Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn and Attorney General Lisa Madigan with clearing a path for the company to retain or create nearly 3,000 permanent jobs over the next several years along with more than 400 construction jobs.

The company will invest \$110 million dollars in the 1.2 million-square-foot Lisle headquarters, which will include executive management, business operations and product development. Core features of the technology center once envisioned for the Lisle campus will move, possibly to the Melrose Park facility as part of a contemplated \$80 million investment. Another approximately \$15 million will be invested in a new parts facility, the location of which is still being finalized, but will be in the Northern Illinois area. Combined, Navistar will be investing \$205 million in Illinois.

"Governor Quinn and Attorney General Madigan showed great leadership in working with Navistar and the community to make it possible for us to move into this world-class campus and to create economic opportunities for the whole region," said Ustian. "We appreciate them standing up for us."

On May 25, citing delays and potential legal challenges from a small group of opponents of the Lisle headquarters project, Navistar ceased participating in the Lisle Planning and Zoning process. In response to the news, as dozens of communities from around the country contacted Navistar to lure the company to move their headquarters to their locales, Gov. Quinn and Attorney General Madigan met with Navistar executives to offer assistance to keep Navistar in Illinois.

The governor's staff and assistant attorneys general also met with the opponents of the project and their lawyer to explore ending the dispute. Gov. Quinn, meanwhile, directed the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to work with Navistar on a package of incentives including the EDGE program which provides tax credits for firms creating/retaining jobs and making significant capital investments. In all, the Quinn administration committed an investment package of up to nearly \$65 million.

"Navistar knows that there is no better place to expand its operations than Illinois, and we tailored a targeted investment package to meet the company's needs and keep thousands of people working," said Quinn. "By being innovative and aggressive, we're seeing significant investment in Illinois, which is creating more jobs and moving our economic recovery forward."

Ustian thanked Mayor David Brummel of Warrenville, where the company's current headquarters is located, for being a great partner for business. Ustian said, in addition to Quinn and Madigan, several key local officials provided critical support to the project.

"I thank DuPage County Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom and Lisle Mayor Joseph Broda for their tireless efforts to secure Navistar's world headquarters for DuPage County and Illinois from the very beginning. We also thank DuPage County Forest Preserve President Dewey Pierotti for working hard to make this day possible," Ustian said. "Economic development support is more than just incentive tax credits, it is creating a welcoming attitude from the top, through every level of government and the business community. Our announcement today is an example of how it can work."

"I am thrilled Navistar has decided to stay in DuPage County and equally as thrilled that the County Board reaffirmed its commitment to this move. This endeavor will create jobs and stimulate our economic development. It's a win-win for all involved." – DuPage County Board Chairman Robert J. Schillerstrom



Ustian said the new campus will be a customer showplace that highlights the company's new integrated product development capabilities. Navistar is a leader in developing commercial trucks, buses and diesel engines that meet tough emissions standards across the globe. In addition, the company is at the forefront of new commercial vehicle technology. Among the cutting edge products that will be developed at the campus are hybrid and electric vehicles and military vehicles, which save the lives of U.S. Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most importantly, the employees who will stay and grow in Lisle, DuPage County and the Chicagoland region are involved in the community. Navistar has been lauded for its relationships with many local and national charities. Navistar employees have supported Junior Achievement, The DuPage Children's Museum, March of Dimes, Operation Support Our Troops; provided aid to earthquake ravaged Haiti; established a curriculum for inner-city high school students interested in diesel technology, and helped many other people in need at home and abroad.

"We give back to the community," Ustian said. "It is who we are and we look forward to contributing to our community for many years to come."

About Navistar: Navistar International Corporation (NYSE: NAV) is a holding company whose subsidiaries and affiliates produce International® brand commercial and military trucks, MaxxForce® brand diesel engines, IC Bus™ brand school and commercial buses, Monaco® RV brands of recreational vehicles, and Workhorse® brand chassis for motor homes and step vans. It also is a private-label designer and manufacturer of diesel engines for the pickup truck, van and SUV markets. The company also provides truck and diesel engine service parts. Another affiliate offers financing services.

Editor's Note: On September 14, 2010, the DuPage County Board voted to approve an intergovernmental agreement that will pave the way for Navistar International Corp. to relocate its corporate headquarters to the vacant Alcatel Lucent campus near in Lisle.



Milestone reached for Peoria County Community Health Improvement Plan

The Steering Committee for the Peoria County Community Health Improvement Strategic Planning Initiative recently completed a twelve-month community health needs assessment. This strategic planning effort is being facilitated by the Peoria City/County Health Department and has resulted in the identification of four priority community health issues that should be addressed to improve health in Peoria County. The identified priority strategic community health issues include: **obesity, oral health, reproductive health, and community health system collaboration.**

The community health improvement needs assessment process was guided by a local steering committee representing Peoria County's system of medical providers, social service agencies, civic organizations, elected officials, and local health department staff. The needs assessment process included the evaluation of population health data, an assessment of the local community health system, a determination of Peoria County's resources to improve community health, and an appraisal of future factors likely to affect the community's health.

The Steering Committee is now forming subcommittees to be charged with developing specific plans to address these strategic priority community health issues, identify interventions, work with other community partners, and evaluate measures of progress. An overall goal of the entire process is to maintain involvement by all the community health system partners while assuring commitment to achieve measurable results that make a difference in the health and lives of Peoria County residents.

For more information about the Community Health Improvement Plan for Peoria County call 309-679-6090. To view the assessments visit www.peoriacounty.org/pcchd/plan.

Congratulations, GRADUATES

Six students have each earned \$1,000 scholarships for their winning essays in the Illinois Counties Association (ICA) Scholarship Program.

"ICA takes great pride in awarding scholarships to these young adults for their well-written essays on the topic, "Issues of Importance to Youth in our Society Today," said Ruth Anne Tobias, Chair of the DeKalb County Board and president of the ICA Board of Directors. "While these students came out on top this time, we extend great appreciation to the students from counties across the state of Illinois who entered the contest and applaud their knowledge and willingness to share information on this important topic."

ICA invited students attending college as freshmen during the 2010-2011 school year to submit an application, attach a resume, three letters of recommendation and a letter of endorsement from a county official. The students were also required to submit a personal statement regarding their future goals and objectives.

Essays were limited to no more than 300 words. Some of the topics discussed included: employment issue in rural areas, teen pregnancy, teen violence, smoking, drugs, alcohol abuse, the importance of youth activities and civic involvement, and other topics specific to youth. Particularly noticeable was a common thread running through all the essays submitted, namely a lack of healthy and safe alternatives for our young people.

The challenges that emerged from the essays were not limited to any economic, ethnic, geographic or other grouping, but instead appear to address issues of importance to adolescents across the board, even in stable family environments. While the specific circumstances may differ, it is clear from the works submitted that young people everywhere are not immune to the broader social problems that we face as a nation. Also clear is that there are intelligent young minds wrestling with these complex issues. We must work hand-in-hand with our youth to help combat these problems.

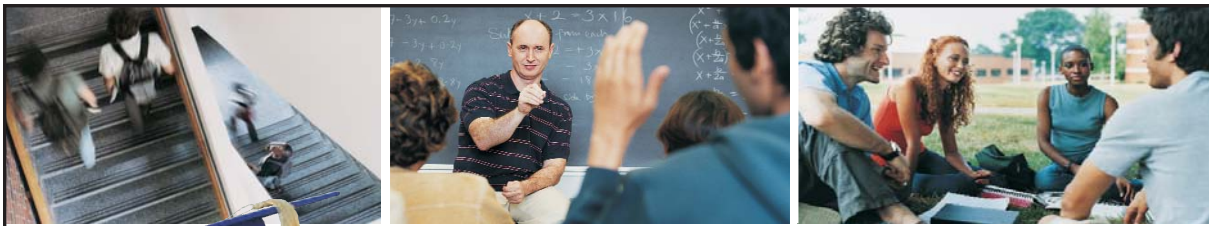


Thomas O'Neill, Chairperson of the Peoria County Board, presented Lester Hudson and his family with his ICA award.

ICA awarded \$1,000 scholarships to:

- Natejah Shanta Ford (Will County)
- Amanda Howard (Washington County)
- Lester D. Hudson, II (Peoria County)
- Megan Rae Johannsen (Will County)
- Brooke Ashten Mosely (Kane County)
- Valarie Westendorf (Effingham County)
- Mallory Ann Klingenberg (Washington County)

We wish these young adults the very best in their educational pursuits.



As a non-profit association that provides services to county government, the Illinois Counties Association (ICA) is committed to promoting and advancing education and the future of Illinois' youth.

ICA will be awarding academic scholarships throughout the State of Illinois to students wishing to pursue higher education during the 2011-2012 academic year.

SCHOLARSHIP

Learn more about ICA Scholarship for the 2011-2012 school year by visiting us at www.illinoiscountiesassociation.org

What you need to know about retirement plans

Interview with Retirement Specialist Tom O'Connor, Nationwide Retirement Solutions

by Linda Baker, Frontline Public Strategies, Inc.

Tom O'Connor has been a Retirement Specialist for Nationwide Retirement Solutions since 2004. I recently had an opportunity to sit down with Tom to discuss the importance of personally investing for retirement in order to avoid an exclusive reliance on the pension system to meet retirement needs. Tom's remarks were particularly important given the current economic crisis facing the U.S. economy and its impact on public revenues.

Q: Tom, for our readers please explain a couple of the retirement plans available to our people.

A: Sure. First of all, the most common plan is the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF). This is a defined benefit plan where the benefit is defined by the number of years employed and the pay rate. Public sector employees also may use the 457(b) Plan or, as it is commonly called, Deferred Compensation Plan. This plan allows employees to contribute pretax dollars into a personal account. Plan participants may choose from among a variety of investment strategies or they choose a professionally managed account.

Q: How important is it for public sector employees to invest in Deferred Compensation Plans?

A: I cannot stress enough how important it is for all workers, public or private, to have additional retirement funds at their disposal. What we see today is government revenues under constant pressure, from a variety of sources, including decreased tax revenues, underfunded pensions and borrowing difficulties. In addition, the private sector has made a huge swing away from defined benefit plans toward employee contribution plans such as the 401(k). With no clear end in sight, it seems likely that budgetary pressures on public sector wages, pensions and benefits, not just continue, but exacerbate.

Q: What are some of the common misconceptions people have about retirement plans?

A: The most common misconception people have is that Social Security will be sufficient for their retirement. Social Security is facing a structural problem as the largest demographic group in the program's history reaches retirement. Because of the way it has been run thus far, current employees have been paying for current retirees, rather than receiving payments of funds that they had previously invested. However, as the baby boomer generation retirees, there will be more retirees drawing down on the money they have put into the system than there will be employees paying in to the system to keep it fully funded. While various alternatives to ensure the program's long-term solvency have been floated, no action has been taken, and the political will to make sweeping changes does not appear to be there. The second misconception is that if you participate in Deferred Compensation, you are not eligible to participate in another retirement, such as the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. The third misconception is that if one does participate in a deferred compensation plan, it will decrease the IMRF pension.

Q: What are the tax implications of Deferred Compensation Plans?

A: All contribution are done on a pretax basis. This means a \$50 deferral only reduces the paycheck by about \$36-\$38. The remainder of the \$50 comes from the tax that would have been paid. Since all contributions are pretax, distributions will be taxed as they occur.

Q: How long before an employee can access their funds?

A: While there is no age 59 ½ requirement, generally one must be separated from service with the entity. A plan participant should not plan to withdraw funds until after his or her "normal" retirement age. Early or frequent with-

drawals only serves to lower the amount of total funds that are earning returns. While there has been some discussion of raising the retirement age to 67 or 70, the federal government has not taken any definitive action as of yet. Because the funds belong to the participant, one may have access to them at any time after separation of service. However, some plans charge a penalty for earlier withdrawal of funds. One should always check with the plan provider. Also remember, since these funds were contributed pretax, they are fully taxable at the time of withdrawal.



"I cannot stress enough how important it is for all workers, public or private, to have additional retirement funds at their disposal. – Tom O'Connor, NRS

Q: How difficult is it for a participant to develop an investment strategy, and does a participant need any special knowledge?

A: The investment strategy actually starts with determining a Participant's tolerance for risk and desire for participation in fund selection. This does not require any special knowledge. It is mainly how someone feels about the variations that naturally occur in the market. Participant age and length of time of the investment are certainly important pieces of information. Once the risk tolerance is established, investment choices are rather simple.

Q: Are there any other issues an employee needs to be aware of before enrolling in a Deferred Comp plan?

A: Obviously, there has to be available dollars in the personal budget to allow participation. However, due to the extremely low minimum deferrals, everyone should be able to get started in a plan.

Q: Are Deferred Compensation Plans affected by the employer's fiscal condition?

A: No. The funds are not assets of the entity, nor are they assets of the plan provider. The funds belong to the Participant.

Q: Are the funds safe?

A: While 457(b) Plans, like 401(k) Plans are not FDIC insured, there are ways to mitigate risk. Asset allocation and diversification are two ways to help minimize risk. In addition, there are usually investment choices that do not involve investments in the stock market.

Information provided by Retirement Specialists is for educational purposes only and is not intended as investment advice.

Investing involves risk including possible loss of principal.

Retirement Specialists are Registered Representatives of Nationwide Investment Services Corporation, member FINRA.

FedEx Ground plans to build new distribution facility in Grayslake

FedEx Ground announced it will build a 214,000 square-foot facility on Rt. 83 in Grayslake which will employ more than 200 full-time and part-time employees initially. The facility is expected to open in late 2011, and when operating at full capacity, the workforce is projected to grow to almost 500 people.

Suzi Schmidt, Lake County Board Chairman, said, "We are thrilled that FedEx Ground selected Lake County to expand their business. This is a great example of government agencies working together to attract a business and bring new jobs to hundreds of people. We welcome FedEx Ground to our community with open arms!"

The new facility will feature the latest automated material handling technology for sorting packages and will dispatch up to 130 vans per day to make deliveries in the area. The new FedEx Ground distribution center is part of a nationwide network expansion and transit time acceleration plan to boost daily package volume capacity and further enhance the speed and service capabilities of its network. FedEx Ground delivers more than 50% of packages in two days or less and more than 80% of packages in three days or less. Additionally, average daily package volume has increased by more than 50% from 2.1 million in 2003 to more than 3.3 million today.



Lake County Board Chairman Suzi Schmidt (center) at the press conference announcement regarding new FedEx Ground facility.

Dart, restaurant owners partner to support jail garden

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart was joined by Chicago restaurant leaders on September 9 to certify 26 inmates as "master gardeners" in a special ceremony after they completed an alternative sentencing program created to increase their job opportunities as they re-enter the workforce.

The certification is the culmination of a summer-long program that helps non-violent inmates develop job skills. In addition to the 26 master gardeners, 16 other inmates were presented with certificates of appreciation for their work. This year's crop is expected to be the largest in the program's 17-year history with 5 tons of food being harvested from the 14,000 sq. foot garden. This year also marks the first time that the new 1,500 sq. foot greenhouse was utilized. Most of the crops grown this year were grown from seeds in the greenhouse that were then transplanted, saving the program approximately \$1,500. Over the years the program has donated food to various shelters and in the last year has formed partnerships with these two restaurants as well, providing them with vegetables and herbs.

The program began in 1993 and is a joint partnership between the Cook County Sheriff's Office and the University of Illinois Extension Services. Since its inception more than 500 inmates have participated and over 63 tons of food has been harvested. The garden is operated at no cost to taxpayers, as the jail's Department of Community Supervision and Intervention utilizes inmate welfare funds – profits generated off jail commissary sales – to begin each year's crop and for construction of the greenhouse. As the Cook County Jail's gardening program continues to grow, the goal is to eventually make it completely self-sustaining.



The garden is located just behind the jail administration building.

DuPage County approves new administrative adjudication program

"This new program will expedite judgments for time sensitive violations such as failure to obtain permits." –

Jeff Redick, DuPage County Board (Dist. 2)



In an effort to achieve code compliance in a more efficient and cost effective manner, and to help improve the quality of life for property owners and their adjacent neighbors, the DuPage County Board approved a new Administrative Adjudication Program (AAP).

The new program will simplify code enforcement process by creating a stand alone hearing procedure apart from the current circuit court system for adjudication of code violations. The new system provides flexible hearing dates and times for property owners and staff, and reduces duplicative administrative process. This will not only benefit the County, but it will provide a greater level of customer service with a simpler more informal process that is not encumbered by our already over-crowded judicial system.

"This new program will expedite judgments for time sensitive violations such as failure to obtain permits, dangerous and unsafe buildings and structures, and zoning violations," said DuPage County Board Member Jeff Redick (District 2).

"All too often in cases like these, delays in administrative justice are tantamount to denial of justice for those accused property owners and their neighbors. This program should eliminate those issues."

The AAP will enable the County to use existing County staff of the Department of Economic Development and Planning, (EDP) to administer the program and will reduce the department's dependency on the staff of the County Circuit Court Clerk, the County Sheriff's Department, the Judicial System and the County States Attorney's Office. As such, the AAP will provide an expedited and cost effective means to obtain compliance for time sensitive violations and violations that have a direct negative impact on the quality of life for the citizens of the County.

The County undertook the new initiative as the result of a new state law that enables counties like DuPage County to establish and implement an Administrative Adjudication Program to enforce and gain compliance with certain types of ordinance violations using a hearing officer. Currently several jurisdictions in Illinois have successfully established this program including, Kane and Peoria Counties and Aurora, Batavia and St. Charles.

Prior to this new law, code enforcement cases were adjudicated through the DuPage County Circuit Court System where these cases are on the same court docket with other legal matters. The AAP enables the County to establish a stand alone hearing process to adjudicate ordinance violations. A trained hearing officer appointed by the County Board Chairman will hear matters relative to ordinance violations. The hearing officer will act in a similar capacity as a judge hearing testimony and accepting evidence, issue findings and render decisions and orders and imposing penalties and reasonable costs consistent with applicable code provisions.

For more information on DuPage County, visit www.dupageco.org.

Saving tastes good.

These days, finding money to pack away for your future isn't easy. But it's not as hard when you know where to look. That's where Nationwide Retirement Solutions comes in. We've been helping public sector employees save smarter and better for over 30 years.

Food for thought

Simply pack your lunch a couple of times a week, and invest that savings toward retirement.

Lunch money saved per pay period	\$20
Pay periods per year	x 26
Total lunch money saved per year	\$520

Savings over 30 years with inflation **\$29,164^(A)**

Invested over 30 years **\$92,015^(B)**

Call 1-877-677-3678 to put a Retirement Specialist on Nationwide on your side or visit NRSFORU.com to learn more about how to invest for your future with deferred compensation.



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.
 Whether 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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Keep up with ICA online at www.illinoiscountiesassociation.org



Report on the NACO 2010 Annual Conference and Board of Directors Meeting

by Ruth Anne Tobias, ICA President

The NACO 2010 Annual Conference was held in Reno, Washoe County, Nevada – the 75th anniversary of the founding of the organization. The sessions began on Friday with an all day technology summit, sponsored by the Information Technology Committee. I was pleased to be able to attend this event to learn more about 'Smart Communities', and how the technological revolution can be put to good use by county governments in transforming how we interact with our citizens and provide openness and transparency in our dealings, how we provide some necessary services, how we can lower the cost of providing some services with technology, and how all of the technology we use everyday can assist in sustaining economic development to help our counties move into their high-tech future. As high-speed Internet access is at the heart of this movement, Motorola was pleased to announce a competition in which counties might try for grant monies to assist in developing broadband in their area.

On Saturday, NACO committee meetings were held all day, and I attended the Community and Economic Development steering committee, of which I am a member. We are always pleased to be able to support the full funding of the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) which assists so many of our counties in significant ways. All of DeKalb County's Community Services program is funded with CDBG dollars.

We learned about efforts to assist Gulf Coast Counties after the BP oil spill. I was not able to attend any of the main conference sessions, since the NACO Board of Directors meets on Sunday and Monday and Tuesday, and I represent Illinois Counties Association on the board. We get to deal with association finances and budgets, and with making sure that NACO is always on track to fulfill its mission of serving counties. NACO is the only national organization that represents counties in the United States, advancing issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improving the public's understanding of what counties do, and helping counties find innovative solutions through education and research.

In addition to the overarching theme of helping counties do what they do better, the Board of Directors oversees the work of the various committees, approves and implements the resolutions organized by each committee, and brings our counties' voices to our federal government with these resolutions, including the health care reform bill, maximizing access to Recovery Act funding, technical assistance for rural counties (nearly half of Illinois counties can be considered rural), and continuance of TANF funding. Check out www.naco.org for a ton of information about NACO and about counties, including surveys undertaken by the organization about county conditions!

Along with the many information sessions during the conference, (see the following for presentations – <http://www.naco.org/meetings/participate/Presentations/Forms/AllItems.aspx>) which are always timely and informative and often able to provide a successful example of something you would like to try, NACO gives Achievement Awards to counties in recognition of their innovative programs that provide examples for the rest of us. This year, five Illinois counties were award recipients – Cook County for an enhanced tenant communication effort; DuPage County for a grants portal online resource; Lake County (3 awards) for a property tax information program with videos and community meetings, an employee intranet information site on the budget planning for FY 2010, and the Wind Energy Task Force of Lake County Communities; McHenry County (2 awards) for their H1N1 Recruitment Plan and a Franchising of Solid Waste Program; Peoria County won an award for Establishing Joint Information centers in event of a disaster; and St. Clair County was given 2 awards, one for a series of Caregiver Workshops sponsored by the county Mental Health Board and one for their senior Transit Express Program. Read more about these programs at <http://www.naco.org/programs/recognition/Pages/2010AchievementAwards.aspx>.



NACO's new leadership team lights up the state at NACO's Annual Conference. (l-r) Lenny Eliason, first vice president; Glen Whitley, president; Chris Rodgers, second vice president; Valerie Brown, immediate past president. Photo by Judy Rolfe.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT WORKS

An Initiative to Raise Awareness and Understanding of Counties



"We know that America's counties provide outstanding programs and services, but unfortunately too many Americans do not. It's up to us as county officials to reach out to the public and make them more knowledgeable..." – Glenn Whitley, NACO President

NACO president calls on all county officials to join the County Government works campaign

America's counties face a problem. We know that America's counties provide outstanding programs and services, but unfortunately, many Americans do not know about the responsibilities counties have or the programs and services they provide.

The solution is to launch an initiative to make the American public, who are beneficiaries of government services, and officials at other levels of government, who are partners in delivering those services, more knowledgeable and positive about the contributions of county government. We must tell the story about the effectiveness of county government and how County Government Works every day.

Counties keep the important records, such as birth and death certificates, marriage licenses and property records. We build roads and bridges and ensure their safety. Some counties maintain parks with soccer and baseball fields. We care for the sick, operate hospitals, pick up trash, provide police protection, handle emergency services, run courts and jails and conduct elections.

Counties are innovative. We use new technology and always search for ways to provide services more efficiently. Many counties strive to use energy more efficiently and to protect our environment. We deal with important issues like health care, immigration and job loss.

We are leaders in our communities and have to make tough decisions affecting our friends and neighbors. We get questioned by constituents at the grocery store, at church and on phone calls late at night. It's not an easy job, but we are committed to our communities and the families and individuals we serve.

It is clear that counties have a story to tell. That story is: **County Government Works**. This initiative will put in place the tools we need to make sure that the story is told well and told often.

County officials, the state associations of counties and NACO each have a role to play in this initiative and will coordinate their effort. We will develop presentations for civic and community groups; curricula for students; publications, videos and brochures; information on websites, have open houses at county facilities and generate other programs.

We can and will do much more than we do now to tell the story. A working committee will guide the initiative over the next year to encourage participation and provide innovative tools, ideas and suggestions to help counties, state associations and NACO raise awareness about how County Government Works.

A variety of outreach tools are available on the NACO website, www.naco.org, under the About Counties/Tell the Public What You Do section.

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Why workers say they don't participate in their employer's supplemental retirement plan

by Bob Beasley, Communications Consultant, Nationwide Retirement Solutions

According to researchers at Dartmouth College, there are three basic barriers to long-term saving, especially participating in employer-sponsored retirement programs, such as a deferred compensation plan.¹

1. I don't know where or how to start saving.
2. I don't make enough to save.
3. I'd rather buy that xxx (fill in the blank) today.

Employers and plan providers may be uniquely qualified to help workers overcome all three.

1 Not knowing where to start
Researchers found that employees can be overwhelmed by "the process." From daunting paperwork that comes with enrollment to the sheer quantity of questions on each form, workers often find they cannot decide and never enroll in the plan.

County employers have two main opportunities to help employees start saving. The first is when new hires are welcomed aboard. By providing them easy-to-understand information about the benefits of their deferred compensation plan, as well as streamlined forms, when they receive other benefits information, employers can show how committed they are to helping employees achieve lifelong financial security.

That commitment may be reinforced by asking new hires to join the plan before they receive their first paycheck.

The second opportunity is during benefits enrollment periods and related employee events. Again, by highlighting plan participation as employees are considering other benefits, employers give them the chance to include long-term needs in their decision-making process.

2 Believing they do not have enough income
Most public sector deferred compensation plans make entry easy by allowing low minimum contributions. However, employees may not realize that. They may also need help understanding how, especially early on, just a few dollars a week invested through deferred compensation can grow to a tidy sum at the end of a 30-year career. And if the employee is disciplined enough to increase contributions every time they get a raise the potential for growth is even greater.

Just as many counties are juggling fiscal restraints, tight budgets mean individual employees need to make trade-offs. By helping employees understand the advantages of deferred compensation, they may be more willing to brown-bag it or bring in a thermos of home-brewed coffee (or make other trade-offs) so they can budget contributions to their deferred comp account. County leaders can encourage this preferred behavior by modeling it themselves.

3 Not having enough self-control
According to the Dartmouth researchers, the evidence shows that employees are less likely to delay participation if they are given a plan – rather than left to their own devices. Employer programs that make enrollment and contribution increases automatic can help employees overcome their own inertia.



But the Dartmouth research suggests even plan sponsors who are not ready to adopt "automatic features" can help employees find their way to a potentially more financially secure retirement – by mapping the path for them. Have materials prepared with "default decisions" already filled in. The fewer the choices they need to make, the more likely they are to enroll and participate.

What County employers can do

For decades, the National Association of Counties has provided a wealth of resources that member counties can use to encourage workers to save for retirement. NACo members can access many of these resources online through the NACo website, www.naco.org. These tools can help counties encourage employees to overcome the three barriers to saving identified by the Dartmouth researchers.

And, of course, there's the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, developed and provided by Nationwide Retirement Solutions and the National Association of Counties. For more than 30 years, the NACo Deferred Compensation Program has offered county employers a way to address their employees' need for additional income in retirement through quality education, online resources and personal service.

For additional information about the NACo Deferred Compensation Program or help putting the educational resources to work in your county, please contact Lisa Cole by email at lcole@naco.org or phone at 202-942-4270; or contact Louie Watson by e-mail at WatsonL2@Nationwide.com or by phone at 614-854-8895.

¹ "How to Foster Saving and Participation to Pensions: A New Approach," Annamaria Lusardi, Defined Contributions Insights Magazine, July/August 2007.

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