

## Census Bureau announces location of Chicago 2010 regional census center

The U.S. Census Bureau's Chicago Regional Office has announced the selection of the Citigroup Center, located in the West Loop area of Chicago, as the site for its regional census center to support the 2010 Census. The center will employ nearly 250 during its peak operations in 2010. The 27,000-square-foot site will serve as the management location for the region's 2010 Census operations. The address is 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1600, Chicago, Illinois 60661. The census centers will be located in the same metropolitan areas as the Census Bureau's 12 regional offices and each will oversee field operations within their region.

"Serving as the region's operational hub for all 2010 Census activities, the regional census center will provide field management, recruiting, administrative, community outreach and automation support to local census offices, and a eventual temporary staff of thousands in our three-state region," said Stanley D. Moore, regional director.

Chicago's region includes Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin – fifth, 15th and 20th most populated states. The Chicago office serves more than 6,400 local governments, including 11 American Indian reservations.

The 2010 Census will have one of the shortest census questionnaires in history, dating back to the nation's first census in 1790. Census Day is April 1, 2010. The Census Bureau will mail or deliver more than 130 million questionnaires to households in the United States. All personal information will be kept confidential.

For more information about the 2010 Census, please go to [www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census).



Illinois Counties Association  
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## Message from the President

by Ruth Anne Tobias, ICA President  
DeKalb County Chairman



Happy summer to all! It finally really feels like summer after an endless winter and iffy spring. But that's just made us work harder. Your ICA organization has been busy through it all, and we are getting organized!

Our mission is to increase the professionalization of local government by providing support and information to county officials and organizations, as well as to help our workers enhance their long term future prospects through participation in retirement investment with Nationwide Retirement Solutions. To that end, we have contracted with FrontLine Public Strategies to assist in getting the word out. Your chief county officer should have already received an initial contact from Kim Robinson at

FrontLine and myself, introducing or re-introducing the program, and you will be receiving a request for a meeting. Please be accommodating; saving for retirement should be a goal for all working Illinoisans.

Something new has been added to our identity. We now have a logo, thanks to FrontLine. You will see it on all our correspondence and on our new website – to launch by the end of summer at [www.illinoiscountiesassociation.com](http://www.illinoiscountiesassociation.com) or [www.illinoiscountiesassociation.org](http://www.illinoiscountiesassociation.org). We are always looking for ideas about links from our site to other sites, and for information that is important to you and should be on our site. Let me know – [rtobias@dekalbcounty.org](mailto:rtobias@dekalbcounty.org).

Finally, the best news of all: NACo is coming to Illinois on September 17 at the Marriott Midway Hotel in the Midway Hotel Complex near Midway Airport in Chicago! This will be a first time event for NACo and our Illinois association, and we are all very excited and hope to make this an annual affair. We are planning a half day educational workshop for Illinois county officials and NACo will also reacquaint us with some of the many programs and services provided to members. We are likely to see Larry Naake, NACo executive director, Andrew Goldschmidt, membership director, and perhaps even a vice-president or two. Please plan to attend; non-member county officials are welcome as well to learn about NACo and its support for county government. I'll send more information as we get closer to the date. Enjoy the rest of summer.

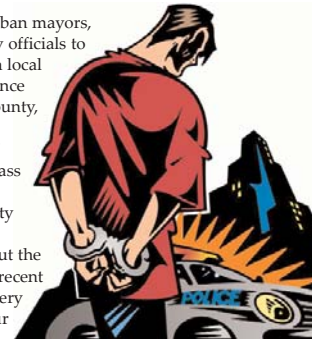
## Stroger announces Cook County efforts to help stem recent wave of violence

### County to raise awareness about programs that offer alternatives

Cook County Board President Todd H. Stroger joined suburban mayors, local community leaders, county physicians, nurses and agency officials to address steps the County is taking to work collaboratively with local agencies and municipalities to address the recent wave of violence in the region. The President discussed existing efforts in the County, as well as upcoming plans to sharpen partnerships and pool resources more effectively. Those efforts will include a series of town hall meetings in Cook County to solicit input from the grass roots about the dynamics driving the current wave of violence, and to educate people about available service from Cook County and its partners.

"As a parent, I share the concern of parents everywhere about the current wave of violence that has plagued our communities in recent months," said President Stroger. "Our County agencies deal every day with the dire consequences of guns and violence – from our emergency rooms and clinics, where we treat the survivors of violence for the rest of their lives, to our court system, where victims, survivors and perpetrators wrestle with the consequences of violence. There is virtually no County agency that does not have to contend with the consequences of violence in the region – from the State's Attorney's Office and the Clerk of the Circuit Court, all the way to the Department of Corrections and, unfortunately, even the Medical Examiner's Office, which houses the County morgue."

Violence is a serious public health issue. Of patients admitted to Stroger Hospital's Trauma Intensive Care Unit, more than a third are victims of gunshot wounds. Last year, Stroger Hospital saw 542 victims of gunshot wounds, 25% of whom were between the ages of 10 and 19. The data suggests that not only are health care workers seeing younger gunshot victims, but those victims are requiring greater resource utilization and intensity of care.



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## New NACo President calls on Congress to restore the partnership with counties



New National Association of Counties (NACo) President Don Stapley said the need to restore the federal-county partnership has never been greater as more counties struggle to cope with shrinking revenues, higher costs of fuel, energy and health care and increasing public demand for essential services.

Stapley, supervisor, Maricopa County, Arizona, began his one-year term as NACo president on July 15 at NACo's 73rd Annual Conference and Exposition held July 11-15 in Jackson County, Mo.

He was first elected as a NACo officer in 2005. Stapley said that county-owned and operated hospitals, nursing homes, jails, courts, police and sheriff departments, roads, bridges, and drinking water and wastewater systems are under great financial duress across the country as a result of shrinking revenues and increased costs.

"The role and responsibilities of many counties in America are changing drastically," Stapley said. "As populations grow in traditionally rural communities, residents are demanding services such as enhanced access to health care, better roads, clean drinking water, modern schools, parks and recreation programs – the list goes on and on."

"No longer can counties accept unfunded mandates from Washington and continue to deliver essential services at a level Americans expect," Stapley said. "We need the federal government to work with county officials to develop pragmatic solutions to our shared responsibilities."

In the months ahead, Stapley will lead NACo's Restore the Partnership Campaign to reestablish a working relationship between the next President and Congress and county governments. Part of that effort will include encouraging Congress to introduce legislation to create a "National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations" which would establish a permanent independent, bipartisan group to study and consider the federal government's intergovernmental relationships and recommend solutions for the challenges facing our country.

## Cook County wave of violence *continued*



President Stroger addresses reporters and community members at Cook County's anti-violence press conference. The gathering was designed to announce a series of County town hall meetings designed to problem-solve solutions to the recent spate of violence in the metro area and connect residents with County services that can address root causes of violence. Photo by Chris Geovanis.

More than 90% of gunshot victims at Stroger will survive their injuries, but the longterm physical and emotional consequences are often profound. Some have such catastrophic abdominal injuries that they are dependent on intravenous nutrition and are unable to eat for a year or more. Others have injuries that require amputations, or spinal cord injuries that leave them paralyzed. Nearly all have some degree of post-traumatic stress that can affect their ability to maintain relationships with family and friends or to find and keep employment.

Gunshot victims and their families are not the only individuals relying on Cook County Government for frontline services. Cook County's health care workers treat the victims of all forms of violence: young people who are victims of gang-related violence that includes assault and extreme bullying; victims of dating violence and rape; and families devastated by domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse. Officials note that children are affected by all forms of violence to which they are exposed, whether or not it is directed specifically at them.

"There are tangible costs to County taxpayers for violence, not just in terms of the tragic loss of human life and the grief that these incidents generate, but the hard costs of caring for victims and stewarding cases that result from these incidents through our court and jail system," said President Stroger. "The stark fact is that violence is a serious public health concern that demands our attention throughout Cook County."

Stroger has asked his staff to work with mayors and chief executives throughout suburban Cook County to convene a series of town hall meetings that will include staff from the Cook County Sheriff's Office, the Cook County Department of Public Health, the President's Office of Employment Training, the Cook County Department of Planning & Development, the Bureau of Health Services, and other relevant agencies. Public Health and POET will take the lead with mayors in convening these meetings. The goal of the gatherings is to provide local parents and residents with a forum to share their thoughts, concerns and ideas about root causes and possible solutions for violence in their communities with County staff and agencies – and to let local residents know about current County resources to address some of these concerns.

The President's office is also undertaking a comprehensive review of anti-violence programs and youth initiatives throughout County Government, as a way to sharpen opportunities for inter-agency cooperation and linkages, and to begin to look at particular programs that require additional support.

Cook County currently sponsors a number of existing programs that make a real difference in the lives of those at the greatest risk of becoming victims of violent crime. For example, the Cook County Sheriff's Office of Youth Services administers a program called 'In Touch' which serves to shield at-risk youth from violence and drug interaction in communities throughout Cook County. Staff at Provident Hospital of Cook County are partnering with the local Chicago police district and neighborhood churches to ratchet up teen violence prevention efforts in local neighborhoods. POET is currently working to deploy support for its summer youth employment and training services. The Cook County Department of Public Health has garnered funding to support anti-violence efforts in its service regions.

"We need to work harder – and smarter – to shore up anti-violence and crime prevention efforts throughout Cook County," said President Stroger. "I cannot – and will not – stand idly by while this pattern of epidemic violence robs of us our children. We owe our residents more. Violence has root causes and practical solutions, and I look forward to working with area officials and members of the County Board in coming months to make practical anti-violence strategies a reality throughout our operations. That includes my pledge that the offices under my authority will work hand in glove with other County agencies and officials and municipalities throughout the region to embrace practical strategies and programs to address this critical issue."

## NACo Prescription Drug Card Program

### ■ What is the NACo Prescription Discount Program?

NACo, in partnership with CVS/Caremark, has created the NACo Prescription Discount Card Program to help consumers residing in NACo member counties save money on their prescription drug purchases at participating pharmacies. Specifically, the free cards provide at-the-register savings for consumers who have no prescription drug insurance or need certain medications that are not covered by their insurance. NACo provides the cards as a benefit to its member counties.

### ■ How much will consumers save?

The average savings is about 20 percent. Savings may range from 13 to 34 percent depending on the medication. Consumers may save up to 50 percent on mail order purchases.

### ■ What are the costs associated with the program?

There is no cost to the county, county taxpayers, or consumers to participate. Caremark negotiates the discounts directly with participating pharmacies. Neither NACo nor the participating counties receive any revenue from the program.

### ■ How easy is it to participate?

There are no enrollment fees, no forms to fill out, no age or income requirements, and no medical condition restrictions for consumers to use the NACo card. In addition, the entire family is covered with just one card and virtually all commonly prescribed medicine is covered.

### ■ Who is eligible to obtain and use the card?

The NACo prescription discount cards are provided free to residents living in participating NACo member counties across the country. A national network of more than 57,000 retail pharmacies will honor the card.

### ■ Can consumers use their card in conjunction with their insurance to get a bigger discount?

No. The NACo card cannot be used in conjunction with other prescription drug insurance on any one purchase. However, consumers with insurance are allowed to use the card to purchase prescriptions that are not covered by their insurance.

### ■ Will consumers always receive the lowest retail price?

Yes. On occasion, pharmacies will price a particular medication lower than the discount rate available with the NACo card. If that occurs, consumers will receive the lower price. Either way, consumers will always receive the best price available.

### ■ Does the county have to track who has the cards or monitor card use?

No. Counties need only to make the cards available to residents.

For more information about NACo and the program, visit: [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)



## ICA hires new management team

The Illinois Counties Association has hired Frontline Public Strategies, Inc., to provide all management and administrative functions for ICA, including working with the Board of Directors to better market the NRS Deferred Compensation Plan. Frontline Public Strategies is a full-service association management and public relations firm based in Springfield, Illinois. Frontline brings a wealth of experience and a unique set of skills to the task of managing the Illinois Counties Association. The biographies of management team members follow.



**Kim Robinson, CAE** is the President of Frontline Public Strategies, Inc. a leading association management and media relations firm based in Springfield, the state capital of Illinois.

Ms. Robinson is a Certified Association Executive (CAE) – a designation earned through the American Association of Association Executives (ASAE) and the Center for Association Leadership. In addition, her leadership earned Frontline Public Strategies elite recognition as an "Accredited Association Management Company" from ASAE.

Prior to her work at Frontline, Ms. Robinson's public sector accomplishments earned recognition from Harvard University for innovation in Public Policy.

She is the former Executive Director of the Illinois Capital Development Board where she directed the state's \$3 billion capital program for four years. She previously served as Policy Director and Press Spokesperson for the Illinois Secretary of State.

Ms. Robinson earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a Charter Member of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum Foundation.



**Linda Renee Baker** founded GII in 2003 after a distinguished career in public service. The firm serves non-profit and for profit entities providing exceptional public affairs marketing and management solutions.

During her career in public service, Baker held increasingly responsible positions in a variety of state agencies.

As secretary of the Department of Human Services, she led and managed a comprehensive human services agency with about

20,000 employees and an annual budget of about \$5 billion. The agency provided services in the areas of community health and prevention, mental health, substance abuse, developmental disabilities and vocational rehabilitation. It also directed and implemented the state's nationally recognized welfare reform efforts.

She previously served as director of the Department of Employment Security, assistant director of the Department of Public Aid and as the first African-American legislative liaison for an Illinois governor.

Baker earned a PhD in public administration from the University of Illinois at Springfield in 2004. She also holds a bachelor's and master's degree in gerontology and health-care administration and public administration from that institution.

## Will County receives designation as a Preserve America Community County Executive Walsh receives official nod from First Lady Laura Bush

A letter from First Lady Laura Bush came to Will County Executive Larry Walsh recently – and it held some very good news. As honorary chair of *Preserve America*, a White House initiative that supports and helps preserve community history, Mrs. Bush notified Executive Walsh that the County of Will has been designated a Preserve America Community.

"Being designated a Preserve America community is an unbelievable tribute to Will County," said Walsh. "We have so much to be proud of when it comes to our history and heritage – and through this distinction, others will learn of our legacy as well."

This recognition is no small achievement. Award recipients are determined through a series of criteria including their accomplishments in the use and preservation of cultural or natural heritage assets. They also must demonstrate a commitment to protect and interpret America's cultural or natural heritage assets, integrate these assets into contemporary community life and showcase local historic resources.

"The preservation and enjoyment of your historical and cultural resources celebrate an important part of our nation's heritage," said Mrs. Bush in the letter. "You (Will County) honor our nation's past and inspire and educate for the future."

The Preserve America program recognizes and designates communities, including neighborhoods in large cities. The use of a community's historic assets for economic development and community revitalization are also part of the program's criteria.

"They also look for communities that encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs," explained Amy Munro, Will County Land Use Department historic preservation manager and liaison to the county's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Munro, along with the HPC, and members of Land Use and the Executive's Office worked together to pursue the Preserve America designation and complete the lengthy application process. The Will County Board approved a resolution to apply for the distinction in May 2006.

"When we initially submitted our application, we were asked to strengthen at least one area of our historic preservation program to achieve Preserve America status and decided to focus on the heritage tourism component," added Munro. "Over the course of the time that followed, the Commission worked to develop this programming area."

By enhancing the county's programming, new publication materials were created that profiled the mission and work of HPC, and further promoted historic sites and landmarks.

"None of this would have been possible without the tremendous work and support of County citizens and elected officials, as well as our partnership with other heritage organizations," Munro added.

Although the designation is recent, the Commission has been actively engaged in efforts to incorporate the preservation of Will County historic and cultural assets in its growth and development plans for over 15 years.

"Since the 1992 establishment of Will County's HPC, the Commission has been honored to work on preserving the main streets of our County's small towns, the barns and houses dotting our rural landscape, and the other landmarks that add meaning and value to the lives of our community life," said Virginia Ferry, HPC chair. "We are so thrilled that the County has been recognized at the national level for its historic preservation efforts."



Benefits include White House recognition; eligibility to apply for Preserve America grants; a certificate of recognition; authorization to use the Preserve America logo; inclusion in the Preserve America website directory; inclusion in national and regional press releases; official notification of designation to state tourism offices and visitor's bureau; and an official Preserve America Community road sign. Preserve America communities are also featured in National Register Travel Itineraries and "Teaching with Historic Places" curricular materials created by the National Park Service.

### The use of a community's historic assets for economic development and community revitalization are part of the Preserve America criteria.

"We are enthused by the benefits that this designation will provide in promoting our historic landmarks to those within and outside the County," said Curt Paddock, Director of county's Land Use Department. "This designation is a tremendous accomplishment for the County."

Since the inception of the Preserve America initiative, Mrs. Bush has designated 608 communities in all 50 states and one U.S. territory. Last year's award recipients included the History Channel – Save our History nationwide program; Downtown St. Louis Revitalization, Missouri; USS *Midway* Museum, San Diego, California; and Natchitoches – Cane River Region Heritage Tourism Initiative, Louisiana.

"Like many of the past recipients, Will County has gone through quite a transformation due to growth and economic development," said Walsh. "So I'm extremely pleased that as we continue to make progress as a county, we've never lost our sense of history, tradition and heritage. And thanks to the hard work of many, we will be recognized nationwide for it as well."

For more information contact Amy Munro at (815) 774-3364. More information on the Preserve America initiative is at [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov).

## NEW RESOURCE! Historic Preservation and Sustainability

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has created a webpage that focuses on how historic preservation can help the environment, and is part of the organization's Sustainability Initiative that will demonstrate how older buildings can "go green." Historic preservation is an effective tool for valuing and protecting our environmental resources, including those that have already been expended as well as those not yet used. Because it encourages us to reuse sound older buildings instead of abandoning or demolishing them, and to revitalize existing neighborhoods instead of building sprawling new subdivisions, preservation is "recycling" on a grand scale.

More and more projects are demonstrating that older buildings can "go green" and the Trust's Sustainability Initiative, outlined on this website, will serve as a "best practices" resource for employing green technology in the reuse and rehabilitation of historic structures.

Read more at the resource link below.  
<http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/sustainability/>



## Kane County leaders unite to provide help for homeowners

Chairman Karen McConaughay joined members of the Kane County Board, housing service agency representatives and municipal leaders in June to launch "Help for Homeowners," a comprehensive public information campaign aimed at highlighting the many resources available to assist homeowners during difficult economic times.

Approved unanimously by the County Board, the initiative highlights everything from emergency repair assistance and property tax exemptions, to property tax freeze options and foreclosure prevention counseling. The effort comes as Kane County has seen a rapid rise in its foreclosure rate, which increased by 42 percent between 2006 and 2007 – faster than in any part of the Chicagoland metro area.

"More and more Kane County families are finding it difficult to make ends meet, and a record number are facing the very real possibility of losing the homes they have worked so hard to obtain," McConaughay said. "That is catastrophic not only for those homeowners, but our entire community – and we need to work together to stop the trend."

"Help for Homeowners" brings together county and municipal leaders to highlight government and not-for-profit services already available to homeowners. Paid for with Riverboat Grant funds, the campaign will proceed at no cost to county taxpayers.

Online "Help for Homeowners" information is available at [www.countyofkane.org](http://www.countyofkane.org).

## Grant will enhance state, local public health preparedness efforts

Illinois will receive nearly \$20 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to further enhance state and local preparedness for public health emergencies. The CDC recently notified the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) that the Department will receive \$19.9 million, as part of a \$705 million package that is being awarded nationwide to public health departments in states and territories, as well as in four major metropolitan areas. The City of Chicago will also receive \$11.4 million as part of this package.

IDPH will direct part of the grant money to local health departments throughout the state to support their emergency preparedness activities, such as planning and exercises. In addition, the grant will help fund many of the state's preparedness efforts, including IDPH's laboratory, infectious diseases program, information technology program, and emergency preparedness staff members who work with local health departments on preparedness issues.

In addition, the grant will partially support the Illinois-National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS), a web-based, real-time communication system linking hospitals, laboratories and other health care providers with the state and all 95 local health departments.



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## Northeastern Illinois water demand could increase up to 64 percent through 2050, prompting shortages

**CMAP leads long-range study to help head off potential water shortfalls in 11 counties**

Depending on whether the region plans effectively, demand for water in 11 counties of northeastern Illinois could increase as much as 64 percent by mid-century, creating potentially serious shortages. So says a new report commissioned by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

The report is a product of CMAP's work with its Regional Water Supply Planning Group (RWSPG), which is preparing a strategic plan for avoiding problems that have plagued other parts of the U.S. The research was conducted by the Southern Illinois University department of geography and environmental resources.

"With this report, northeastern Illinois now has a clear picture showing implications of our water consumption trends," said CMAP executive director Randy Blankenhorn. "To ensure an adequate supply for residential, commercial, and recreational needs, we must start now to plan better – and conserve more. This water demand report is one important step toward a coordinated regional strategy for managing growth to help minimize water shortages in the future."

The water demand report will influence the 11-county water supply plan that CMAP and the RWSPG are scheduled to complete in mid-2009. That three-year regional study is meant to anticipate and address potential water shortages in Boone, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties.

Researchers generated three distinct future scenarios by major user sectors and geographical subareas within the region. The first, referred to as the CT scenario (for "current trends"), assumes that today's water withdrawal patterns will basically continue. The second is a less resource intensive (LRI) scenario, and the third is more resource intensive (MRI).

Each scenario looks to 2050 based on potential usage in homes, businesses, power plants, and farms. Variables include air temperature, precipitation, price of water, household income, population density, employment, and conservation trends.

Under the MRI scenario, demand would increase by 64.1 percent, for a total of 2.4 billion gallons per day (an increase of 949 million gallons compared to the 2005 baseline level of 1.5 billion gallons per day). The CT scenario shows a 35.8-percent increase, with daily demand rising by 530 million gallons. If strong conservation measures succeed at reducing consumption, the LRI scenario would see a 7.2-percent increase, only 107.2 million gallons more per day than in 2005.

Water use would increase to 201 gallons per capita each day under the MRI scenario, compared to 169 gallons per capita daily in 2005. Per capita usage under the CT scenario would drop slightly to 166 gallons. Under the LRI scenario, effective conservation measures would reduce daily usage to 131 gallons per day – nearly 23 percent less than in 2005.

"The MRI scenario could be viewed as a warning," the report states, "that there is a possibility of a large increase of water demands in the future." According to the report, demand could increase significantly due to factors such as inadequate conservation, the rate and location of population growth, commercial use, and climate change.

Monitoring water use is key to managing demand, according to the report. It recommends that the region maintain a "water inventory," which would be updated at least annually based on data reflecting potential changes in water withdrawal and use. Appropriate pricing of water is also a necessary condition of achieving efficient water use, the report states.



According to CMAP socio-economic forecasts, the seven counties of metropolitan Chicago will add 2.8 million residents and 1.8 million jobs by 2040.

In January 2006, Governor Blagojevich issued Executive Order 2006-1, calling for a comprehensive program for state and regional water supply planning and management. Later that year, IDNR funded CMAP to create the RWSPG, which began to meet monthly in early 2007. The group has members from stakeholder groups such as municipalities, counties, water suppliers, agriculture, business, power companies, environmental and conservation advocates, and real estate developers, among others.

The Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) will now work with CMAP to match the water demand scenarios with data on water supply. To be issued in late 2008, the result will be scenarios describing water availability to 2050. Then the RWSPG's regional plan will follow in mid-2009, with specific strategies for reducing per capita demand to manage water supplies.

The northeastern Illinois water supply plan is also an important part of CMAP's GO TO 2040 planning campaign. GO TO 2040 will yield metropolitan Chicago's first truly comprehensive regional plan, which will be issued in 2010 to guide development and infrastructure investments through the next 30 years and beyond.

**The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) was created to integrate planning for land use and transportation in the seven counties of northeastern Illinois. For more information or to download a copy of the report see [www.cmap.illinois.gov](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov).**



## Peoria County named a top ten digital county

Peoria County is one of the top digital counties in the nation according to an annual survey released by the Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties. The 2008 Digital Counties Survey is an annual study by the Center and NACo. In April, thousands of U.S. counties were invited to participate in the 2008 Digital Counties Survey. County officials responded to questions that included more than 100 measurements and data about online service delivery, infrastructure, architecture and governance models.

To recognize the hard work and innovation of the best governments, the survey's top digital counties were honored at a national awards ceremony which coincided with NACo's national conference in Kansas City, Missouri in July. Peoria County makes its debut at the number seven spot of the top ten list for Counties in the 150,000-249,000 population category.

"Our customers have come to expect their government operations to reflect and support their on-demand lives, so Peoria County has been steadily investing in technology to help meet our constituents' needs for online access," said Peoria County Board Chairman William Prather. "It's gratifying that the Center for Digital Government survey results validate the efforts and progress of our eCounty initiative."

The county's award-winning e-County program has been successful in creating a dynamic, useful website that offers access to government information and operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Residents, businesses and government agencies can take advantage of an expanding variety of online resources to make inquiries, pay taxes, court fees and traffic fines, locate facilities, subscribe to board meeting podcasts and research property information.

To access Peoria County's e-government services, visit [www.peoriacounty.org/county/ecounty](http://www.peoriacounty.org/county/ecounty). For information about the Digital County Survey visit [www.centerdigitalgov.com](http://www.centerdigitalgov.com).

## Report on NACo 2008 Annual Conference

by Gregg Goslin, Cook County Board Commissioner



Commissioner Goslin presented outgoing NACo president Eric Coleman with a resolution honoring his year of achievements. Coleman, now a commissioner in Oakland County, Michigan, got his start in community service in Illinois, where he got his degree from the Art Institute and taught in Chicago.

It was a pleasure to be able to visit with so many of you at the NACo Annual Conference last month in Jackson County. It is an honor to continue to represent Illinois on the NACo Board this year and I am pleased to provide this report of the substantive meetings.

### 2008-2009 Presidential Initiatives:

- **Green Government** – newly installed President Don Stapley (Maricopa County) announced his commitment to helping counties save money, decrease foreign oil dependence and improve the environment by accelerating the transition of county fleets to alternatively fuel and advance technology vehicles. NACo will be providing information about green vehicles, policies and pilot projects for counties using these cars of the future.
- **Immigration** – NACo will be pursuing a civil dialogue on immigration issues. President Stapley believes that “a workable system for legal immigration is essential to the U.S. economy and for our individual counties. Illegal immigration, on the other hand, stresses the education, health care, criminal justice and other locally-run systems in counties” around the country. His goal is restore civility to the immigration debate and build a consensus around a workable system of legal immigration.
- **Organizational Review** – A new task force has been established to perform a comprehensive review of the entire NACo association: bylaws, governance and structure. I am pleased that I have been asked to serve on this task force and will be providing you information as we move forward.

### Other Board News:

We heard a report regarding the success of the Prescription Drug Discount Card. This program continues to grow and to date \$89 million has been saved by county residents. 1022 counties participate (about 1/3 of the nation's counties), and if your county hasn't yet signed on, I urge you to consider it. My district offices are distribution sites for residents and I hear regularly from constituents how valued this savings plan is. Participants average a savings of 22%.

NACo is also continuing its “Restore the Partnership” campaign to improve the relationship with the federal government.

I have been reappointed Chair of the NACo County Hospital Task Force, created by Immediate Past President Eric Coleman last year as one of his presidential initiatives. Now in its second year, this Task Force is charged with identifying best practices in hospital operations and governance. Our group will be discussing policy recommendations for hospital reform to be presented to the NACo leadership. This has been an exciting opportunity to share ideas and trends with those operating county hospitals and help shape future policy.

Please contact me regarding any NACo Board issue at 312-603-4932 or [commissionergoslin@cookcountygov.com](mailto:commissionergoslin@cookcountygov.com).

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## Ride out market volatility

by Bob Beasley, CRC, CIC, Communications Consultant

Recently, the stock markets around the world have been riding a roller coaster, plunging hundreds of points and bouncing back in a single day. All of this action can leave retirement-plan investors feeling a bit dizzy.

You may be asking yourself, “Should I move my retirement assets out of equities?” The short answer may be, “It depends.”

If you continue your investment strategy in your employer-sponsored retirement plan when the markets are topsy-turvy – or even through a down market – you take the guesswork out of when, where or how much to invest. You can focus on long-term goals rather than immediate concerns, maintain a consistent plan, and possibly pay less for your investments than their average price over a long period of time. Who doesn't like paying less while getting more?

### Take a lesson from history

Consider the impact other major crises have had on the market and, more importantly, the stock market's long-term trend. While past performance does not guarantee future results, investors who have stayed in the market during turbulent times have eventually been rewarded.

### Three examples:

1. The markets retreated 17% in the five months following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. By the time World War II ended in 1945, the markets had gained 62%.
2. On August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait and the S&P 500 embarked on a three-month decline of 13.5%. Yet, one year later, the S&P 500 was 10.16% higher than it was on August 2, 1990.
3. The market was already hurting when the 9/11 attacks occurred in 2001 and it took a year before they bottomed out. Since closing at 7,286.27 on October 9, 2002, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has been on extended bull run that took it above 14,000.41 – an all-time high – on July 19 of this year.

In each case, participants who continued investing for the long term benefited from the advantages of regular contributions to their employer-sponsored retirement plan.

### Time can be your greatest ally

One final thought: We're not suggesting that you should use a “set it and forget it” approach to your retirement investments. And, of course, investing involves risk including a possible loss of principal, but change for change's sake rarely yields good results.

Instead, it's good practice for long-term investors such as retirement plan participants to step back and weigh all the factors before changing your investment strategy. Roller coasters eventually stop, and afterward you might feel pretty good about taking the ride.

If you have questions about how you may be able to effectively ride out market volatility, contact a your Nationwide representative or call 1-877/677-3678. Information from Nationwide representatives is for education purposes only and is not intended as investment advice.

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## Illinois Meth Project launches Meth prevention campaign

The Illinois Meth Project Project released results of the 2007 Illinois Meth Use & Attitudes Survey: Springfield, Decatur, Champaign Regions. The in-depth survey examining Illinois teens' attitudes and behaviors toward methamphetamine shows that many young people consider Meth an easily accessible, low-risk drug that offers a myriad of benefits.

The survey details findings from a random sample of more than 912 middle and high school students, ages 12 to 17, across the Springfield, Decatur and Champaign regions. The results offer a window into adolescents' perceptions of this harmful drug.

Nearly one in four teens (22%) reported the drug is readily available and 26% see little risk in giving it a try. The survey also suggests that teens perceive significant benefits in using Meth – 21% cite weight loss as a key benefit, 16% believe it will make them happy, and one in 10 teens (12%) say Meth will help them deal with boredom. Not only do some teens see benefits in using Meth, but the data further indicates a relatively low level of social disapproval.

The report also serves as a benchmark to measure future impact of the Illinois Meth Project's large-scale prevention campaign to educate the state's youth about the dangers of methamphetamine use.

Local and national law enforcement agencies report methamphetamine has reached critical levels, particularly in the state's central and southern regions. According to the University of Illinois, methamphetamine costs the state \$2 billion per year. The U.S. Department of Justice cites meth as the primary drug threat to central and southern Illinois, with increasing prevalence in the Chicago area.

For more information or to download a copy of the survey results, visit [www.illinoismethproject.org](http://www.illinoismethproject.org).

## GSA gets new authority to help state and local governments

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) received new authority to help state and local governments in purchasing homeland security equipment and services under the Local Preparedness Acquisitions Act (HB 3179) signed by President Bush on June 25, 2008.

The new law authorizes the GSA Administrator to allow state, local, and tribal governments to buy homeland security goods and services through the cooperative purchasing program. Officials will be able to use GSA's Schedule 84 to buy items such as: alarm systems, facility management systems, fire-fighting and rescue equipment, law enforcement and security equipment, and marine craft.

Federal Acquisition Service Commissioner Jim Williams said, "GSA's ability to leverage the federal government's enormous buying power enables us to provide goods and services at best value and pass the savings on to our client agencies. Now we can pass these discounts on to state and local governments, while also allowing for enhanced security through greater interoperability possibilities across the federal, state and local environment. That's a win-win for our customers and the American taxpayers."

## DuPage County launches new program to recycle unwanted electronics

DuPage County has entered into an agreement with SIMS Recycling Solutions to collect used and unwanted electronics from county households. This first-of-its-kind program in DuPage County will provide residents with an opportunity to dispose of old computers, printers, fax machines, cell phones, televisions and radios in a safe, and environmentally friendly, manner without any cost to the taxpayers of DuPage County.



Under the agreement, DuPage County will work with local governmental entities, schools and charitable organizations to schedule electronic waste pick-ups throughout the county. SIMS Recycling Solutions will provide all the needed supplies, transport the collected materials from the site, remove the recyclable parts from the machinery and properly dispose of all the materials. Electronic waste is of concern largely due to the toxicity and carcinogenicity of some of the substances if processed improperly.

"Our electronic recycling program serves to help us better preserve our natural resources and allows us, as a community, to be better stewards of our environment," says Jeff Redick, Chairman of the County's Environmental Committee. "It is vital that we ensure electronic equipment is recycled properly so that the chemicals they contain do not find their way into our soils and water streams."

In an effort to make recycling locations more accessible, and widespread, through the county, DuPage County will be reaching out to area schools, businesses and municipalities to help them set up programs for their own recycling efforts, as well as providing space to host recycling events for area residents. Those residents worried about identity theft can take comfort, notes Redick, because SIMS utilizes U.S. Department of Defense procedure DOD 5220.22-M to wipe hard drives and storage systems ensuring that identities are protected. All processing of the equipment is done within the United States.

"This truly is a win-win for the people of DuPage County. We are able to do something and do it using private funds rather than taxpayer dollars," said Redick.



## 2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

*What Elected Officials Need to Know about the 2010 Census*

In 2010, the U.S. census will define who we are as a nation. Taken every 10 years, the census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. As an elected official, you work daily to secure the best interests of your constituents and to ignite positive change for your community. By becoming a 2010 Census partner, you can help ensure that everyone in your community is counted so that your community receives its fair share of important services and resources. **Achieving a complete and accurate 2010 Census is in our hands.**

### The Census: A Snapshot

- The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years.
- The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.
- The 2010 Census will create hundreds of thousands of temporary jobs across the nation.

### It's in Our Hands: Your Community's Participation in the Census Matters

- Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period.
- Census data guide planning for new hospitals, schools and other services.
- Census data is used to determine the most need for additional social services, including who receives community development block grants and other grant programs essential to many communities.

### Completing the 2010 Census Questionnaire: Simple and Safe

- The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person—name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race, and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail.
- The Census Bureau does not release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their household for 72 years.

[www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census)

# NACo Healthy Counties Database

[www.healthycounties.org/database](http://www.healthycounties.org/database)



## Is Your County Interested In...

- ♥ Childhood Obesity Prevention
- ♥ Creating Healthy Communities
- ♥ Building Robust Economies
- ♥ Agricultural Preservation

## Check out NACo's new Healthy Counties Database!

Search over 100 model policies, programs and initiatives from counties across the nation.

We are continually seeking county submissions in order to build the database. Please submit or nominate best practices to Christina Rowland at [crowland@naco.org](mailto:crowland@naco.org) or 202.942.4267.

## NACo's Prescription Drug Discount Card program means big savings for consumers

While the costs for prescription drugs continue to spiral out of control, the National Association of Counties has a program that helps NACo Members in Illinois Counties help their residents at no cost to the county. The NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card program was designed for your uninsured and underinsured county residents. Through a partnership with CVS/Caremark, this simple discount card can save an average of 20% off the full retail cost of prescription medication. Here are the key factors that make it a great program:



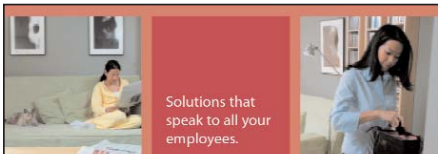
- **It is easy to participate.** There are no enrollment fees, no forms to fill out, no age or income requirements, and no medical condition restrictions. The entire family is covered with just one card and virtually all commonly prescribed medicine is covered.
- **There are no costs.** There is no cost to the county, county taxpayers, or consumers to participate. Caremark negotiates the discounts directly with participating pharmacies. Neither NACo nor the participating counties receive any revenue from the program.
- **Everyone is eligible.** The discount cards are provided free to residents living in participating NACo member counties across the country. A national network of more than 59,000 retail pharmacies honor the card.
- **Consumers always receive the lowest retail price.** On occasion, pharmacies will price a particular medication lower than the discount rate available with the NACo card. If that occurs, consumers will receive the lower price. Either way, consumers will always receive the best price available.

Attend an exciting session on the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card program at the Illinois Counties Association/NACo conference on September 17-18, 2008 at the Chicago Midway Airport Marriott. Your county must be a NACo member to participate in the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card program. For more information contact Andrew Goldschmidt, Director, Membership Marketing at [agoldschmidt@naco.org](mailto:agoldschmidt@naco.org).

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Illinois Counties Association 1st Annual Conference**  
*in cooperation with the*  
 National Association of Counties (NACo)  
 September 17 & 18, 2008  
 Marriott Midway Hotel • Chicago, Illinois

Contact Ruth Anne Tobias at [rtobias@dekalbcounty.org](mailto:rtobias@dekalbcounty.org) for more information.



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