County News

Vol. 37 No. 21 • November 14, 2005

"The wisdom to know and the courage to defend the public interest"

National Association of Counties • Washington, D.C.

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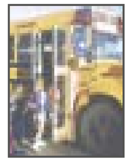

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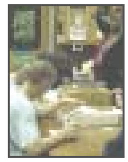

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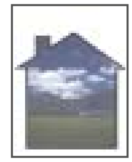


NACo Indoor Air Quality grants now available. See page 9.

House trims eminent domain powers in response to *Kelo* case

By Julie Ufner
Associate Legislative Director

By a largely bipartisan vote of 376-38, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4128, the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2005.

H.R. 4128 would forbid states and local governments from taking private property for economic development purposes if they have received any federal economic development dollars in the past two years.

Any state or local government that violates this rule would forfeit federal economic development funds for a period of two years.

Additionally, private property owners would have the right to sue state and local governments up to seven years after the property takings if the property is eventually used for economic development purposes. That means that even if the original reason for taking the property was not economic development, if the owner can show that the property was used for economic development purposes within the seven-year window, then the state or local government could face the prospect of losing federal funding.

This bill is in response to the June 23 Supreme Court decision in *Kelo v. City of New London.*. By a vote of 5–4, the court ruled that states and local governments can use eminent domain authority for private economic development, as long as the land in question is for public use.

In *Kelo*, the city took private property through eminent domain and turned it over to private developers for commercial development.

H.R. 4128 defines "economic development" as the taking of private property without permission of the owner and using the land for private, for-profit projects or those intended to raise tax revenue, increase the tax base, create jobs or for economic health.

The exemptions include using eminent domain authority for a transfer to a "common carrier," including railroads, public utilities, public facilities or for use as a right of way, aqueduct or pipeline.

Supporters of the bill argue that H.R. 4128 restores balance to a more

■ *See* **DOMAIN** *on page 8*

Photo courtesy of Miami-Dade County

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally A. Heyman learns how to ride a Segway Human Transporter during a press conference last month announcing her donation of seven Segways to police departments throughout the county. The Segways were purchased from Commissioner Heyman's discretionary funds. Commissioner Bruno Barreiro also donated a Segway to the Miami Beach Police Department. For more news from the nation's counties, see page 13.

Oregon court muddles Measure 37 claims process

By Dan Miller
Staff Writer

Recent rulings by the Marion County Circuit Court and Oregon Supreme Court have left county governments uncertain on how to handle claims pertaining to Measure 37, a law that grants compensation to land owners whose property values have been diminished by governmental actions.

Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 37 last November by 22-point margin. The measure allows private property owners just compensation if a land use regulation restricts the use of the property and reduces its fair market value. Instead of paying the landowner, the measure also provides that the government responsible for the regulation may remove or modify the regulation.

The measure's passage was seen as a significant victory for property rights advocates, but came as a disappointment for Smart Growth land use proponents. After the election, Oregon's previously

■ *See* **MEASURE** *on page 9*

County News Quik Takes

Civilian Population Over 18 Who Are Veterans

Cumberland County, N.C.	25.4 percent
Virginia Beach (City), Va.	23.7 percent
El Paso County, Colo.	22.3 percent
Escambia County, Fla.	21.1 percent
Brevard County, Fla.	18.9 percent
Sarasota County, Fla.	18.4 percent

Source: American Community Survey (2003)

County residents save with NACo's prescription drug discount card

NACo's Prescription Drug Discount Card program's goal was to help counties save on the high cost of prescription drugs is well on its way to being achieved. In less than a year, the program has helped county residents save more than $2.5 million on drug purchases.

The program, which provides an overall average savings of 19 percent, continues to grow. As of Nov. 10, 150 counties and parishes have signed up for the program while another 400 have inquired about the card program that provides discounts prescription prices for the uninsured, underinsured, seniors and even jail inmates.

"My county was one of the original pilot counties for this program, and we have been extremely happy since we implemented it. The NACo Prescription Drug Card Program has saved my county's residents many thousands of dollars and has been a tremendous benefit of NACo membership. I have told other counties about the cards, and I am fully supportive of any county implementing this exciting program," said Commissioner Leroy Garcia, San Miguel County, N.M. board chair.

NACo went through a four-year process to develop the program, a process, which included a request for proposals and information process, extensive comparison and consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of this type of program.

A committee of county officials selected the Caremark program based on several advantages:

- no cost to the participant
- no age requirements or income restrictions

■ *See* **DISCOUNTS** *on page 5*

New safety programs added to SAFETEA-LU

BY ROBERT FOGEL
SENIOR LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The new federal surface transportation program, known as SAFETEA-LU, signed into law in August includes several new safety program of interest to county governments. These programs were created, in part, because of a renewed emphasis on safety at the federal level — something NACo strongy advocated during the highway reauthorization debate — and the fact that roughly 42,000 Americans are involved in fatal accidents each year.

These programs are of particular interest because the increased emphasis on safety in the new legislation means all public roads, not just those roads on the federal-aid system, are eligible for funding.

Highway Safety Improvement Program

A new core safety program was adopted, the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), provides in excess of $5 biliion, nearly doubling the previous safety funding levels. Within this program, a new high risk rural road set-aside program is created and the railway-highway crossing program is continued.

Another new program under SAFETEA-LU is the Safe Routes to School Program that requires the U.S. Department of Transportation to establish and carry out infrastructure and non-infrastructure-related programs to enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school. Funding for this new program is $612 million over five years.

The HSIP replaces the safety set-aside that was formerly part of the Surface Transportation Program. Over the next four years, an average of $1.26 billion will be distributed by formula to the states. The funds can be used for a broad array of safety improvement crashes to reduce the number and severity of highway-related crashes and to decrease the potential for projects on all highways, including any road owned by a county government. Funds will be available for projects aimed at intersection safety improvement, pavement and shoulder widening, rumble strips, signage and guardrails.

County officials need to get involved in this program at an early stage and document the projects they want funded. Every state is required to develop a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) that involves a comprehensive, collaborative and data-driven approach towards highway safety. This plan is required to lay out projects and strategies for which the federal funding will be used to reduce or eliminate safety hazards.

For counties, it is important to note that the SHSP must be developed in collaboration with key safety stakeholders in the state, which includes local officials, and the SHSP must be data-driven. The presumption is that the federal safety funds must be invested in projects where the data (fatalities, crashes, police records, etc.) supports the need for investment.

High risk rural areas

As a part of the HSIP, there is a specific set-aside for High Risk Rural Roads. This was a NACo priority. While any of the $1.2 billion annually can be spent on rural roads, $90 million is specifically targeted for safety problems on roadways classified as rural major collectors, rural minor collectors and rural local roads.

The funds can be used for construction and operational improvements related to safety but must be used on roads that have a crash rate, fatalities and incapacitating injuries that exceed the statewide average for those functional classes of roads.

A second set-aside on the HSIP program is for Railway-Highway Grade Crossing. At $220 million annually, this program is increased by approximately $65 million beyond TEA-21 levels. This program is basically unchanged and is aimed at funding projects on any public road that eliminates hazards at rail grade crossings, including the separation or protection, reconstruction and relocation of grade crossings.

Safe routes to school program

The Safe Routes to School Program is a totally new program focused on enabling and encouraging children to safely walk and bicycle to school. This is another program for which counties and all the roads they own are eligible.

County leaders should work vigorously to get their projects at the top of the funding list.

An average of $122 annually will be distributed by formula to each state to be used by state, counties and cities, and regional agencies, including non-profit organizations, to further this objective.

Each state has to designate a coordinator for this new program, a person county officials should contact. Eligible project include sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed reduction improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, traffic diversion improvements near schools and a variety of projects to encourage the use of bicycles.

Each state must use between 1 percent to 30 percent of the funds for non-infrastructure related activities, such as public awareness campaigns, traffic education and enforcement near schools and student sessions on pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Counties urge president, Congress to increase disaster funding, support

America's county governments are urging the president and Congress to enact a comprehensive list of recommendations that would help the Gulf Coast rebuild following the recent hurricanes as well as enable the country to better prepare for future catastrophic disasters.

"Our policy recommendations call for strengthening critical infrastructure, aiding citizens and enhancing support to state and local governments for disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery," said NACo President Bill Hansell in a letter to President George W. Bush and members of Congress. "We urge your support for these recommendations and speedy congressional action."

The letter was accompanied by a detailed analysis of the problems that exist and methods for solving them. The introduction to the policy recommendations noted that "individual citizens, the private sector and the local, state and federal governments should act as partners with shared goals and values to further the capacity of our communities to be self-sufficient."

The nation's counties recommend that:

• Federal and state assistance for natural and man-made disasters must reach first responders in an expedited fashion.

• Reimbursements should cover all costs incurred in responding and recovering from major disasters or terrorist attacks.

• Funding should be increased to repair and rebuild damaged highways, bridges, transit systems and airports.

• Federal, state and local governments should work together to improve the public safety communications infrastructure.

• Additional funding should be provided to the Community Development Block Grant and the HOME Investment Partnerships programs, which are aiding disaster victims.

• The Social Services Block Grant Program should be increased by $1.1 billion, and

• Additional funding of $500 million should be provided to the Department of Labor's National Emergency Grant program.

The recommendations also stressed the importance of preparing for and preventing future disasters through funding for training, mitigation programs, emergency management grants, improving flood maps and developing evacuation plans.

(If you would like a copy of NACo's recommendations, please visit the Homeland Security Issues and Interest area on NACo's Web site, www.naco.org; or contact Dalen Harris, associate legislative director at 202/942-4236 or dharris@naco.org.)

County Leadership in Conservation Award – Nominate Your County Today!

Counties have long been leaders in land conservation and open space protection, and NACo and the Trust for Public Lands want to salute these efforts with a County Leadership in Conservation Award. These awards will recognize leadership, innovation and successful implementation of investments in open space, parks, watersheds, recreational lands and wildlife preserves by NACo- member counties.

The deadline for submissions is Nov. 18 and the awards will be presented at an annual conservation awards program, as part of the NACo National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in March 2006.

Additional information and nomination forms can be accessed on the Web at *www.naco.org/conservationawards* or by contacting Abby Friedman at 202/942-4225 or *afriedma@naco.org*.

County News Corrections

• NACo First Vice President Eric Coleman testified on methamphetamine abuse, Oct. 20. The date listed in the story, "Coleman drums up support for fight against meth," (*County News*, Oct. 31) was incorrect.

• Samuel J. Tilden was the Democratic candidate who was defeated by Rutherford B. Hayes in the contested election of 1876. Rutherford's opponent was incorrectly identified in the article, "The U.S. Military and local governments: a history," *County News*, Oct. 31.

• In the Oct. 31 *County News* "News From the Nation's Counties," the state for Dakota County was incorrectly labeled. The county is in Nebraska.

From the President's PDA

By Bill Hansell
NACo President

The NACo Finance Committee met at the end of October at the NACo office in Washington D.C. Chaired by President-elect Colleen Landkamer, it was a productive meeting with several items of interest being discussed. The members of the committee do a great service for all us as they review the budget and consider other items related to it.

NACo budget

The primary responsibility of the Finance Committee is to review the NACo Budget. NACo is on a calendar year, and our budget will go into effect Jan. 1, 2006, after it is reviewed and adopted by the NACo Board at the fall Board meeting. We are fortunate to have a very capable finance staff, headed by Kathy Bosak, our CFO.

Kathy reviewed the budget and in her report observed: "2005 has turned out to be a very good year. Revenue is expected to exceed $2 million — $871,000 higher than budget. Expenses are on target. 2006 is projected to be another extraordinary year with a net surplus of $2.1 million proposed. Revenue is expected to increase 2 percent due to increased revenue from our conferences and grant-funded operations, and expenses have been held to a 1.8 percent increase."

Bill Hansell
NACo President

This is good news for all of us. It wasn't that long ago that our financial situation was not very good. Under Larry Naake's leadership NACo has made major strides and is financially stable.

New building

I think we are on the home stretch for the selection of a new office building for NACo. As most of you probably know, our lease runs out on the current building at the end of 2006. We have been working on what to do for many years, and the end is now in sight.

Several earlier decisions gave direction to the staff as to what was preferred. We wanted to stay near Capitol Hill, near the Metro, rent versus own and to get the best return on our investment.

From dozens of properties, we have now narrowed the field to three with a distinct preference. Negotiations are in the final stages, but I think all of you will feel very comfortable with the preferred choice, should a deal be made. The Executive Committee has viewed the building from the outside, and is quite happy with the selection. I might add that it was the most affordable of the final sites.

Conference registration task force

The last item from the committee meeting, I want to mention, was the discussion of our conference registration fees. Conferences are an important part of our organization. However some of them do not break even, requiring other departments to cover the loss. I asked Tarrant County Texas Commissioner Glenn Whitley to chair the task force comprised of six other county officials.

They will report back to the Executive Committee, and then to the Board if there are any recommendations for change to be made.

As the Finance Committee drew to a close, I was once again very impressed with the high caliber of people who are taking their time and resources to serve the rest of us. All of us were well represented.

Refinery bill deadlocks in Senate committee

By Julie Ufner
Associate Legislative Director

Congress continues its effort to expand oil refinery capacity in the U.S. The latest attempt, S. 1772, the Gas Petroleum Refiner Improvement and Community Empowerment Act, failed to make its way out of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee.

The committee deadlocked on the measure with a 9–9 vote, essentially derailing the bill unless its language is tucked into another bill or Senate leaders use a controversial method to bring the bill to the Senate floor.

A far friendlier bill to local governments than the House energy bill passed Oct. 7. S. 1772 was designed to encourage the construction and expansion of oil refineries in the aftermath of record gas prices caused by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina by streamlining the state and federal permit process. It also offered communities separate monies to study whether it was feasible to site a refinery at a local closed military base.

According to the American Petroleum Institute (API), refineries are running close to full capacity at 90 percent. As a result, refineries have little room to expand production.

However, during the mark-up, there was heavy debate about why refinery capacity has not been increased. Committee Democrats pointed out that in the past three decades 30 refineries have been shut down by the oil companies, who claim the refineries are not profitable.

Democrats on the committee expressed concern about whether the bill was a give-away to oil companies who have experienced record profits in the past year. Some felt Congress needed to focus more on energy conservation.

However, a larger reason why S. 1772 failed centered on Democrats' fears that if S. 1772 passed, it would be sent to a conference committee where it would have been deliberated along with H.R. 3893, the contentious House refinery bill. NACo opposed H.R. 3893 because it contained damaging preemptions on local governments.

In the meantime, no new refineries have been built in the U.S. in the past 10 years. The oil companies have claimed that due to strict environmental regulations, they have been unable to successfully move through the permit process. NACo maintains there is no evidence to suggest that local laws prevented siting of a refinery.

H.R. 3893, the House refinery bill has been referred to the Senate Energy Committee. Committee Chair Domenici has stated he would like to move his own refinery bill through the Energy Committee.

House hearing emphasizes county corrections role

By Donald Murray
Senior Legislative Director

Arthur Wallenstein, director of corrections and rehabilitation for Montgomery County, Md., testified before the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security in support of the Second Chance Act of 2005 (H.R 1704) and on the role of counties in setting up comprehensive prisoner re-entry programs.

He emphasized the major importance of the county jail as an assessment and staging area for the provision of comprehensive re-entry services and expressed the hope that the legislation would promote badly needed intergovernmental reforms.

"While 650,000 inmates leave prison each year, there are some 7 million to 10 million persons who exit county jails during the same period," Wallenstein declared. Although these releases include a large number of misdemeanants — some of whom are re-arrested several times during the course of a year — he said that jails also release virtually all felony inmates transferred to state prisons. In the U.S, with few exceptions, virtually no one who is to be detained goes directly to prison. "They go directly to jail!"

Misdemeanant offenders, Wallenstein added, such as those charged with domestic violence can be very dangerous, "but hopefully by intervening early at the local level we can turn them around before they commit serious felonies and are transferred to the state system."

Wallenstein also emphasized the importance of federal leadership, citing the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, which led to major reforms on a very modest investment including a provision in 1980 requiring the removal of juveniles from adult jails.

NACo President Bill Hansell and the USCM President Beverly O'Neill also issued a joint statement at the

■ *See* **CORRECTIONS** *on page 4*

Photo by Donald Murray

Art Wallenstein, director, Corrections and Rehabilitation, Montgomery County, Md. (r), discusses the county role in prisoner re-entry with Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security (l) and Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), ranking member of the subcommittee.

PROFILES
In Service...

Robert “Bob” P. Janes

Lee County, Fla. Commissioner

NACo Health Steering Committee Chairman

Number of years active in NACo: 10 years

Years in Public Service: 25 years

Occupation: Lee County Board of County Commissioners

Education: B.S., University of Minnesota; M.A.P.A., University of Minnesota; M.P.A. (public affairs), University of Southern California

Three people (living or dead) I’d invite to dinner: Sen. Robert A. Taft, Winston Churchill and Harry Truman

A dream I have is to: Cruise down the Mississippi River to New Orleans and cross the Gulf of Mexico to Miami and travel up the InterCoastal Waterway to the St. Lawrence Seaway and return to Minneapolis taking time, of course, to cruise the Tennessee River.

You’d be surprised to learn that I: Can’t swim.

The most adventurous think I’ve ever done is: Ice fishing in 40 degree below zero temperatures.

My favorite way to relax is: Narrowing down the “honey-do” list.

I’m most proud of: My wife, Lynda and my three daughters, Sandra, Mary and Susie.

Every morning I read: *The Fort Myers New-Press*, *Naples Daily News*, *USA Today* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

My favorite meal is: Most everything that is home-cooked and raisin-free.

My pet peeve is: People that complain about government and are unregistered to vote.

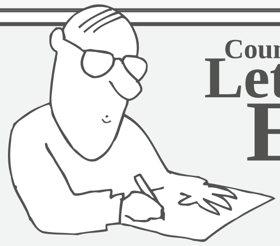
My motto is: “Carpe diem” as well as “Illegitimi Non Carborundum est.”

The last book I read was: *1776* by David McCullough.

My favorite movie is: *All Quiet on the Western Front,”* a 1930 film classic with Lew Ayres.

My favorite music is: Blues and country/western.

My favorite president is: Harry S. Truman.



County News invites Letters to the Editor

If you have a compliment, complaint or different point of view, let us know.

Please include a phone number with your letter. Mail, fax or e-mail to: County News, NACo, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2080; (202) 393-2630; *cnews@naco.org.*

Bernalillo ‘model’ county presents juvenile detention alternatives

By Lesley Buchan
Project Manager

National research shows that although juvenile crime has declined over the past decade and continues to decline, juvenile detention populations grow steadily.

In response, many counties are beginning to consider the alternatives to adding more beds in their juvenile detention facilities as way to deal with the overcrowding issue, among them, Bernalillo County, N.M.

“If you build it, they will fill it,” says Bernalillo County’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Coordinator Doug Mitchell.

According to Mitchell, you can’t keep building facilities, it’s too expensive. Moreover, the wrong kids end up in detention. Juvenile detention centers, Mitchell says, have become the primary default mental health provider in Bernalillo County and around the country.

“The delinquency system is like quicksand. Once kids get in they can’t get out,” said Judge Marie Baca of Bernalillo’s Children’s Court. According to Baca, detention reform is about making sure that the kids who are released have access to and are enrolled in services.

> “The delinquency system is like quicksand. Once kids get in they can’t get out,”
>
> *– Judge Marie Baca*
> *Bernalillo’s Children’s Court*

From 1994–1996, Bernalillo County added 27-bed units to its juvenile detention facility, as its juvenile population steadily increased.

In 1998, the county was facing a 50 percent to 65 percent staff turnover rate, unsafe conditions and a high special needs population in the facility.

At that point, the county began evaluating costs for additional expansion and decided it was time to examine other options.

This led them to discussions with the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) and in 2000, the county joined on as a site for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). County leaders concluded that they needed significant detention and systems reform, and that all stakeholders needed to be part of that change process.

The Bernalillo County Commissioners were critical partners in initiating JDAI. The commissioners allowed the juvenile detention administrators to re-allocate existing resources to undertake JDAI reforms and not to cut the budget.

“The commissioners left our budget alone and they agreed to raise staff salaries to reduce the high turnover rate. Currently our turnover rate is 10 percent. The commissioners stuck by our side and we needed their support. They invested in us and gave us the flexibility to move in a direction we wanted and our job was not to embarrass them in the end,” said Tom Swisstack, director of the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center.

Bernalillo adopted the goals that AECF has established for all JDAI sites, which are: to reduce the number of kids unnecessarily detained; to

■ *See* **JUVENILE** *on page 5*

NACo supports funding to reduce recidivism

■ **CORRECTIONS** *from page 3*

hearing. The statement expressed enthusiastic support for the legislation. “NACo and USCM believe the legislation will be important not only in funding demonstration programs at the local level but also in influencing how cities and counties invest their own funds.”

At the local level, cities and counties share responsibility for administering the local criminal justice system. According to the Census Bureau in 2002 local governments spent $87 billion annually on criminal justice. It has been estimated that more than two thirds of local detainees and state prisoners will be re-arrested within three years of their release and half will be re-incarcerated.

Subcommittee Chair Howard Coble (R-N.C.) announced he would “warmly embrace fast track consideration” of the bill. The legislation has 90 co-sponsors.

Some of the witnesses expressed the view that even a modest cut in recidivism would justify the new legislation and that it boiled down to an issue of public safety. Rep. William Delahunt (D-Mass.) a former county prosecutor noted that releasing people from jail in the same condition as when they arrived runs the risk of releasing “social time bomb... This is a cheap investment... you’re saving tax dollars. It is the most significant legislation to come before this committee since I have been here,” he said.

A major policy advisor to NACo for the last 28 years and a former chair of NACo’s Corrections Subcommittee, Wallenstein served on the National Institute of Corrections National Advisory Committee for 10 years and directed corrections programs in Bucks County, Pa. and King County, Wash. before he assumed his present position.

County News

“The wisdom to know and the courage to defend the public interest”

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(202) 393-6226 • FAX (202) 393-2630

Published biweekly except August by: National Association of Counties Research Foundation, Inc.
440 First Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 393-6226 • FAX (202) 393-2630
E-mail: ***cnews@naco.org*** **• Online address:** ***www.countynews.org***

Mail subscriptions are $100 per year for non-members. $60 per year for non-members purchasing multiple copies. Educational institution rate, $50 per year. Member county supplemental subscriptions are $20 each. Send payment with order and address changes to NACo, 440 First St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to County News, 440 First St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001
(USPS 704-620) • (ISSN: 0744-9798)

Bernalillo County cuts detained youth population in half with model program

■ **JUVENILE** *from page 4*

minimize failures to appear (FTA) in court and the incidence of delinquent behavior; to re-direct public finances toward successful reform strategies; and to improve conditions of confinement.

Bernalillo County has also focused on how to improve decision-making regarding detention policies by using solid data. They found that youth were being booked, and probation officers were bringing them to detention only to then be immediately released.

"Kids are often brought to detention because they upset an adult, but they are not a threat to public safety," said Mitchell.

Since implementing the JDAI model in 2000, Bernalillo County has reduced its detention population from over 110 youth to approximately 50 youth detained, on average, in 2005.

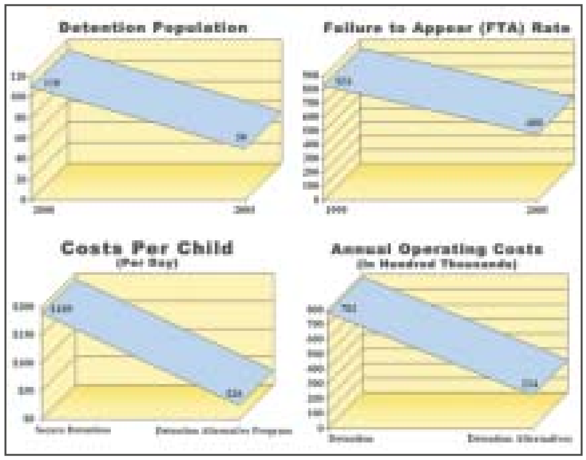
The Bernalillo juvenile detention administrators also examined what was causing their high failure-to-appear rates among the youth and learned some interesting facts. They found there were often literacy issues in the homes of the youth needing to appear in court. Notices were not sent out bilingually.

According to Mitchell, administrators often make assumptions which were not based on hard data and facts. Post-JDAI reform, Bernalillo County has been able to reduce its FTA rate from 831 in 1999 to 480 as of April 2005.

In 2003, there was a children's code change in the state of New Mexico which required detention center staff to conduct a risk assessment for youth entering the detention system. Bernalillo County plans to use the data gained from this risk assessment to help them see what additional resources are needed to expand alternatives to detention and then make a case to the state legislature for help in future funding.

What are the alternatives to detention that are lowering the detention population? Bernalillo County has developed several key alternatives to detention with no additional staff. One of the more unique alternatives in Bernalillo's program is a children's community mental health center, which was established in 2001 and is located on the juvenile detention center campus.

The children's mental health center originated as a collaborative effort with the county juvenile detention center, medical assistance division, and Medicaid managed care organizations.



Detention administrators saw the need for community-based behavioral health services to prevent children with mental health needs from ending up in the detention facility simply because there was no other place to get services. Their facility is the only licensed children's community mental health center in the state of New Mexico.

The center was funded with an initial investment from Bernalillo County and from the local Medicaid managed care organization, and it receives ongoing funding from billing Medicaid for services. The center provides a bridge or continuum of services for the highest-need children. It is able to attract high quality therapists and therapeutic services in exchange for taking care of their administrative needs, such as billing.

Bernalillo County has established a Community Custody Program (CCP) and a Youth Reporting Center (YRC) as some of the other alternative to detention programs.

It costs approximately $26 per day to keep a child in a detention alternative program compared with $189 per day to detain a child in secure detention. The county has reallocated staff from the JDC to serve as supervisors in the Youth Reporting Center program.

The Probation Department also has discretion to refer children to this program if they have a technical violation instead of sending them to secure detention.

Using financial measures alone, looking for alternatives to locking up juveniles pays big dividends. If the county would have added the two units it was considering in 1998 to its existing JDC, it would have been at a cost of $2 million, with an annual operating expense of $782,000. Currently, the annual operating cost for detention alternatives program is $224,000.

What would be some lessons learned from this overall change process? Upon posing this question to Mitchell, he said "At the beginning, I asked how can we do this with what we have given existing resources. We've proven that you do not need large grants to start JDAI. I'd also say that you need to apply a medical model versus a correctional model to kids who don't need to be in detention. Lastly, kids who are a threat to society should be in secure detention."

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has recently named the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center a national model site for detention and systems reform.

(NACo can provide additional resources on the AECF's juvenile detention reform initiative. Please contact Lesley Buchan, lbuchan@naco.org *or visit* www.naco.org *and click on Criminal Justice.)*

Program costs counties nothing

■ **DISCOUNTS** *from page 1*

- no forms for the participant to fill out
- no cost to the county for administering the program, and
- a network of 57,000 pharmacies nationwide that accept the discount card.

"The Caremark program offered the best way to provide cost savings. No other program provided the flexibility and ease of use that this program provides," said NACo executive director Larry Naake. "In addition, counties and NACo do not make money on this program, helping to provide maximum savings to county residents."

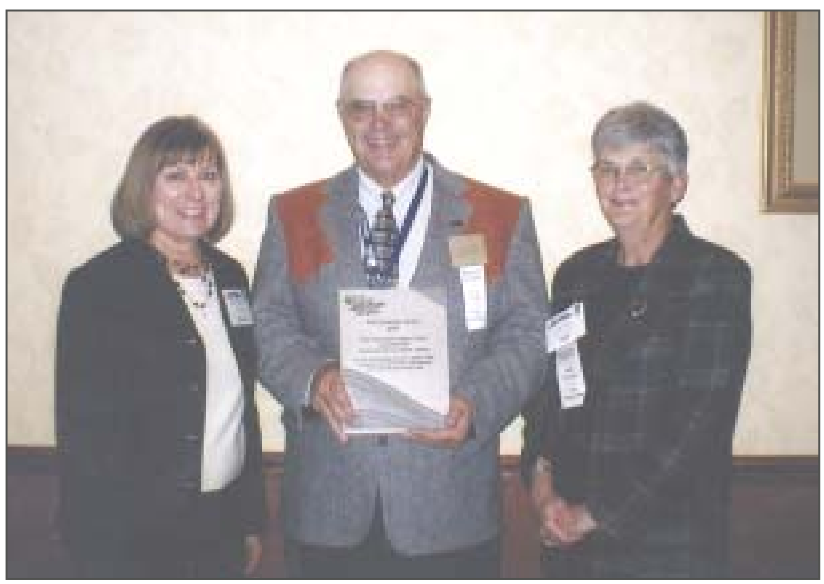
The process to develop the program included an eight-month pilot test in 17 counties. Results from the pilot phase at the end of May demonstrated that the program:

- saved residents in those 17 counties more than $658,000 on prescription drugs
- provided an overall average savings rate of 19 percent, and
- resulted in more than 48,000 prescriptions being filled.

"I am very pleased with the results of Montgomery County's participation in the NACo prescription drug card program. The response has been fantastic and folks are saving real money," said Montgomery County, Md. Councilmember Marilyn Praisner. Montgomery County was the first county to pilot the program.

The NACo Board of Directors voted to make the program available to all member counties in May of this year after hearing positive response from the pilot counties. Timothy Loewenstein, Buffalo County, Neb. supervisor said, "As we hold public office there are few occasions when we can offer a service to our constituents without reaching in their pocketbooks to pay for it. The NACo Prescription Drug Card program is just such an anomaly. It is the definition of a service from county government directly to the people."

(For more information on the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card program please contact Andrew Goldschmidt, director, membership marketing, at 202/942-4221 or agoldschmidt@naco.org, *or members may access program information from NACo's Members-Only section of the NACo Web site at* www.naco.org.*)*



Western Interstate Region President Connie Eissinger (l) presented the 2005 Dale Sowards Award to McKenzie County, N.D. Commissioner Roger Chinn (c). Eissinger presented Chinn with the award at the South Dakota Association of Counties Annual Convention in Burleigh County (Bismarck) last month. The award, WIR's highest honor, is made on an annual basis to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to public lands counties and to draw attention to the recipient's accomplishments and the public policies they represent. The award was named for former Conejos County, Colo. Commissioner Dale Sowards, who was instrumental in the creation of WIR and was a long time advocate for public land counties. Chinn, pictured here with his wife, Gail, stepped down from his position on the WIR Board of Directors on Oct. 11.

Research News

The Likely Link for a Long Life!

When it comes to planning for the future, an often overlooked fact of life is the future care for oneself or a loved one. Long-term care is somewhat like the "elephant in the room."

Long-term care (LTC) refers to the medical, social, personal care and supportive services needed by people

Current projections state that nearly 80 percent of Americans will live past the age of 65 with life expectancy extending another 19 years for women and 15 years for men.

Current projections state that nearly 80 percent of Americans will live past the age of 65 with life expectancy extending another 19 years for women and 15 years for men.

By the year 2030, more than 12 million older Americans will need either formal or informal long-term care services. As aging baby boomers retire, there will be major changes in the relationship between providers and consumers of long-term care services. More and more Americans along with their local elected leaders will discuss the problem of how to meet the needs of elders with chronic disabilities in the United States.

who have lost capacity for self-care because of a chronic illness or condition. This term is also used to describe a variety of care settings for frail older adults ranging from nursing homes to assisted living programs and from community-based services such as social adult day services to home care and family care giving.

Long-term care focuses on providing custodial care to those who need assistance in caring for themselves and, more recently, has grown as a concept to include rehabilitative and convalescent care (often called 'sub acute' care). This is far different than the care offered at hospitals, doctors' offices and outpatient clinics, where the main focus is treating acute illness and managing chronic conditions.

Consumers of long-term care are primarily women over age 85. They, along with younger persons with disabilities, will be the primary users of long-term care services in years to come.

As this system continues to grow and change, new challenges will arise, such as workforce shortages, the quality of care being delivered and the financial impact associated with treating recipients of this care.

Not enough workers

The availability of health care workers has not kept pace with the growing needs of the consumers of LTC services. The demand for long-term care far exceeds the supply of qualified workers who can deliver this service. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has estimated that jobs for direct-care workers in long-term care settings will grow by about 800,000 by 2010, or roughly 45 percent, while more than 1 million nurses will be needed across the entire medical field by 2012.

Fewer nurses are going into or staying in assisted living or skilled nursing facilities that provide LTC services for a variety of reasons. Hospitals are increasing starting salaries and offering additional incentives such as signing bonuses.

The endangered health care worker, the paraprofessional, constitutes the primary direct-care staff delivering LTC services. Paraprofessionals are home health aides, personal care attendants, or certified nurses' aides providing comfort and companionship, and offering a lifeline to the outside world.

Funding at issue

Spending on LTC services has increased the challenge of addressing the shortage of qualified workers to deliver a high quality of care. According to a recent report of the Congressional Budget Office, the federal government spent $231 billion on long-term care in the year 2000, and this will increase to $295 billion in the year 2030 when many baby boomers will be in their 80s. In the next 40 to 50 years, that figure could reach as much as $379 billion.

Now, most long-term care is provided through personal resources. Many older persons receive long-term care type services without having to pay any out-of-pocket monies from family and friends. Meanwhile, private insurance accounts for a small portion of paying for LTC today, but research has shown that more Americans are purchasing additional LTC insurance which will account for a bigger part of the financing for these services in the future. Medicaid is the biggest public source of payment for long-term care, covering costs for services provided to beneficiaries who are institutionalized as well as those who remain in the community. Medicare covers care provided in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and at home.

The long term care system is a large complex system of acute and chronic-care services. The projections of the demand for long-term care must be examined with caution. While there is no clear answer for balancing the role of the public and private sectors, several elements are essential to the design and implementation of a long-term care system for the future, including the future supply of alternative care settings and facilities, and the future of the LTC workforce, with focus on the paraprofessional.

For more information on this pressing issue, visit the American Health Care Association at *www.ahca.org*.

(Research News was written by Christina Crayton, research associate.)

Word Search

States with a Madison County

L	G	F	H	O	S	I	L	P	N	A	J	F	N	T	E	I	X	O	I	B	A
E	O	H	X	X	H	C	G	W	E	I	R	J	F	Q	L	Y	H	P	L	J	N
Q	O	U	X	I	N	R	P	M	W	N	V	C	Q	N	K	G	P	S	L	Z	I
G	I	Z	I	S	Y	X	M	Z	Y	I	J	D	V	B	A	I	U	N	I	F	L
U	C	Z	A	S	U	K	F	B	O	G	T	S	T	Z	S	B	E	E	N	T	O
Q	S	X	F	Q	I	L	C	A	R	R	R	J	L	S	C	B	C	I	O	A	R
E	E	A	Q	O	O	A	B	U	K	I	Z	A	I	G	R	O	E	G	I	T	A
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O	S	N	I	A	I	P	I	A	W	N	S	O	S	A	C	U	Q	B	F	A	H
H	M	D	D	I	B	R	I	G	K	I	E	K	E	L	F	S	T	D	D	K	T
A	A	T	L	I	U	A	M	M	M	D	A	K	M	O	N	T	A	N	A	L	R
D	B	G	M	O	A	Q	L	E	J	F	U	E	F	F	C	H	W	X	O	R	O
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A	P	S	E	D	Y	O	A	Q	Q	G	O	F	A	X	L	M	U	J	Y	N	H
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L	T	W	N	V	L	U	B	K	L	Q	G	Z	K	B	F	K	M	E	E	Z	L

ALABAMA	IOWA	NEW YORK
ARKANSAS	KENTUCKY	NORTH CAROLINA
FLORIDA	LOUISIANA	OHIO
GEORGIA	MISSISSIPPI	TENNESSEE
IDAHO	MISSOURI	TEXAS
ILLINOIS	MONTANA	VIRGINIA
INDIANA	NEBRASKA	

Created by Allison Mall

In Service to Counties

Nazca Solutions, Inc.

Corporate Member

Location/HQ: Minneapolis, Minn.

Primary Business: Nazca Solutions provides data integration software and portal applications for counties and school districts.

CEO: Ted Mondale

Name of NACo Representative: Jason Hepp, 612/279-6104.

Why we joined NACo: We joined NACo because it is an organization of those counties and county officers who benefit from our line of products. With the Nazca Property Management Portal, counties gain significant internal efficiency and provide superior service to their business partners and constituents.

What we can do for counties: The Nazca Property Management Portal dynamically integrates databases housing all types of property data: recorded documents, tax, assessment, appraisal, GIS, images, permits, etc. Data elements from these systems are read and displayed to the user live without the need for data warehousing or custom integration.

With the Property Management Portal, counties can provide a subscription-based service to their end users (appraisers, abstractors, title companies, etc.) to extract property information from the county via a secure, Web-enabled portal. Subscribers pay the county a monthly subscription charge and transactional fees along with other fee based access to county data or applications — all of which is set up and managed through Administrative Tools by the county.

Subscribers no longer need to go to the county to retrieve the information they need to do their job — they simply subscribe to the county portal. Subscribers are no longer in line, they're online.

NACCHO: Federal resources inadequate to fight flu pandemic

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) commended the Bush administration's comprehensive approach to pandemic influenza preparations, but expressed great concern about the amount of proposed federal resources to help communities prepare and respond.

The administration's plan includes broad responsibilities for local and state governments in responding to an influenza pandemic. Earlier this year, however, the administration proposed a cut of $130 million in state and local public health preparedness, and although the Administration proposed an additional $100 million in funding for both state and local pandemic influenza preparedness in its announcement, this sum does not even offset the previous proposed cut in funding.

"Local health departments have been working to improve public health preparedness intensively for several years, particularly since Sept. 11, 2001. We concur with the administration's assessment that we are better prepared now and that improvements will continue. However, we cannot do all that the administration asks with barely an extra 30 cents per resident," said NACCHO President Rex Archer, M.D., M.P.H.

Local health departments, Archer said, are the linchpins in protecting every community. They must carry out enhanced disease surveillance to detect cases early, distribute stockpiles of vaccines and drugs, implement a broad range of measures to prevent disease from spreading, and communicate rapidly and effectively with their communities to engage everyone – from doctors and hospitals to schools and businesses — in understanding and cooperating with the response.

He added, "Communicable diseases like influenza cross city, county and state lines. The federal government must provide the resources to assure that every local community has the capacity, including trained public health workers, to respond. The federal pandemic influenza response plan will not succeed, even with plentiful new vaccines and antiviral drugs, unless every community can stop an outbreak and save lives."

NACCHO, a NACo affiliate, represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local public health departments. These agencies work every day on the front lines to protect and promote the health of their communities. NACCHO develops resources and programs and promotes national policies that support effective local public health practice.

Rep. Waters claimed locals too close to developers

■ **DOMAIN** *from page 1*

traditional definition of public uses of eminent domain, such as for roads, utilities, schools or military bases.

Some of those opposing the bill argued that it was more appropriate to leave these decisions up to the states. Additionally, they said the way H.R. 4128 defines economic development leaves much room for interpretation. Finally, it was unsuccessfully argued that the bill undermines the authority of states and local governments.

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), one of the bill's co-sponsors, said local governments can not be trusted. "Many of them are lying with these developers. They have relationships. Money is changing hands. They are in bed with them," she said.

Ten amendments were offered during the debate for H.R. 4128. Four amendments failed and six amendments passed by voice vote. The following amendments passed:

- an amendment clarifying that private roads that are open to public and flood control facilities are exempt under the bill
- an amendment stating that the term "economic development: does not include the redevelopment of brownfield sites or areas that have not been developed because of pollution or perceived pollution
- an amendment clarifying that the burden of proof is on governments to show that takings are not for economic development
- an amendment that would prevent governments from taking land from religious organizations or other nonprofit agencies because of their nonprofit or tax-exempt status
- an amendment that would require federal agencies to review their regulations for compliance with the legislation, and
- an amendment that expresses Congress' intent that the government should not attempt to take land from Hurricane Katrina survivors for economic development purposes.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), H.R. 4128 contains no intergovernmental mandates; however, CBO noted that H.R. 4128 would "impose significant new conditions on the receipt of federal economic development assistance by state and local governments."

CBO goes on to state that since this language impacts a large pot of federal funds, H.R. 4128 would essentially restrict the use of eminent domain, thus having a substantial effect on a local governments' authority to oversee land use in their area. Finally, CBO acknowledges that both state and local governments may have to shoulder sizable legal expenses when responding to private legal actions sanctioned within the bill.

NACo offers new tool to County Energy Efficiency Network members

Database expands tracking of energy consumption in county buildings

By Kelly Zonderwyk
COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATE

Currently, the EPA's ENERGY STAR® designation is available for only two types of county buildings: office buildings and courthouses. For a county courthouse or office building to earn an ENERGY STAR label, utility information for that building must be entered and benchmarked through ENERGY STAR's online tool called Portfolio Manager. Counties can join the voluntary EPA ENERGY STAR through the NACo Courthouse Campaign and take advantage of tools and resources to assist them in achieving high performing energy buildings.

NACo is now offering counties a new tool to track county energy use for other building types such as jails, fire stations, police stations, animal shelters and community centers.

Randy Klindworth, facilities energy manager of Hillsborough County, Fla., developed a Microsoft Access database that allows users to input similar information for both ENERGY STAR eligible and non-eligible building types as they would using Portfolio Manager. Counties can use the Klindworth database as a good first step in tracking their energy use and in preparing for participation in EPA's ENERGY STAR program. Both tools allow governments to track energy consumption building by building. The database, however, cannot be used to achieve an ENERGY STAR label, which is awarded by using the Portfolio Manager tool and rating the energy use of a building on a score of one to 100 relative to other similar building types.

Counties tracking the energy usage of office buildings and courthouses should remember that they can earn recognition for those buildings by partnering with the EPA ENERGY STAR program and entering the information into Portfolio Manager. Should the ENERGY STAR program recognize non-eligible building types in the future, users of the database can simply export their information to Microsoft Excel and import that file into Portfolio Manager.

If you are not currently a member of the County Energy Efficiency Network, contact Kelly Zonderwyk at *kzonderwyk@naco.org* or 202/942-4224 to sign up and begin using the database. The network serves to foster peer-to-peer communication and assistance between counties on energy issues.

2006 Indoor Air Quality grants available

NACo's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Program is now accepting applications from counties and regional county coalitions for small indoor air quality (IAQ) grants for 2006.

NACo provides small financial grants and technical assistance to counties addressing radon, mold, environmental tobacco smoke and children, asthma prevention and air quality in schools.

The program also supports coalitions of different local organizations and agencies that address IAQ issues in their communities. In 2005, a total of $114,000 was granted to 29 counties and organizations, including one grant to the New York State Association of Counties.

The 2006 awards will be awarded competitively in the following categories:

• twelve $5,000 grants to counties that have not previously received a Model County and Coalition Grant, and

• Ten $2,000 grants to past Model County and Coalition Grant recipients.

Note: No matching funds are required. These grants are paid through reimbursement of expenses incurred by the grantee.

Applications of no more than two pages should include the focus priority area: environmental tobacco smoke and children, indoor asthma triggers, radon, mold, air quality in schools or any combination of those areas. Numerical goals for the proposed activities and a budget should also be included.

For more on how to apply for these grants and to view the online County IAQ Database with project summaries of past recipients visit *www.naco.org/techassistance* and click on Air Quality.

The deadline for proposals is Dec. 16. Selected projects will be notified in early January. The funding for these grants is made possible through support from the EPA. For more information, please contact Kelly Zonderwyk at 202/942-4224 or *kzonderwyk@naco.org*.

Measure 37 resolution unlikely until 2006

■ **MEASURE** *from page 1*

heavily-regulated land use planning system became open to growth. Local governments faced the choice of whether they should compensate landowners or simply grant waivers and allow development.

In the case *MacPherson v. Department of Administrative Services*, Marion County Circuit Court Judge Mary James found the voter-approved measure unconstitutional, leaving ambiguity as to whether the ruling applies to all Oregon counties or only the four mentioned the suit – Clackamas, Jackson, Marion and Washington. Some counties, such as Multnomah County, have stopped processing Measure 37 claims while others continue to accept them.

"There's a trend of thought that since the circuit court said that the measure is unconstitutional then that would apply to everyone, but that remains to be challenged in court," said Art Schlack, policy manager for the Association of Oregon Counties.

To further complicate matters, the Oregon Supreme Court refused to stay James' ruling, meaning Measure 37 would not be in effect until the Supreme Court heard the case. The case is not likely to be heard until the middle of 2006.

In the meantime, some counties have continued to process Measure 37 claims because of the 180-day window they have before claimants can pursue litigation.

Schlack says the counties not named in the suit need clarity on how they should be handling the situation.

"They would like some specificity and know what the rules of the ballgame are," he said. "There are 32 counties that are treading water while the Supreme Court determines whether the measure is constitutional or not."

NACo ENERGY STAR COURTHOUSE CAMPAIGN

Surpasses 50 Members

"As a participant in the NACo ENERGY STAR Courthouse Campaign, our county is committed to improving the environment by reducing our own energy usage in county buildings. The Courthouse Campaign has been an excellent resource for us as we evaluated our energy usage, made improvements, saved taxpayer dollars, and achieved an ENERGY STAR label for one of our buildings. We're now seeing annual savings on our energy costs amounting to over $200,000."

– Supervisor Jane Halliburton
Story County, Iowa, *ENERGY STAR Label Recipient*

Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska	Cassia County, Idaho	Hamilton County, Ohio
Calhoun County, Alabama	McHenry County, Illinois	Portage County, Ohio
Fayette County, Alabama	Dickinson County, Kansas	Wasco County, Oregon
Pulaski County, Arkansas	Pendleton County, Kentucky	Orangeburg County, South Carolina
Cochise County, Arizona	Calvert County, Maryland	Bradley County, Tennessee
Graham County, Arizona	Cecil County, Maryland	Jackson County, Texas
Butte County, California	Barnstable County, Massachusetts	Arlington County, Virginia
Los Angeles County, California	Ingham County, Michigan	Bath County, Virginia
New Castle County, Delaware	Kent County, Michigan	Henrico County, Virginia
Alachua County, Florida	Lake County, Michigan	Wise County, Virginia
Broward County, Florida	Tuscola County, Michigan	York County, Virginia
Hillsborough County, Florida	Dakota County, Minnesota	Clark County, Washington
Lee County, Florida	Hennepin County, Minnesota	Marinette County, Wisconsin
Manatee County, Florida	St. Louis County, Minnesota	Price County, Wisconsin
Sarasota County, Florida	Wright County, Missouri	Racine County, Wisconsin
Athens-Clarke County, Georgia	Durham County, North Carolina	Jefferson County, West Virginia
Bleckley County, Georgia	Forsyth County, North Carolina	Upshur County, West Virginia
Story County, Iowa	Pitt County, North Carolina	
Ada County, Idaho	Cortland County, New York	
Blaine County, Idaho	Erie County, Ohio	

Congratulations to the above counties that have made a commitment to energy efficiency since the Courthouse Campaign began in 2004!*

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER WITH ENERGY STAR

NACo National Association of Counties
Counties Care for America

*** as of November 1, 2005**

THE H.R. DOCTOR IS IN

The Disaster within a Disaster – A Call to Action!

The current model by which the public's business is transacted in the federal system needs serious rethinking and retooling. This article is a call for such action to take place more seriously now than ever before.

An amazing American institution, the federal system, has worked brilliantly for 21 decades. It has survived challenges from a Civil War, Depression and rebellion. It has survived external challenges from war and international terrorism.

It can be argued that the creation of the United States Constitution, with its checks and balances, advise and consent, and built-in default to compromise based on shared values represents a true example of intelligent design by those amazing founding fathers.

The Constitution also has another default besides compromise. That is the default to modification by evolution rather than revolution.

The process of constitutional amendment is slow and cumbersome — and deliberately so. Fundamental change in the federal government involves processes which are akin to crawling over broken glass or dentistry before anesthetics.

We are seeing, however, a series of world changes in this decade which challenge the ability of the federal system in the years ahead.

The federal system, including the roughly 87,000 state and local governments which are supposed to be in partnership with the federal government, appears to be unable or unwilling to reshape itself at a pace appropriate to the challenges which lie ahead.

These are unprecedented challenges. They are driven by technology, resource scarcity to a degree previously unknown, and to new realities of international interdependence which makes the concept of the Fortress America far less viable. The changes are coming and they are unstoppable.

The need for intergovernmental reform will also become more acute. If reasonable reforms are not made in a thoughtful manner, they will be made in the aftermath of immense waste, harm to people and squandered opportunities.

This article is driven by the fact that the HR Doctor is now sitting in an emergency operations center awaiting the arrival of the latest in a series of South Florida hurricane threats. Call it Katrina, Rita or Wilma, the scope of this natural disaster threat is beyond what any local or state government can manage on its own.

Agencies of the federal government seem equally unable to cope consistently well in terms of internal management of their own functions, interaction with local government partners, or the ability to manage multiple substantial disasters simultaneously.

This article also came to be during three days of driving in the past month through eastern Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and throughout Florida. The HR Doctor saw clear signs of continuing hurricane damage including debris, public accommodation dysfunction, military convoys, and evacuee shelter and service centers.

PHIL ROSENBERG
THE HR DOCTOR

In three decades of public experience, including service as the chief administrative officer of a county government, as well as critical incident management, the HR Doctor's conclusion is that, increasingly, the federal government is too big and cumbersome to handle "small" problems such as the care of one person or one family.

On the flip side, it is also too small to manage the new breed of worldwide issues such as management of the Internet, containment of a worldwide pandemic threat, disjointed and loosely affiliated terrorist networks, and disasters on a multinational and gigantic scale.

Likewise, the city or county would be swamped if it had to face any of the issues described above on its own. Individual agencies lack the resources, expertise and capacity to succeed in these areas.

All of this is true despite amazingly dedicated and talented, and very smart local government and federal employees.

Curious readers are invited to see the section entitled "The Department of Homeland Insecurity — Forging One Nation out of Separate Tribes" in the HR Doctor's book *Don't Walk by Something Wrong!* for some additional perspective on the issue of federal and intergovernmental reform. Here are some more examples:

How many fire departments does it take to protect a local community? In the urban county where the HR Doctor lives, the answer is apparently about two dozen. That means each department has its own chief, assistant chief and fire stations laid out inefficiently and many other redundancies.

The problem of child protection against abuse and imminent harm is better done by a county level organization, closer and more accountable to the population than by a slower moving state bureaucracy.

Health care for the indigent and for tens of millions of uninsured persons is beyond the scope of any single county even though counties are the lead agencies for indigent health care. The lack of a national consensus on health policies will create a larger and more critical situation in our country in the years ahead.

We cannot sustain policymaking under a chaos theory or throwing large quantities of money and noise at a problem such as happened initially in the response to the Sept.11 attacks. How many FEMA auditors does one city or county have to be involved with while trying to recover from a disaster?

One city in Florida has had the dubious opportunity to work with six different auditors retained by FEMA just in the matter of relatively minor damage from Hurricane Katrina, not counting FEMA turnover. This situation is enough to make city staff seek Employee Assistance Program treatment for clinical depression.

What are some things we can do to improve a response to things which lie ahead?

One approach is to have the federal government move further away from direct administration of programs and become, instead, a "Superfunder" of regional and intergovernmental innovations.

Create incentives for improving fire services or indigent health services. Provide incentives for hundreds of thousands of medical students, nursing students, and others who are often deeply in debt to work off their debt as employees of local governments as well as the military or the National Health Service.

The HR Doctor has proposed an array of other suggestions on the health care front in prior articles.

Create a Cabinet-level Department of Local Government Partnership with strict limits on the department's staff size and budget but with one fundamental mission: to make the federal government's connections with school boards, cities, counties and special districts more efficient and more nimble.

We may find that programs such as the Cooperative Extension Service have at least as much in common with such a new department as it does with the Department of Agriculture.

The same is true with future public transit solutions. Mass transit may be better supported in a government partnership department than in the Department of Transportation.

This article is not the best format for seriously exploring a rethinking of intergovernmental relations. However, hopefully, it makes a very small statement that gets other people thinking. Enough people thinking and creating will generate the answers to how we can meet the lurking monsters ahead.

Just look over the horizon and you can see them. Our choice is to apply our amazing creativity to anticipate and prevent natural and self inflicted disasters, or to increasingly squander our wealth, our energies, and our future potential by waiting for the disasters to attack us and then defend ourselves by whining and creating new reality TV shows.

Perhaps a good start could be a NACo-sponsored colloquium in which all participants must wear powdered wigs to invoke the spirit of the founding fathers.

The HR Doctor wishes us all a dry and safe end to the Atlantic Hurricane Season!

Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor
www.hrdr.net

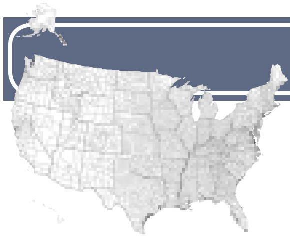
What's In a Seal?

Prince George's County, Md.

Prince George's County was created from Calvert County and Charles County in 1695. The county was named for Prince George of Denmark, husband of the heir to the throne of England, Princess Anne. Charles Beckwith of Patuxent designed the Prince George's County seal in 1696.

- The crest on the seal is England's Imperial Crown, better known as St. Edward's Crown. The crown's design includes a base with four crosses pattee (cross having arms with curving edges, narrow at the inner center, and very broad at the outer end), alternating with four fleurs-de-lis, above which are two arches surmounted by a cross. In the center is a velvet cap with an ermine border.
- In the seal's first and fourth grand quarters, the 16th century Tudor royal banner quarters the coat of arms of France (three gold fleurs-de-lis on a blue field), and England (three gold heraldic stylized lions facing left and out to the observer).
- In the second grand quarter, Scotland is represented (a beast standing on one foot facing left, with three limbs clawing the air, within a double border of fleurs-de-lis alternately pointing in and out).
- In the third grand quarter, Ireland is represented (a harp on a blue field).
- The banner below the grand quarters depicts the county motto, "*Semper Eadem*," meaning "Ever the Same."

Originally, the seal depicted Prince George's without the apostrophe and using the old English style "u", in "county," represented as "v." The seal was officially altered in 1971 to read "Prince George's County, Maryland."



News From the Nation's Counties

ARKANSAS

WHITE COUNTY uncovered the source of an ongoing **leak** in the county jail, which has cost the county thousands of dollars in heightened water bills over the past 18 months.

The leak was found after the county hired a leak detector to locate where the problem was. According to *The Daily Citizen*, a giant leak in a pipe was found after drilling through concrete.

Jail Administrator Captain Thomas Ligon and Justice of the Peace Ed Land expressed concern that the large pools of water beneath the jail could cause structural damage as temperatures drop this winter.

CALIFORNIA

Thieves, drug dealers, burglars and other nonviolent suspects will be able to avoid spending time in **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY** jails due to a new policy that seeks to cut down on **overcrowding**.

Sheriff Gary Penrod will temporarily refuse to accept most arrestees booked only on misdemeanor charges. The jails will also refuse suspects arrested for nonviolent felonies where the bail is less than $500,000, according to the Associated Press.

"As you well know, I am committed to keeping our communities as safe as possible, and it is deeply troubling to have to make these changes," Penrod wrote in an Oct. 19 memorandum announcing the new policy.

County jails in Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino and Glen Helen are consistently near capacity.

INDIANA

As incidents of **identity theft** continue to mount, **ALLEN COUNTY** residents can breath a little easier about the state of their security in the county recorder's office. The Allen County commissioners have approved adding a $2 fee to every recorded document beginning Jan. 1. The money raised, estimated at about $180,000 annually, will be used to hire a software company to install equipment that can remove Social Security numbers from files. The county's recorder, Pat Crick, said the county hopes to remove the numbers from files dating to 1996.

She said the county hopes to remove the numbers from files dating to 1996. She said it would be almost impossible to remove numbers from earlier documents because those are stored on microfilm.

The new fee comes from a state law passed this year that prohibits county recorders from accepting documents with Social Security numbers, unless that information is required by law, according to a report in the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*. Crick said Social Security numbers are required on death certificates, federal tax liens and military discharge papers,

"Anything we can do as far as public documents go, to not provide information to aid in identity theft, we should do," said Allen County Commissioner Marla Irving.

Photo courtesy of Fairfax County, Va.

VIRGINIA

Skateboarders and in-line skaters showcase their moves while raising funds for hurricane evacuees at the Skate for **Katrina Relief** in **FAIRFAX COUNTY**. The county set up a skate park with ramps, quarter pipes, rails and kickers, as well as providing music and skateboard demonstrations.

"We often speak about providing constructive alternatives for youth," Supervisor Cathy Hudgins said. "It's no secret that our youth have an interest in skateboarding and skating as an activity."

Hudgins as well as the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Park Foundation, among others, sponsored the event.

LOUISIANA

After the death of longtime **CADDO PARISH** Coroner George McCormick in September, hundreds of bodies may need to be exhumed in order to complete **death records**.

Investigators are trying to discover whether some pending homicide cases have been compromised in both Caddo and Bossier parishes.

Since McCormick's death, authorities have found just under 500 incomplete autopsy reports in the parishes. Authorities blame the problem on McCormick's practice of contracting with his own laboratory to conduct autopsies and forensic investigations, according to the Associated Press.

MINNESOTA

Seven Minnesota counties are mulling the possibility of enacting a $5 per vehicle tax to raise money for roads and bridges. The tax, known as a **wheelage tax**, is expected to raise $10 million annually in the St. Paul metropolitan area.

The wheelage tax law, written in 1972, gives the counties the right to impose the taxes in order to use the funds for transportation improvements.

"It's a win-win for transportation," Joe Harris, **DAKOTA COUNTY** board chairman, told the Associated Press. "I think it has potential for Dakota County. We are taking a serious look at it."

The Association of Minnesota Counties sponsored a meeting where officials from the seven counties discussed the tax.

NEBRASKA

ADAMS, **MERRICK** and **LOUP counties** are seeking to be officially designated as **livestock-friendly counties**, according to the Nebraska Farm Bureau.

To earn the designation, a county must go through several steps. It must hold a public hearing and secure a declaration that acknowledges the importance of livestock to the county, submit information on how the county meets the intent of the livestock-friendly county program as well as provide copies of its livestock-related zoning requirements.

Only one county, **MORILL**, has received the designation since the legislation was authorized in 2003, according to *The Independent*.

"Some counties are making rapid progress toward the designation, while others are taking more time," said Jay Ferris, Nebraska Farm Bureau director of grassroots programs. "We're working with them at whatever level they're at."

OHIO

The sheriff in **BUTLER COUNTY** is following through on his plans to crack down on **illegal immigrants**.

Sheriff Richard Jones billed the federal government $70,000 for housing the immigrants in his jail.

"This is just the beginning," he told *ChannelCincinnati.com*. "Some people say they're undocumented, I say they're here as criminal aliens, and I'm going to charge the federal government."

In addition to sending a bill to the federal government, Butler County deputies can now impound any person's car if they don't have a valid driver's license, Social Security number or are operating a car with illegal tags.

County officials also plan to target businesses who hire undocumented workers.

OREGON

A **mock terror drill** in nine Oregon counties tested the governments' readiness to distribute life-saving medications to masses of people.

The scenario involved terrorists who sprayed plague germs over 350,000 people at a parade in Portland. County health and public safety officials must distribute the medicine to stricken people within 48 hours after they begin falling ill, even though many of them live far away and have returned to their homes.

Nan Newell, manager of public health preparedness for the Oregon Department of Human Services, told the Associated Press that the logistical planning could be used for any large-scale public health emergency, such as distributing medication during a flu pandemic.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Animal control officers in **GREENVILLE COUNTY** have more power when it comes to removing **animals** they deem to be dangerous.

The Greenville County Council adopted a rule that allows the officers to remove dogs that bite and injure people from a household immediately, rather than waiting for a judge's order, according to *The Greenville News*.

■ *See* **NEWS** *on page 14*

Photo courtesy of Salt Lake County, Utah

UTAH

When Mayor Peter Corroon in **SALT LAKE COUNTY** asked county employees to donate coats, blankets and comforters to deliver to **Pakistani citizens** left homeless by the earthquake in October, he was prepared for a generous response. But as his office filled and then overflowed with donations within 24 hours of his solicitation, Corroon said he was overwhelmed by the community's response. Word about the county's relief effort, undertaken at the suggestion of the county's Council on Diversity Affairs, leaked out and more donations came flowing in from the community. By week's end, the county had collected an additional 40 plastic bags filled with warm clothing for the earthquake victims.

Financial Services News

Center for Retirement Research to Develop New Retirement Index

Grant from Nationwide to underwrite project

The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College will develop a new national benchmark for retirement preparedness with a $580,000 grant from Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, one of the nation's largest insurance and financial services companies.

The index will stand apart from other efforts because of the center's top-flight research team and its rigorous and comprehensive methodology. The index, which will be released in 2006, will incorporate a wide range of factors relevant to retirement preparedness, such as saving rates, labor force participation and health care costs.

The index will help raise awareness of the critical need to save and plan for retirement.

According to center director Alicia H. Munnell, "the more that people think ahead, the more they can avoid unpleasant surprises and painful adjustments as they approach retirement. Current measures do not effectively capture the full range of components related to readiness for retirement, which our index is intended to provide. We are thrilled to have the support of Nationwide for this essential endeavor."

"Many Americans are under financial stress today, but a more powerful shock will hit them in retirement," said Keith Millner, senior vice president of the In-Retirement market for Nationwide Financial. "We're simply not saving enough, and our personal savings have never been a more important piece of the retirement security puzzle. There is an unrealistic expectation that we will receive the same retirement benefits as recent generations.

"This index will give Americans a more accurate picture of what they can expect and will allow for more comprehensive solutions to be developed to meet the new reality."

About the Center

The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College was established in 1998 through a grant from the Social Security Administration.

The center's mission is to produce first class research and forge a strong link between the academic community and decision makers in the public and private sectors around an issue of critical importance to the nation's future.

To achieve this mission, the center sponsors a wide variety of research projects, transmits new findings to a broad audience, trains new scholars, and broadens access to valuable data sources. Since its inception, the center has established a reputation as an authoritative source of information on all major aspects of the retirement income debate.

Affiliate Spotlight

The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials

NACPRO

The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) represent counties and regional park systems on federal legislative matters. Its goal is to advance official policies that promote county parks and recreation issues while providing members with opportunities to network, exchange resources and archive professional development.

To accomplish their goal, NACPRO engages in and provides a variety of activities, programs and services including:

• Advancing official policies of NACo by providing accurate, balanced, factual educational materials and testimony based on professional experiences of our members. Recently, a NACPRO board member provided testimony on behalf of NACo to a Senate subcommittee considering the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act.

• Developing educational material and presentations to stimulate interest in county park, open space and recreation resources. Presentations have been made at a variety of NACo and other national conferences and seminars. In addition, NACPRO holds its annual membership meeting and conference in conjunction with NACo's annual conference.

• Providing a forum for members to network and exchange ideas and experiences or to obtain valuable advise. All NACPRO meetings are accompanied by a tour of the host counties' park system where we can see first hand the application of the latest industry trends. In addition, our Web site and quarterly newsletters provide contact services for technical assistance on parks and recreation issues.

• Showcasing outstanding achievements in the field through the NACPRO Awards Program. This annual event acknowledges accomplishments throughout the county in at least 15 different categories.

NACPRO is a vibrant organization, responsive to the needs of its members and county agencies. But it never loses sight of the actual client, the general public they serve.

As such, NACPRO will also encourage cooperation and coordination between all agencies and organizations concerned with the provision of park, open space and recreation services.

To learn more about NACPRO or becoming a member, go to our Web site, *www.nacpro.org* or contact our executive director, Dan Gooch, at 630/920-0195.

(This issue's Affiliate Spotlight was written by Mike Pasteris, NACPRO representative to the NACo Board.)

NACo On the Move

NACo Officers and County Officials

• President **Bill Hansell** went to the Virginia Association of Counties annual conference in Bath County (Hot Springs) Nov. 13–15, where he participated in the meth workshop and discussed NACo's 2007 conference, which will take place in Richmond. He also traveled to Anchorage Borough Nov. 8–9 to speak at the Alaska Municipal League annual conference about NACo's services and work in Congress.

• Second Vice President **Don Stapley** spoke at the Utah Association of Counties' annual conference in Washington County (St. George) Nov. 9–11. He discussed the benefits of NACo membership at their general opening session.


Don Stapley

• President-elect **Colleen Landkamer** attended the Re: Public IV Leadership Retreat in Tucson, Ariz. Nov. 6–8. The retreat is an annual leadership event that brings together the nation's top state and local government officials, IT leaders and influencers.

NACo Staff

• Executive Director **Larry Naake** and **Tom Goodman,** public affairs director, were present at the Iowa State Association of Counties annual meeting in Polk County (Des Moines) Nov. 13–15 to discuss NACo's services, the prescription drug discount card, the 2008 Presidential Election Project, and participate in a meth workshop.

• **Kaye Braaten**, county services representative, and **Joe Dunn**, associate legislative director, joined President Hansell at the Virginia Association of Counties annual conference in Bath County (Hot Springs) Nov. 13–15. They discussed the benefits of NACo membership and Dunn participated in the meth workshop.

• **Stephanie Osborn**, county services deputy director, and **Lesley Buchan**, project manager, attended the Hot Topics in Intergovernmental IT conference in Washington, D.C. Nov. 9. This is an intergovernmental meeting between federal officials and state and local associations that will address intergovernmental cooperation, Health IT issues and information sharing.

Up and Coming

• **Emily Landsman**, membership coordinator, will attend the Kentucky Association of Counties Annual Conference and Exposition in Louisville/Jefferson County Nov. 15–17.

• **Andrew Goldshmidt,** membership/marketing director, will staff the membership booth at the Kansas Association of Counties Annual Conference and Exhibition in Shawnee County (Topeka) Nov. 20–22.

(On the Move is compiled by Allison Mall, editorial assistant.)

Sex offenders skip Halloween in Texas county

■ **NEWS** *from page 13*

The ruling comes with the support of a 69-year-old Greer resident who complained of a neighbor's dog who escaped from its chain, and charged at her and her 4-year-old great-grandson. A friend of the family chased the animal away.

TEXAS

PARKER COUNTY officials took a direct approach when it came to protecting children on **Halloween**.

The county locked up sex offender parolees for several hours on Halloween night in an attempt to ensure the safety of trick-or-treaters. The state of Texas already has strict guidelines for sex offenders on the holiday.

Officials expect approximately 50 probationers to show up. Those who don't will be brought in by a deputy and probation officer.

"It will keep them off the streets and from attacking again," said parent Terry Pool. "Anything they can do to keep them out of the way from the kids will be a great help." Police also ordered a ban on Halloween decor at the offenders' homes.

(If you have news about your county, please e-mail Dan Miller, staff writer, at dmiller@naco.org*.)*

Job Market / Classifieds

■ CITY MANAGER — SAINT CLOUD, FLA.

Salary: $100,000 – $125,000, DOQ.

Saint Cloud, Fla, with a population of 28,000, is seeking a progressive City Manager with strong visionary skills and extensive management experience to lead a dynamic city undergoing rapid growth and development. Council/Manager form of govt. w/mayor and 4-member council. $74M budget; 521 authorized positions; traditional services, including police, fire, parks and recreation, water, sewer, treatment plant, refuse collection and a solid waste transfer station. Applicant must have demonstrated successful performance in public administration, budgeting/finance, intergovernmental relations, strategic planning, and possess strong leadership skills. BA/BS required, MPA/MBA/MA highly preferred. Min. 2 yrs. of exp. as a city/county manager/ administrator, preferably in Fla., or the equivalent in related experience and education. ICMA membership required. Applications must be postmarked no later than Jan. 13, 2006. Send resume, cover letter, application, references, salary history and a summary/list of accomplishments in growth management, management of CRA/special districts, fiscal/budget management, utilities management, etc., to Human Resources Director, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769. 407/957-7220, 407/957-7273 (fax). City is a Tobacco Free Employer, only non-tobacco users for past 12 months will be considered. E-mail: *humanresources@stcloud.org*. All materials submitted becomes public information under the Florida Public Records Law. M/F/EOE/D/V.

■ CIVIL ATTORNEY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR and COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR — LA PAZ COUNTY, ARIZ.

Salary: DOE., excellent benefits.

County seat: Parker, Ariz.; population 20,715 – 4,500 sq. miles, is seeking:

Civil Attorney — Provide legal services to the elected officials, department directors and to various boards/ commissions. Current member in good standing with Ariz. Bar. Qualifications: 2 years cumulative experience in government civil law.

Community Development Director — Oversees all planning, zoning and bldg. permits; prepares dept. budget; enforces zoning, subdivision & floodplain ordinances; administers rezoning and variance hearings and drafts opinions. Qualifications: Must have bachelor's degree in related field, 5 yrs. exp. as rural/regional planner, 2 yrs. supervisory/administrative.

County Administrator — Approx. 300 employees, $24 million budget, administers county policies and regulations and provides overall mgmt. of Board-appointed Dept. Heads. Qualifications: bachelor's degree in public or business administration, 7 yrs. progressive experience in administration and management in government.

For all openings, contact Donna Hale, 1108 Joshua Ave, Parker, AZ 85344. 928/669-6115, *dhale@co.la-paz.az.us*, 928/669-9709 (fax). Go to *www.co.la-paz.az.us* for employment application. EOE.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR — HART COUNTY, GA.

Salary: Negotiable, DOQ.

The Hart County Board of Commissioners, Ga., is seeking an Economic Development Director. With over 200 miles of lakeshore on Lake Hartwell, Hart County is a wonderful place to live and work. Hart County has recently developed a Class A industrial park directly on the I-85 corridor between Atlanta and Charlotte and is investing heavily in Economic Development. For more information please see our Web site, *www.hartcountyga.org*, or call Jon Caime, Hart County Administrator at 706/856-5306.

■ ELECTIONS DIRECTOR — NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZ.

Salary: $44,856 – $56,070, grade 45.

Performs work of considerable difficulty in planning, organizing and directing countywide elections; supervises elections staff; plans, organizes, coordinates and directs all elections, function for which the county has responsibility; establishes policies, procedures and guidelines; reviews, interprets and insures voting and voting procedures are in compliance with Arizona state statutes; performs statutory services to candidates; develops and revises procedures, forms, schedules and policies for the preparation and conducting of elections; trains all election personnel including volunteers; complies with Consent Decree; develops and administers the department's budget; issues ballots and early ballots; secures polling places; certifies results of elections; disseminates election information through media. A bachelor's degree in public or business administration, political science, or a closely related field and three years' of progressively responsible experience in conducting governmental elections, including one year in a supervisory or management capacity; must pass the Arizona State Election Certification program. Navajo County application required. For a job description and application packet, contact: Navajo County Human Resources, P.O. Box 668 Holbrook, AZ 86025. 928/524-4066, or visit our Web site at *www.co.navajo.az.us*. EOE.

■ INTERNAL AUDIT DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT MANAGER and SENIOR INTERNAL AUDITOR — DURHAM COUNTY, N.C.

Internal Audit Director — salary $60,358 – $103,909.

Durham County Government is seeking a highly qualified individual to provide administrative oversight and direction for all county internal audit functions. Will conduct financial, performance, information systems and compliance audits to detect and deter waste, fraud and abuse. Provides oral and written presentations to identify control and operational deficiencies and provide sound remediation solutions. Requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration or related field and extensive public financial administration experience, with two years of supervisory experience. Certified Public Accountant with prior governmental audit experience preferred.

Senior Internal Auditor — salary $40,659 – $69,995.

Conducts financial, compliance, operational and special project audits listed in the annual audit plan. Assist with risk assessments and drafting of internal audit programs and procedures to assess the efficiency of financial and operational processes and functions in accordance with established county policies and with generally accepted accounting principles. Drafts internal audit reports and presentations for completed projects. Requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, public administration, finance or related field and considerable professional financial management experience. Certified Public Accountant with prior governmental audit experience preferred.

Investment Manager — salary $44,879 – $77,260.

Provides administrative oversight of Durham County's investment portfolio averaging over $90 million. Determines fund availability and timelines for investment activities. Performs detailed analytical reviews of portfolio management including investment opportunities, trend analysis, and debt service requirements. Prepares and analyzes the investment of idle funds, manages cash flow and provides the funds necessary for meeting the needs of debt services, accounts payable and payroll. Participates in the annual audit assisting external auditors with the preparation of confirmation and related audit schedules. Comprehensive knowledge of governmental investment and debt management highly preferred. Requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, public administration, finance or a related field and considerable professional financial management experience.

Send resumes for all Durham County positions to the Durham County Human Resources Department, 200 East Main Street, 3rd Floor, Durham, NC 27701. 919/560-7900, *www.co.durham.nc.us*, 919/560-7902 (fax).

(If you would like information about advertising your job openings in County News and County News Online, please contact Allison Mall at 202/942-4256 or amall@naco.org.)

Job Market - Classified Rate Schedule

- ***Line Rates:*** *$7 per line, NACo member counties; $10 per line, others.*
- ***Display Classified:*** *$50 per column inch, NACo member counties; $70 per column inch, others.*
- ***Billing:*** *Invoices will be sent after publication.*
- ***Mail advertising copy to:*** *Job Market, County News, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.*
- ***FAX advertising copy to:*** *Job Market, County News, (202)393-2630.*
- ***E-mail advertising copy to:*** *edassist@naco.org.*
- *Be sure to include billing information along with copy.*
- *Estimates given prior to publication are approximations only and do not necessarily reflect final cost.*

For more information, contact the Job Market representative at (202) 942-4256.

Notices

■ 2006 Government Customer Support Excellence Awards

Nominations for the Government Customer Support Excellence Awards for 2006 are due by the end of the year. The awards will recognize public sector help desks, call centers, and/or other customer portals which excel in teamwork, technical excellence and customer focus to produce exemplary customer support and high customer satisfaction.

Winners will be announced at Government Customer Support Conference 2006 and invited to share their lessons learned in effective public sector customer support in the GCSC '07 program.

To see how to nominate your government contact center, go to *www.fedhelpdesk.osf.noaa.gov*, then e-mail your nomination application to *Daryl.L.Covey@noaa.gov* no later than Dec. 31.

■ Conference

The **New Jersey Transportation Conference and Expo** will take place April 10–12, 2006 in Atlantic City. The conference will focus on roads, bridges, goods movement, buses, commuter and light rail, paratransit, bicycle and pedestrian, car and vanpools, traffic calming, safety, security, ITS and alternate fuels; planning, funding, operations and administration.

For details and to register, call Frank T. Reilly at 908/903-1077 or email *FTR4444@hotmail.com*. Go to *www.njcost.com* for information on the conference.

■ Web Cast

The **National Transportation Operations Coalition (NTOC)** is sponsoring a free web cast on emergency evacuations. It will also present lessons learned from various examples and major initiatives to improve the operation of the transportation system in the event of an evacuation.

The session is open to the first 100 registrants. For more information and to register, please go to *http://talkingopsandfreight.webex.com* or contact Zia Burleigh at *zia.Burleigh@fhwa.dot.gov*.

(If you have an event or publication or conference that you would like to be featured in Notices, please e-mail it to amall@naco.org.)

2006 Acts of Caring Awards

In 2006, the National Association of Counties (NACo) will recognize and promote volunteer programs through the Acts of Caring Awards, a national ceremony honoring community-based, county government initiatives that provide a legacy for the future of our country.

The Acts of Caring is part of Counties Serve America, a long-term project of the National Association of Counties in partnership with Freddie Mac. It is designed to raise public understanding and awareness about county government.

What is an Act of Caring?

An "act of caring" is a community service provided by a county-sponsored volunteer program that enhances or preserves the quality of life.

Who is Eligible to Participate?

Any county government that is a member of NACo with an active program that meets the following criteria is eligible to participate in the Acts of Caring Awards. A county program that won an Acts of Caring Award in the past three years is not eligible for an award in 2006.

Eligible Programs Must:

- Exist at least one calendar year prior to the application date
- Enlist community participation on a volunteer basis
- Include the participation of the county (officials and/or staff) in a significant and ongoing role
- Serve as a model program and be replicable
- Demonstrate measurable outcomes that benefit the community

Acts of Caring Awards

Up to 18 programs will be recognized and deemed examples of outstanding Acts of Caring. Based on county size, as many as three programs will be recognized in each of six categories, including: Community Improvement; Criminal Justice/Emergency Management; Elderly Services; Health/Social Services; Libraries; and Programs for Children & Youth.

The types of programs that can be included in Community Improvement are arts & culture, historic preservation, housing, environmental programs, services to help animals, civic education, and recreation and parks.

The Youth Service Award

The Youth Service Award is presented to the program that best identifies a critical need in the youth community and addresses it, in part, by engaging young people in service.

The Legacy Award for Excellence and Innovation

The top award, the Legacy Award for Excellence and Innovation, will be presented to the program that most fully embodies the spirit of volunteerism by addressing a unique need. This program sets itself apart by providing unparalleled service in its community. The Legacy Award winner is selected from all the entries submitted in the contest.

Cash Awards

Cash awards will be presented to the volunteer programs that receive the Youth Service Award and the Legacy Award for Excellence and Innovation. The Youth Service Award winner will receive $1,000; the Legacy Award winner will receive $1,500.

Population Categories

Awards may be presented in each of three population categories to ensure that large and small communities and urban and rural areas all receive the recognition they deserve.

Category	Population
1	500,000 and above
2	100,000 - 500,000
3	100,000 and below

Application Deadline

The deadline for the 2006 program is Jan. 27, 2006. No applications will be accepted or considered after this date. Faxed or e-mailed copies will not be accepted.

Acknowledgment of Receipt

To ensure receipt, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with each submission.

Program Judging

Winners will be selected by an independent panel of judges. These individuals will determine award recipients based on the quality of the application, program category and population category.

Announcement of Awards

All Acts of Caring honorees will be recognized at a national ceremony that will be held on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. during National County Government Week in April 2006. Additionally, they will be recognized in *County News*, on the NACo Web site and in all national media releases and promotions.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit two copies of the completed application accompanied by an application form. Each should be typed, double-spaced and 12-point font or larger. Completed applications should not exceed 1,000 words or six typewritten pages (excluding the application form). All seven questions on the application form should be answered. Please note that no application materials will be returned. Supplementary materials will not be considered in judging.

For More Information, contact Tom Goodman, NACo Public Affairs Director, at *tgoodman@naco.org* or 202/942-4222.

Freddie Mac
We make home possible℠

NACO National Association of Counties
Counties Care for America