Counties honored for promoting ‘active aging’

**BY CHARLES TAYLOR**
**SENIOR STAFF WRITER**

Two counties are among seven nationwide winners of the EPA’s first Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging Award.

Carver County, Minn. and Queen Anne’s County, Md. were recognized for community planning and strategies that support active aging and smart growth. Both received Commitment Awards — for “communities that have developed and

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Childhood obesity summits engage stakeholders

**BY CASEY DILLON**
**PROGRAM ASSISTANT**

Commissioner Marcia Gershenson of Oakland County, Mich. didn’t need to see the statistics to know that children in her county were increasingly overweight.

She was concerned that obese and overweight children were at unnecessarily high risk for chronic disease and what that meant in terms of quality of life and medical costs. “It was becoming more and more apparent to me that as policy makers we need to do something.”

For Gershenson, that “something” is a county-wide childhood obesity summit. The summit will take place this September and include internationally renowned childhood obesity summits engage stakeholders.

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Farm Bill conference could bring dramatic change to original bills

**BY ERIK JOHNSTON**
**ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**

Congressional leaders and administration officials are scrambling to devise farm bill legislation that will pass muster with all sides before the current law expires March 15.

The House passed H.R. 2419 — the Farm, Nutrition and Bio-energy Act — in July 2007, and the Senate passed its version, S. Amendment 3500 — the Food and Energy Security Act of 2007 — in December. The significant differences between the bills require the House and Senate to negotiate a final measure in a conference committee.

However, neither side is willing to go to conference until an agreement on the overall funding level is reached. Deliberations have been complicated by the threat of a presidential veto. The administration said both bills spend too much money, lack needed reforms and include tax increases. This has helped lead to weeks of confusion over the timing and content of a final bill.

**Dramatic changes afoot for both versions**

During the week of Feb. 11, action on the Farm Bill intensified as House Agriculture Chairman Colin Peterson (D-Minn.) and Ranking Member Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) scrambled to put together an offer that the president could sign. The offer, agreed to by new Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer and touted as a starting point for negotiations with the Senate, diverges dramatically from the House’s original bill.

The proposal features a 10-year farm bill that would spend $6 billion over the current baseline, which puts downward pressure on funding for all the titles that directly and indirectly affect counties.

Those areas likely to be hit hardest by this lower level of funding include rural development, nutrition, conservation and energy. The biggest cut in the House proposal is $3 billion from the $11.5 billion increase in food stamps and nutrition programs in the House-passed bill.

In response, Chairman Tom Harkin, (D-Iowa) and Ranking See FARM BILL page 2

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Best counties to live in rural America 2008

Source: The Progressive Farmer

1 • Kent County, Md.
2 • Ellis County, Kan.
3 • Livingston County, Mo.
4 • Obion County, Tenn.
5 • Columbia County, Pa.

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Photo courtesy of Linn County, Iowa

Linn County, Iowa Supervisor Lu Barron meets with children at an orphanage during a Women in Leadership delegation trip to Nigeria. Read about her trip on page 5.
NACo Board Member Thomas P. Finley dead at 61; NACo FSC Advisory Committee’s Bob Patterson also dies unexpectedly

Thomas P. Finley, corporation counsel for Marathon County, Wis. and the National Association of County Civil Attorneys (NACCA) representative on NACo’s Board of Directors, died unexpectedly Feb. 6 at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. He had been dealing successfully with cancer, but reported to the hospital citing symptoms of dehydration. He was 61.

Appointed to the board in 2002, Finley was active in all organizations to which he belonged, including past exalted ruler of Wisconsin Rapids Elks Lodge no. 693, past president of Eagles Aerie, Past president of the Breakfast Optimists and past governor of the Wisconsin Upper Michigan District Optimists International.

Finley was elected president of the National Association of County Civil Attorneys in 2001 at the NACo Annual Conference. Starting in 2002, he represented NACCA on the NACo Board. After completing his term of office as president, he continued to represent NACCA on the NACo Board and Finance Committee. In addition, he represented NACCA on the NACo Affiliate Council. Finley was appointed parliamentarian to the NACo Board in 2002 and served in that capacity for two years.

Finley was also responsible for inaugurating the workshop “The Right Way to Run a Meeting,” a perennial conference favorite.

He conducted this workshop, sponsored by NACCA, at several annual conferences and always received outstanding evaluations from the participants. In the last three years, the workshop has been conducted by a panel of attorneys, including Finley.

Born March 7, 1946 in Milwaukee, Finley was a graduate Marquette University, where he earned his JD in 1970 and began his career as a prosecuting attorney.

Before moving to Wausau in 1983, he served as the first assistant district attorney for eight years and practiced privately for three, and by 1996 had become the corporation counsel for Marathon County. He is survived by his wife, Jean, nine nieces and nephews, and nine great-nieces and nephews.

A Memorial will be directed to the American Cancer Society.

NACo FSC committee member Bob Patterson dies

Bob Patterson, Shelby County, Tenn. trustee (tax collector) and former National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers and Finance Officers president, died Jan. 18 of a heart attack. He was 69 years old.

Patterson was a member of the NACo FSC Deferred Compensation Committee and FSC Advisory Committee, and was active in both. He was also a member of the Rural Action Caucus.

“His commitment to helping Shelby County was demonstrated by his participation and involvement with NACO, with the FSC Advisory Committee and with the Deferred Compensation Committee,” said Lisa Cole, FSC director. Cole had known Patterson for more than 20 years.

Patterson was elected the Shelby County trustee in 1990, and four more times after that, and last year was honored by receiving the Victor E. Martinelli Award as the number one trustee in the nation by NACCTFO.

“In all my years in public service, I have never met an officeholder who took his duty to the public more seriously than Bob did,” said George Cole, the Shelby County mayor and NACO Board of Directors member. “He was the consummate professional. He insisted on efficiency and courtesy, and he was meticulous in the consideration of the feelings of others.”

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Virginia, three children and four grandchildren.

Expressions of sympathy may be mailed to: The Family of Bob Patterson, 2080 Black Oak, Memphis TN 38119.

Proposed Farm Bills contain higher funding levels

FARM BILL from page 1

Member Saxby Chambliss, (R-Ga.) of the Senate Agriculture Committee submitted a proposal to the House that is $12.3 billion over the baseline and more than double the $6 billion House proposal.

The details of both proposals remain in flux, but the higher number in the Senate proposal will undoubtedly help maintain funding levels found in the original Senate-passed bill for rural development, nutrition, conservation and energy.

The contents of the 2007 Farm Bill have been debated for five years and the final decisions on this critical piece of legislation will be decided by the Administration and key leaders in the Senate and House in the coming weeks. The conference report may look very different from the House and Senate passed versions of the bill if the final overall funding level changes significantly.

NACO has been working on multiple issues within the Farm Bill, including nutrition, energy and conservation, with a particular focus on rural development.

Under the leadership of Immediate Past President Colleen Landkamer, NACO and 30 other national organizations that are a part of the Campaign for Renewed Rural Development have focused attention on the need for a robustly funded rural development title.

NACO strongly supports the $400 million in mandatory spending for investments in rural development that are contained in the Senate version of the bill. This $400 million in mandatory funding provides critically needed resources to rural hospitals, a microenterprise assistance program, a rural collaborative investment program (RCIP), child day care facility grants, and one-time funding for pending water and wastewater infrastructure.

Please contact your members of Congress and urge them to support the $400 million in mandatory spending for investments in rural development that are contained in the Senate version of the Farm Bill, especially RCIP. Visit NACO’s Legislative Action Center to use a ready-made message at http://naco.gov/ naco/issues/alert/?alertid=10620256. 
Counties raise public awareness with childhood obesity prevention summits

OBESITY from page 1

One of the things that struck keynote speaker Dr. Thomas Robinson, breakout sessions, cooking demonstrations, locally grown food, networking opportunities, booths and presentations from community groups. It is intended to raise community awareness and encourage collaboration among diverse stakeholders in Oakland County, who are all working one way or another to help prevent childhood obesity.

Gershenson is taking the lead on planning the summit. Advising and assisting her is a committee made up of county staff from the parks and recreation, and health departments, as well as nurses, fitness experts and hospital representatives.

The local school system is providing space, and the speaker is only charging for his expenses. Most of the participating organizations are providing their own materials. Volunteers and county staff have donated their time to help plan the event. The county is reaching out to area hospitals for help with the event. The county is reaching out to area hospitals for help with the event.

Volunteers and county staff have donated their time to help plan the event. The county is reaching out to area hospitals for help with the event.

Childhood obesity prevention summits are an emerging best practice among local and state governments, and Oakland County is not the first county to host one. Counties in California and Colorado held similar summits in 2006 and 2007. Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) is hosting a meeting in Montana this month to discuss rural and frontier strategies to prevent obesity, and Florida held obesity summits in 2004 and 2005.

Though different in scale and scope, each of the summits has proven to be highly successful at engaging stakeholder groups and raising community awareness. A large part of their success is due to the support of elected officials.

California summits

Supervisor John Vasquez of Solano County, Calif., who sponsored the 2006 Solano County Youth Obesity Prevention Summit, said that “one of the powers a county board member has is the ability to call on people.” Vasquez called on non-traditional stakeholders such as planners, transportation officials and county air board members to attend the Solano County summit. As he saw it, these people were making decisions at the staff level that shaped the built environment of the county and affected community health.

The response was so positive that participants were invited to a second summit later that year.

During this summit, it was agreed that the county needed to improve the safety of streets around schools, by installing crosswalks and yield signs, for instance, to ensure that children could walk to school without fear of traffic. A proposed Safe Routes to School program and budget was presented to the county board last month and is pending final approval.

San Diego County, Calif. saw similarly productive results from a childhood obesity summit held September 2007. According to the office of Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, who co-sponsored the summit with Supervisor Ron Roberts, “The goal of the summit was to bring together stakeholders across the many different sectors working on obesity prevention, both public and private, and to increase collaboration and the leveraging of resources.”

More than 640 people attended the summit, and the county has indeed seen an increase in collaboration. This increase is helping the community to reach the goals laid out in San Diego County’s Childhood Obesity Action Plan. The plan was created at the request of the Board of Supervisors, and outlines action steps stakeholder groups are encouraged to take to help decrease childhood obesity rates in the county.

Broomfield County, Colo.

Broomfield County, Colo., worked in partnership with local nonprofit Healthy Learning Paths to plan the Family Wellness Day they held in October of 2007. The event focused on obesity prevention as well as wellness, and was part of the overall Healthy Broomfield initiative.

According to the county’s Web site, it was “an important step toward improving community awareness and encouraging community involvement with regard to health and wellness.”

County officials interested in turning the spotlight on childhood obesity prevention and increasing stakeholder collaboration around this pressing issue might consider sponsoring summits in their own counties. According to Gershenson, you can get a lot done with few financial resources, as long as you are willing to be committed to the project and have a strong support network.

NACo President Eric Coleman said that he is proud that his own Oakland County is demonstrating leadership on the issue and urges all counties to do the same in their communities.

“Obesity threatens the health of our residents, imposes financial burdens on taxpayers and is intrinsically related to many of the challenges facing our communities. We must work harder to encourage healthy living,” he said.

(For questions about NACo’s childhood obesity prevention work please contact Christina Rowland at 202/942-4267 or crowlands@naco.org.)
By: Kelly Zonderman, Senior Associate

(Continued from page 3)

Whether counties are motivated by global warming, air quality, national security, sustainability or financial savings, they are taking action to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Environmental risks and potential costs for inaction, meeting shrinking budgets and saving taxpayer dollars, moving the country toward energy independence—pick the goal you’d like, but the bottom line is counties are more aware today of emissions than ever before.

NACo’s County Climate Protection Program FAQs

Q: What is NACo’s policy on climate change?
   The NACo Legislative Conference in March 2007, the NACo Board of Directors approved a resolution that became part of NACo’s Environment, Energy and Land Use Platform. The resolution calls upon Congress to aggressively pursue national and international programs to develop carbon-neutral energy sources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Federal funding of sensible and cost-effective technologies to reduce greenhouse gases should be continued. NACo urges Congress to address global warming, regardless of its source.

Q: What is Cool Counties?
   In July 2007, a coalition of counties launched the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration (also known as Cool Counties).

Q: What is NACo’s County Climate Protection Program?
   NACo urges Congress to address global warming emissions 80 percent below current levels by 2050 (an average annual reduction of 2 percent). The Declaration also urges the federal government to adopt legislation requiring an 80 percent emissions reduction by 2050 and calls for fuel economy standards to be raised to 35 miles per gallon within a decade. The declaration is available online at: www.kingcounty.gov/exec/coolcounties.aspx.

Q: What is Climate Communities?
   Climate Communities is a national coalition of cities and counties advocating for climate change policies, resources, and funding from the federal government to help local governments meet the climate change challenge. The coalition adopted a Federal Action Agenda with four goals: cap-and-trade credits for local actions; increased federal funding for local efforts to combat climate change (such as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants); SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization with investments at the local level; and the expansion of federal programs that support research, demonstration and deployment activities at the local level. The action agenda is available online at: www.climatecommunities.com.

Q: What other national campaigns are counties joining?

Q: What is the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, launched last summer by a coalition of counties including King County, Wash. and... See CLIMATE page 5
Supervisor's trip promotes women's roles in Nigeria

By Supervisor Lu Barron
Linn County, Iowa

We take a lot of things for granted in America, things like running water, electricity on demand and schools to educate our children. In developing countries like Nigeria, however, these luxuries are not part of everyday life.

Homes in rural Nigerian villages have dirt floors, often without running water. Healthcare is virtually non-existent. Children do not have to go to school. Despite these differences, Nigerians and Americans share a fundamental desire to improve the lives of our citizens.

I was one of four elected women from Iowa who traveled to Nigeria in December 2007 as part of the Women in Leadership delegation from Iowa who traveled to Nigeria in December 2007 as part of the Women in Leadership delegation. The purpose of these exchanges is to increase public participation of women in Nigeria’s political process, and ultimately to improve the lives of Nigerians.

With an estimated 140 million people, Nigeria is Africa’s most populous country. Its land is twice the size of California. English is the official language, yet more than 230 local languages are spoken throughout the country. Due to malnutrition, poor living conditions and AIDS, life expectancy in Nigeria is less than 50 years.

After gaining independence from Britain in 1960, Nigeria experienced decades of military rule, but regained civilian rule in 1999. Today, Nigeria elects its president by popular vote. The president’s power is checked by a senate and a house of representatives, known as the general assembly. Five women from Nigeria will visit Iowa in March, followed by two more delegations between Iowa and Nigeria. The purpose of these exchanges is to increase public participation of women in Nigeria’s political process, and ultimately to improve the lives of Nigerians.

A resolution passed in Teton County, Wyo. asks residents to educate themselves about global warming and take action. And, in San Juan County, Wash., their resolution details 26 ways the county will help reduce emissions, including providing more trails and bikeways and buying goods locally. The resolution also outlines 10 actions residents and businesses can take.

Chester County, Pa. formed a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Task Force comprising 64 members. Residents were invited to apply to serve, and all were accepted by the county. The task force will recommend actions the county can take as well as those actions that residents and municipalities may be encouraged to take.

Other counties that have launched sustainability or climate task forces recently include: Miami-Dade County, Fla.; Howard County, Md.; Queen Anne’s County, Md.; Henderson County, N.C.; Ulster County, N.Y.; Westchester County, N.Y.; and Montgomery County, Pa.

With the development of local climate action plans comes an opportunity for counties to think beyond mitigation techniques and start to plan for future social, environmental, and economic impacts — otherwise known as adaptation planning.

Unsure how your county may need to cope in the future? Melting ice caps are just the tip of the iceberg. Shifts in local food supplies, effects on tourism, an increasing number of droughts, a greater risk of forest fires, shifting crop patterns, a reduction in our snowpack, an increase in sea levels, more flooding and extreme temperature fluctuations are among other named consequences.

A Survey of Climate Change Adaptation Planning was recently produced from The H. John Heinz III Center For Science, Economics and the Environment. The survey can help counties navigate their way through 18 existing resources to help in adaptation planning. One particular such resource is Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional and State Governments, created through a partnership between ICLEI, Climate Impacts Group and King County, Wash.

The guidebook provides a framework communities can use to prepare for and adapt to regional climate changes.

See NIGERIA page 6
Gender equality remains key issue in Nigerian politics

NIGERIA from page 5

The country has high voter turnout, largely because some politicians distribute money and toiletries in exchange for votes.

Nigeria is perhaps 50 years behind the U.S. in gender equality. Very few women hold elected office in Nigeria; those who do face barriers within the patriarchal government system. Many political party meetings begin at midnight, for example, making it difficult for women with children to participate; and if they do participate, they are considered women of “easy virtue.”

Addressing gender inequality was a key topic of discussion with the Nigerian women. We discussed how equality is a universal battle for women, but one that is worth the struggle.

In the capital city of Abuja, we met with the highest ranking elected woman in the house of representatives, Rep. Saudatu Sani. She chairs the Committee on Women’s Affairs and Youth Development. Some of her priorities were similar to those of the U.S., including education and healthcare. We met one woman who has run for office unsuccessfully three times, yet keeps trying.

It is easy to understand their determination. I saw children living at orphanages who were playing on broken swing sets and teething on aluminum foil. A political uprising took place in one of the cities, and people were killed in the streets. The church we had attended two days earlier was burned down.

We met with about 50 female Nigerian college students who want change. They want sex education taught in schools to curtail teenage pregnancies and AIDS. They want to end trafficking of young women. They want compulsory education for girls and the government to give schools the books and equipment needed for a quality education. Access to education is a vital tool for empowerment.

With the perseverance of Nigerian women to become active political leaders, combined with college students seeking a better life for future generations, Nigeria is poised for change.

Vision statement, housing plan recognized

AGING from page 1

The vision statement, “Communities for a Lifetime” vision statement, adopted by the Board of Commissioners, which created an Office of Aging within the county’s Public Health Division.

The development of the ‘Communities for a Lifetime’ approach demonstrates Carver County’s commitment to addressing the needs of its 65-plus population — expected to quadruple to 20,820 by 2030,” EPA noted. “The approach lays the foundation for improving housing, transportation and physical activity options throughout the county.”

EPA recognized the Queen Anne’s County Housing Authority for using partnerships and community involvement to create a “model community for active aging.”

Terrapin Grove, in Stevensville, Md., is a low- to moderate-income housing community for older adults, featuring a library, salon and country store. The adjacent Kent Island Senior Center offers an array of physical activities, including low-impact and chair aerobics, exercise classes, Tai Chi and yoga. All of the center’s activities and classes were developed with community input.

“Strong citizen involvement and agency partnerships helped to create an enriching environment for older residents in Queen Anne’s County,” EPA said in a news release.

For more information on this year’s winners and the awards program, visit www.epa.gov/aging.

Bikers from the Terrapin Grove community in Queen Anne’s County, Md. take advantage of a new connection from their community to an existing trail network.
County Police, Volunteers Team Up to Fight Online Child Predators

BY ELIZABETH PERRY
STAFF WRITER

A new initiative by the police department of Macomb County, Mich. teams adult volunteers, known as reserve deputies, with law enforcement officials to apprehend child predators. For a three-hour shift every week they work alongside members of the Macomb Area Computer Enforcement Team (MACE), posing as children online and chatting with pedophiles.

“Many of [the reserve deputies] have an interest in computers and are parents with a special interest in bringing child predators to justice,” says Sheriff Mark Hackel.

Their most significant arrest came in October 2007, when county law enforcement and FBI agents arrested John David Atchison, a federal prosecutor, as he arrived at Detroit Metropolitan International Airport for a sexual encounter with a five-year-old child.

Atchison, who went by the screen name “fl daddy04,” made contact with a female reserve deputy posing online as a mother seeking men to have sex with her daughter. He arranged a weekend flight from Florida to Michigan, where the “mother” was to pick him up. When he arrived he was greeted by the FBI, Wayne County Airport Police and Macomb County Sheriff’s deputies. Atchison later attempted to hang himself in Sanilac County Jail in Sandusky, about 75 miles north of Detroit.

“Our unit figured this out,” says Hackel. “He agreed to meet us at the airport and showed up. We arrested him and found out he was a federal district attorney. The guy did not want it found out — he had a family, he had children. It was such a sad story.”

The reserve unit was formed to assist MACE in 2004 by Hackel. Startup costs amounted to $10,000 for computers, $200 for wireless cards and $551 for high speed Internet access.

Volunteers submit applications and agree to background checks in order to be considered for the unit. Once accepted, they undergo a one-month training session on youth lingo used to communicate in chat rooms, legal issues and departmental procedures.

“The majority of [the training] is the hands-on interaction, where they are coached while they are going through some of the chat rooms,” he says. “Some of them are very astute while they are going through it and end up showing us a few things.”

County estimates from a year ago showed MACE and the reserve unit were responsible for the arrests of 17 pedophiles and more than 40 investigations, several of which led to arrests. The volunteers also donated more than 400 hours of time to assist police officers in identifying, pursuing and arresting pedophiles.

In the past two years, one volunteer relocated to Texas, but the remaining four original reserve deputies are still with the unit. Because of the amount of intensive training required and the volunteer to police officer ratio involved, the unit has had to limit its size. The unit is operating with a dedicated group of seven volunteers.

Hackel advises county officials who are considering implementing similar programs in their own communities to look at those in other counties to see what works and what doesn’t.

“We’re always open to anybody who has inquiries into our organization and how we do things, but that’s how we did it, too,” he says. “We reached out to state and federal organizations to find out what they’re doing and how it works, what worked for them and what didn’t work. There’s so much information out there, it’s easy for someone to start an initiative and get something going.”

He says that if counties really want to stop child predators they need to consider joining with neighboring communities and agencies to address the issue. Macomb County Police Department works closely with the local FBI offices, which helps them with training, education and equipment.

“The reality when it comes to child predators is that it’s a small fraction that we are dealing with,” he says. “It’s a huge issue, and we could spend days or months dealing with this and still not have enough resources to apply to it.”

Michelle Anastasi, 36, has been a reserve deputy for 2 ½ years with the unit and says she has had online conversations with predators that led to three arrests. She is not a parent, but is employed with the Children’s Home of Detroit, a residential treatment center, for several years. She has worked with computers but, like the other volunteers, has no background in law enforcement. She says she began volunteering with the cyber crimes unit because going undercover in chat rooms to help nab child predators seemed like a good way to help keep her community safe.

“Cyber crime was a new, upcoming area in law enforcement,” she says. “I was familiar with chat rooms as a social thing, and I never thought they could be used for criminal purposes.”

The reserve deputies and police officers working the chat rooms never initiate contact or discuss sex with anyone in the rooms because of entrapment concerns. However, when they pose as a 13-year-old girl Anastasi says it doesn’t take long for predators to approach her.

“They ask questions and take it to the next step, turning the conversation into something more sexual,” she says. “When they are interested in wanting to meet, then the officers will go out and meet them. We let the person on the other end of the computer guide the chat.”

She says the officers know it’s time to make their move when the predator starts propositioning the youths, inviting them to view his or her on their web cams and asking to meet them.

“Then they are telling you, ‘Let’s meet up at 6 o’clock. Can you get out? I’ll be right by your house,’” she says. “The time it takes to actually apprehend a child predator is unpredictable, says Hackel, with some individuals requesting face to face contact immediately and others taking several days or weeks. Borrowing a page from Dateline NBC’s series, To Catch a Predator, Macomb police officers set up a sting in a model home when two men contacted reserve deputies at the same time.

“Both people thought they were meeting a 13-year-old girl, so we set them up, both a half-hour apart, at the same location,” says Hackel.

“We went there with a news crew, and sat outside and watched. Sure enough, one showed up, they arrested him and pulled him out of the way. Then the other showed up and they arrested him.”

Anastasi says the worst thing about being a reserve deputy is realizing how many predators are on the prowl, but the best thing is watching them brought to justice by dedicated officers.

“It’s very rewarding when they catch someone in your area and get them off the streets,” she says. “You can make it a safer neighborhood.”

For more information, contact Captain Anthony Wickersham at 586/307-9545.

(Model Programs from the Nation’s Counties highlights Achievement Award-winning programs. For more information on this and other NACo Achievement Award winners, visit NACo’s Web site, www.naco.org > Resource Library > Model County Programs.)
**WHAT’S IN A SEAL?**

Visit the Chesterfield County, Va., website, www.co.chesterfield.va.us, for more information.

Although English colonists began moving into the area within four years of Jamestown’s founding in 1607, Chesterfield was not created as a political unit until 1749. Formed from the southern half of Henrico County, one of Virginia’s original shires, the new county took the name of the celebrated author and politician Philip Dormer Stanhope, fourth Earl of Chesterfield.

In 1870, the first action of the first Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors was to direct a seal to be created, “to wit: a coal miner leaning on his pick under a pine tree with a flowing river at his feet.” This was chosen as the county’s seal in part because it was the first place in the nation where coal was mined commercially.

As a result of the industrious labors of miners, other firsts occurred in Chesterfield — Midlothian Turnpike, the first paved road in Virginia, was built in 1807 to carry carts of coal, and in 1831, the first railroad, the Midlothian to Manchester Railroad, was built to haul coal to Virginia’s ports.

Chesterfield straddles two major topographic regions. Most of the county lies in the Piedmont, a region of gently rolling hills stretching between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic coastal plain. The pine tree on the seal represents the timber associated with the rolling hills of the area.

Although Chesterfield is laced by streams, most are too narrow or shallow to use as waterways. The James and Appomattox rivers, though, served as major commercial corridors from the first period of European settlement. Therefore, the depiction of the river was included on the seal.

(If you would like your county’s seal featured, please contact Matthew Fellows at 202/942-4256 or e-mail mfellows@naco.org.)

**ARIZONA**

The NAVAO COUNTY Board of Supervisors is taking a stand against a proposed Forest Service Travel Management plan, because it would mean the closure of more than 100 miles of roads in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. It would also limit areas where woodcutting and camping could take place.

County Supervisor David Tenney spoke at a community meeting recently to coordinate opposition to the measure, which has been met with resistance from the public.

**GREENLEE COUNTY**

Supervisors also voted recently to make a community meeting about a Travel Management plan. It includes a sister-county agreement and participate in the world’s first International Peach Blooming Festival.

**DELAWARE**

NEW CASTLE COUNTY has begun a new program to reduce the number of false alarms set off by residents’ systems. Ninety-seven percent of the alarms are false, according to the county police department.

Starting last month, residents and businesses were required to register their monitored alarm systems or pay a $50 fine. The county is tracking the number of false alarms from individual properties in its jurisdiction.

Registered alarm users whose systems generate three or more false alarms in one year will face graduated fines ranging from $100 – $250 per year. New Police Commission mean officers will no longer respond to the offending alarm.

Violators will have to provide proof their alarms have been tested and fixed.

County Councilman Timothy Sheldon sponsored the ordinance that forms the basis for the false alarm reduction program. He said officers will now be able to devote more of their time fighting crime instead of responding to alarms.

“With an average of 3,000 false alarms per year, the New Castle Police lose over 5,000 hours of officer time every year to false alarms,” he said. “This is the equivalent of 2½ police officers spending an entire year working on false alarms.”

**GEORGIA**

- **CLAYTON COUNTY**

Commission Vice Chair Wole Ralph, 29, and David Britt, 27, assistant to the MUSCOGEE COUNTY tax commissioner, were named two of America’s 30 “Young Leaders of the Future,” by Ebony magazine.

The county officials were on a list of 30 individuals including educators, ministers and founders of nonprofit organizations who are under 30 years of age, successful in their careers and working to make a difference in their communities.

Ralph told the Atlanta Journal Constitution he was excited to be included on the list.

“It’s great for Clayton County,” he said. “It opens nationwide positive attention to some of the things we are doing here.”

Ralph was elected to the commission when he was 26 and is the state director for a small no-profit, housing company, chairman of the county United Way, an executive board member of the Atlanta chapter of the Boy Scouts of America and a Habitat for Humanity volunteer.

Britt juggles three jobs as assistant to Tax Commissioner Lula Huff, an announcer at a local R&B radio station, and as a real estate agent. He still manages to find time to volunteer with youth groups in Columbus.

- **PEACH COUNTY**

Officials will travel to Lonquan County, China, in March to formalize a sister-county agreement and participate in the world’s first International Peach Blooming Festival.

Chinese dignitaries and entertainers connected with the festival will visit the United States this summer through the U.S. – China Cultural and Educational Foundation.

Lonquan County, located in Chengdu, China, has been home to its own Peach Blooming Festival for more than two decades, and has grown peaches for some 2,000 years. Trees from the region were given as gifts to a family in Marshallville 150 years ago.

- **INDIANA**

HAMILTON COUNTY officials are concerned about a state Senate bill that would consolidate wireless and landline 911 call fees, saying it could reduce revenue and raise taxes.

County Commissioner Christine Altman told the Indianapolis Star the county charges $2 a month to landline bills for enhanced 911. The money generated by the fee goes back to the county to fund phone lines, equipment and technology.

Funds generated from the state’s 50-cent surcharge for wireless 911 calls are distributed equally to the counties. Under the senate bill, both fees would be consolidated to a flat $1 charge. The money collected would be distributed by a statewide board.

- **MISSOURI**

Voters in RAY COUNTY recently approved a 5-cent property tax levy to help fund senior services. The levy is expected to generate approximately $135,000 per year, according to the Kansas City Star.

The tax will help to fund medical transportation, home repairs, food delivery and health care costs for seniors. It will also assist seniors in rural areas who want to continue living independently in their own homes.

Officials hope to base their program on similar programs in CLAY and PLATTE counties. Funds from programs in those counties have been used for personal hygiene assistance, housekeeping, respite care, adult day care, transportation, personal safety monitoring and home repairs.

**NEW YORK**

WESTCHESTER COUNTY Executive Andy Spano has been appointed to the board of directors of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability U.S. He will represent the Northeast region of the United States.

The American organization is an affiliate of ICLEI, an international membership association of local governments dedicated to addressing environmental problems through local actions.

“ICLEI U.S. is the preeminent national organization of local governments working to combat climate change and promote sustainable development,” Spano said.

“The people of Westchester County are working hard to do our share to address climate change. We have benefitted greatly from our ICLEI U.S. membership, and I am honored to serve on its Board of Directors to help it continue its important work.”

**NORTH CAROLINA**

A MECKLENBURG COUNTY program hopes to reduce recidivism among male youths involved in the justice system by identifying and treating their mental health and substance abuse issues.

It’s called the Mecklenburg County Jail Services Wellness Program. Male teens ages 16 and 17 are referred to the program by case managers at Mecklenburg County Jail North. They receive services through a team effort of several agencies. County, state and federal funds help to finance the program.

Part of the program’s include: identifying youth that need mental health services, establishing family service partnerships before release and preparing the youth’s family for his return home.

Collaborating partners include the sheriff’s department’s Youthful Offender Program and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

There are 12,000 dogs in BUCKS COUNTY that the county knows about, officially — the ones that are licensed. County Treasurer William Snyder estimates there may be another 29,000 canines that are unregistered.

To address the issue, his office hopes offering dog licenses over the Internet is the answer, according to The Morning Call. “We are hoping we can reach out to more people — that they can get on their computer and...**
Texting While Driving Could Cost You

When New York banned motorists from talking on hand held phones in 2001, text messaging was fairly uncommon. Many states, including Connecticut, New Jersey, California and Washington have joined New York in prohibiting motorists from driving and talking on hand held cell phones.

Moreover, the American Automobile Association says 14 states restrict the use of cell phones by drivers younger than 18. Despite the increasing efforts to ban hand held cell phone use while driving, text messaging, or “texting,” by drivers is legal, even though research has found that it increases the chance of accidents.

It may be hard to believe, but many people are text messaging while driving on area roadways. In a study of 19–24 years olds in driving simulators, Frank Drews, at the University of Utah at Salt Lake City who has studied cell phone and motorist safety for seven years, found that motorists who text message while driving are six times more likely to be distracted and have an accident.

Through their state delegations, counties are arguing for the passage of distracted-while-driving ordinances in varying forms, with the goal of keeping drivers and county highways and roads safe. Until recently, the cell phone ban ordinances applied primarily to teen drivers and hand-held devices. However, in an effort to address the growing concern over sending text messages while driving, recent bills have been proposed that would fine drivers who are caught sending text messages while driving.

The only state which currently bans texting while driving is Washington. That list could likely grow in the coming months as more county lawmakers propose bills addressing the concern over text messaging while driving.

If passed, these bans could place an increased emphasis on county law enforcement, as many of the proposals require the issuance of citations and other infractions to violators.

State lawmakers representing the following counties are currently proposing text messaging bans:

Montgomery County, Md.

Lawmakers in Maryland will consider making it illegal for drivers to send a text message while driving. The ban would apply to cell phones and/or laptop computers.

Under the ban, talking on a cell phone would still be allowed. The bill would set a $100 fine for a first offense and a $250 fine for subsequent offenses. Drivers wouldn’t have to pay the first offense fine if they could prove purchase of a hands-free device. Washington state and the city of Phoenix have already approved text message driving bans.

Johnson County, Iowa

A proposal that would ban all Iowa drivers including adults, from using cell phones while driving. Drivers would also be prohibited from text messaging while driving.

If passed, the ban would fine violators $30 for each offense.

York County, Pa.

A proposal to ban text messaging behind the wheel would fine violators $100 for each offense.

Hamilton County, Ohio

Officials in Hamilton County are moving to ban adults and young drivers from talking and texting while driving. The proposal would charge offenders with a simple misdemeanor and a fine of $30.

Fairfax County, Va.

Delegate James Scott is sponsoring House Bill 39, which would prohibit text messaging while driving.

(Research News was written by2Devere Gardner, research associate.)

NACo Staff

Patrick McNulty joins NACo as a Network Manager. He graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 1998 with a B.S. in Information Systems. Prior to NACo, he worked at the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, supporting the Family and Business Insurance Group. He also worked for the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association.

www.naco.org

Financial Services News

Building Plan Success Through Saver’s Credit

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) offers plan sponsors and employees a hidden gem — the Saver’s Credit. The Saver’s Credit has been around since 2002, thanks to the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA), but PPA did employers and workers a big favor. Not only did it make the Saver’s Credit permanent, but it also indexed future credit levels to inflation.

How the Saver’s Credit works

The Saver’s Credit allows employees to grab a tax credit on their federal return simply for investing for retirement through an employer-sponsored defined contribution plan or IRA. A quick reminder: A tax credit allows you reduce your tax liability dollar-for-dollar. A deduction, on the other hand, reduces the income subject to federal tax.

Eligibility depends on the participant’s filing status and modified adjusted gross income. Up to half of the first $2,000 of an annual contribution is eligible for the Saver’s Credit. Thus, the federal government in effect gives qualified participants up to half of what they contribute each year, up to a maximum total credit of $1,000.

As the table shows, the credit covers a significant cross-section of wage earners — households with earnings as high as $50,000 can qualify for it.

And, thanks to the PPA, future credit levels will be indexed to inflation.

Why promote the Saver’s Credit

The Saver’s Credit reinforces the good will you’re working to earn among your employees. They see that you’re committed to everyone’s success through your defined contribution plan, not just those who “can afford it.”

Fifth, you can increase the assets in your plan, possibly leading to better pricing, which can allow all participants to have more of their contributions invested each pay day. This leads to a better opportunity for success for everyone.

Nationwide Retirement Solutions is the administrator of the NACo Deferred Compensation Program. For more information, please contact Louie Watson, Vice President for Strategic Relationships, Nationwide Retirement Solutions at 614/854-8895 or watsonL2@nationwide.com.

(Research News was written by Bob Beasley, Nationwide communication consultant)

Saver’s Credit Eligibility

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<th>Amount of Credit</th>
<th>Filing Status</th>
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<th>Head of Household</th>
<th>Single/Others</th>
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<td>$0 to $22,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>20% of first $2,000 deferred</td>
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<td>$22,501 to $24,375</td>
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<tr>
<td>10% of first $2,000 deferred</td>
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<td>$24,376 to $37,500</td>
<td>$16,251 to $25,000</td>
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<td>Over $37,500</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(On the Move is compiled by Matthew Fellows, editorial assistant.)
Three of the HR Doctor’s favorite “characters” over the past hundred or so years were Samuel Clemens (a.k.a. Mark Twain), Winston Churchill and Mae West. All three were full of wisdom, humor and a broad perspective on life, on history and on our work life. All of us need and a broad perspective on life, on three were full of wisdom, humor and certainly Mr. Churchill couldn’t have been too difficult. Mr. Twain repeatedly said, “I am a man who loves details.” I join him passionately in that feeling.

The more our lives are dominated by minutia or the individual cells in a giant spreadsheet, the less we can focus on the real importance of life philosophies, a love of all that we can learn from history and important relationships with others.

For the HR Doctor, one of several retreats involves inviting the beautiful Charlotte and the HR dog Kamala to join me in a morning walk before dawn. My main physical retreat is the quiet of the intergalactic headquarters of the HR Doctor, Inc. — my home office. There, I can read, relax, write, go on journeys of the mind and appreciate life. I can contemplate hobbies I’ve had for many years, which were deliberately designed to broaden my horizons.

Specifically, astronomy, the wonders to be seen with even a small telescope in an inconceivably huge universe. Another hobby, deliberately if not ironically selected, is exploring the world of the miniature with a compound stereo microscope. It’s amazing to realize how profoundly insignificant we are as a species when you look up through a beautiful telescope or down through a large microscope.

Then there’s music, whether it’s classical, bluegrass, classic rock, country or, for those other than the HR Doctor, perhaps grunge, heavy metal, hip-hop or anything else which appears to be played in cars equipped with JL Audio’s gigantic, booming vehicle speakers. I offer the last comment with apologies to my friend and co-founder of JL Audio, Jim Birch. Even the Beach Boys appreciated the power of a retreat in their 1960’s song “In My Room.”

Retreats can be found in a privacy of a space defined in measurable, physical ways such as HR daughter Rachel and son-in-law Toby’s six acres in the mountains of Brevard, N.C. or in a 10x12 home office. More importantly, however, retreats exist wherever we want to create them. They can exist in a “cage,” which housed prisoners of war in Vietnam or detainees at Guantanamo for years.

Retreats can be found in listening to, or better yet, playing music that inspires and gives you peace. For one of the world’s great religions, Buddhism, the most powerful retreat is found inside your mind and your spirit. It is an easy journey to make from a busy, if not crazy world, into a re-energizing retreat. All you have to do is meditate, or if you prefer a different label, contemplate.

The HR Doctor has previously written about the power of Einstein’s “Journey of the Mind” to help each of us develop our powers of problem solving and innovation. The same technique can add years to our lives by giving us an outlet of peace in days of turmoil.

Contrary to what our military folklore might suggest, the fundamental notion of this article is that a “retreat” can perhaps be the most powerful tool available to gain strength and recapture a sense of vision and focus that gets lost in the current and daily events of our lives. Try a retreat…next time you want to advance.

H.R. Doctor Is In

Retreating

King County, Wash. launches new social justice initiative

NEWS FROM from page 18

get a license,” said Donna Werner, chief deputy treasurer.

The treasurer’s office has contracted with padoglicense.com to provide the service. CLINTON and MONTGOMERY counties are the only other counties in the state that offer the licenses online, Werner said.

Montgomery County Treasurer Garrett Page said his county has distributed 6,000 dog licenses through the online service in a little over a year. That’s about one-fifth of the county’s licenses. “We’ve had a great experience with it,” he said.

WASHINGTON

Poor children and people of color would be just as healthy, and grow up, graduate and get jobs at the same rate as other children as part of the vision of a new KING COUNTY initiative.

The Equity and Social Justice Initiative (www.kingcounty.gov/ equity) has the long-term goal of ending persistent local inequities and injustices that result in such things as higher rates of disease among low-income populations and disproportionate rates of young men in jail.

“It is unacceptable that the color of your skin or your home address are now good predictors of whether you will have a low birth-weight baby, die from diabetes or your children will graduate from high school or end up in jail,” said King County Executive Ron Sims. “Even in a progressive, generally affluent area like ours, we have disparities that mirror national rates.”

The initiative’s plan for action includes a commitment from the county to “ensure that promoting equity is intentionally considered in the development and implementation of key policies and programs and in funding decisions.”

VIRGINIA

• New FAIRFAX COUNTY government buildings will meet or exceed green standards. The Board of Supervisors recently adopted a green building policy that applies to structures larger than 10,000 square feet.

Such buildings will be required to achieve silver certification on the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED scale for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The policy applies to the construction of new county buildings and renovations or additions to existing buildings.

However, the policy will not be applied to county-constructed single family homes, town houses and low-rise multi-family buildings. Instead, the Energy Star rating system will be used for these types of buildings.

County officials project that the new policy will add an additional 2–4 percent to up-front construction costs per building. But these costs are projected to be offset by annual savings in energy and water bills.

• LOUDOUN COUNTY officials say the county’s future economic growth is tied to the extension of the region’s Metrorail system to Dulles Airport and the county.

In a recently passed resolution, the County Board said, “the failure to build the Dulles Corridor rail project, connecting Washington Dulles International airport and Loudoun County with the Nation’s Capital, will have a devastating effect on Northern Virginia’s economic growth, transportation network, and air quality…”

The resolution came just weeks the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the federal government would not provide essential funding (see “Restore the Transportation Partnership,” County News, 2/11/08).

WASHING "A lot of counties have been very successful with this,” said Peggy Cline, county juvenile probation officer.

“Teens who commit nonviolent crimes and who are before the court system for the first time can participate in the program. A judge and lawyers will monitor the program to make sure the law is followed.”

(News From the Nation’s Counties is compiled by Charles Taylor and Elizabeth Perry, staff writers. If you have an item for News From, please e-mail ctaylor@naco.org or eperry@ naco.org.)
CIVIL ENGINEER/DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS – NEZ PERCE COUNTY, IDAHO

Salary: $75,204, DOQ.
North Central Idaho full-time position with Nez Perce County Road and Bridge Dept. located in Lewiston. A wonderful community to raise children right in the middle of one of the most diverse outdoor environments in the country. Annual salary is $75,204, DOQ, plus an excellent benefits package. Min. Quals: Civil SE, PE License and five years experience in civil/commercial design engineering, construction or related field. For a complete list of job skill requirements, view job description and application packet at www.cs.neperc.id.us

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – PATRICK COUNTY, VA.

Salary: DOQ.
Patrick County operates under a five-person Board of Supervisors. Located approximately 70 miles north of Greensboro, N.C. and approximately 60 miles south of Roanoke, Va., the county has a population of approximately 28,000. The county covers 470 square miles and offers an outstanding blend of urban, suburban and rural communities, most experiencing rapid growth. Patrick County is ranked in the top 10 counties in the nation in median household income. The county government is ICMA recognized, has triple-A bond ratings by Moody’s and S&P and employs approximately 2,800. The Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center is a combined agency comprised of the county’s state-certified public health department and the Lake County Community Health Center which provides primary care services under a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) status. The Health Department is governed by a 12-member Board of Health. The separate Lake County Community Health Center Governing Council oversees planning and direction of operations for the Community Health Center. A unique intergovernmental agreement joins the Governing Council and the Board of Health. The combined organization employs nearly 1,000 staff and has a budget of $71 million. It operates from 30 locations throughout the county and administers 60 separately funded programs in five service areas: behavioral health, community health, environmental health, primary care and administration. The department enjoys a reputation in the state of Illinois and nationally for progressive initiatives and active involvement in critical health and societal issues. The department is among the top 6 percent of 2,864 local health departments nationwide by population served, financing and workforce. It has earned JCAHO accreditation in the Primary Care and Behavioral Health services areas and received the prestigious Samuel J. Crumbine Award in 1999 for the Environmental Health Food Program. It is expected that the new executive director will actively participate to build upon the department’s reputation. The position of executive director is appointed by both the Board of Health and the Governing Council. The current executive director is highly regarded and is retiring after 15 years as executive director and a total of 28 years with the agency. Requires the equivalent of a master’s degree in public health, administration or related field, combined with five years of progressive executive-level management experience, preferably gained in a comparable public health department. Must be a self-starter with strong management, leadership and interpersonal skills, a collaborative style, an ability to earn respect and trust quickly, be an adept advocate locally and in Springfield and Washington, D.C. and have a proven ability to get things done. A highly competitive salary, negotiable depending on qualifications, plus an excellent benefits package will be provided. This search is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2008. To be considered, please send your cover letter and resume without delay to: Robert E. Slavin, president, Slavin Management Consultants, 3040 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite A-1, Norcross, GA 30071. Phone: 770/449-4656, fax: 770/416-0848, e-mail: slavin@belleouth.net, Web site: www.slavinweb.com.

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR – CLACKAMAS COUNTY, ORE.

Salary: $89,191 – $120,408, DOQ.
Clackamas County seeks an experienced, highly skilled individual with excellent management, organizational and interpersonal skills to bring leadership and vision to the Department of Human Services. This position reports directly to the county administrator. A true generalist, the incumbent will provide department wide executive leadership, assess managerial and organizational effectiveness, perform fiscal planning, policy development, public service and communication. The position oversees six divisions under the umbrella of Human Services Administration including Community Health and Mental Health, Social Services, Community Solutions, Office for Children and Families, Community Development and the Housing Authority. Comprehensive job posting and on-line application at: www.clackamas.us. Requires separate resume and cover letter. Starting salary to include 6.27% deferred compensation salary commensurate with experience. Clackamas County Employee Services, 2051 Kaen Road, 3rd floor, Oregon City, OR 97045, 503-655-8459. First review of applications on March 13. May close at any time or on that date after EEO/AA employer.

Job Market/Classifieds Rate Schedule

- Line Rates: $7 per line, NA&Co members; $10 per line, others.
- Display Classified: $50 per column inch, NA&Co members; $70 per column inch, others.
- Billing: Invoices will be sent after publication.
- Mail advertising copy to: Job Market, County News, 25 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.
- Fax advertising copy to: Job Market, County News, 202/392-2630.
- E-mail advertising copy to: eadasi@slavinweb.com

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.
Support the Campaign Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE) Initiative

All counties are encouraged to support the National Association of Counties’ (NACo) Campaign against Sexual Exploitation (CASE) Initiative.

The CASE initiative is intended to raise awareness about the sexual exploitation of children, disseminate best practices to combat this growing epidemic and encourage counties nationwide to convene local task forces and adopt resolutions in support of CASE in a national effort to safeguard children from potential predators.

The best way we can protect children, we believe, is by working together, county by county, all across the country. Counties can assist NACo in this national endeavor to combat child sexual exploitation. What can you do to help?

- Log onto the CASE Web site (www.naco.org/CASE), where you can access numerous resources that you can use to address this issue in your county.
- Adopt the CASE resolution during your next county commission meeting. A sample resolution is located on the CASE Web site.
- Mail a copy of your approved local CASE resolution to Dalen A. Harris, NACo associate legislative director, at NACo (25 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20001).

1 IN 5 GIRLS AND 1 IN 10 BOYS WILL BE SEXUALLY VICTIMIZED BEFORE ADULTHOOD.*

- Create a community task force to protect, educate or combat child sexual exploitation in your county. Law enforcement officers, social service workers, clergy members and public health officials are just some of the people you may want to include; however, we encourage you to create task forces that are tailored to what best meet the needs of your community.
- Inform NACo about other activities that you are performing in your county to combat child sexual exploitation. Throughout the year, we will regularly update the CASE Web site. The information you provide may be a resource to other counties.
- Again, we hope counties across the nation join NACo in this national endeavor. Please visit the NACo/CASE Web site (www.naco.org/case), or contact Dalen A. Harris at 202/942-4236 or e-mail dharris@naco.org for any additional information concerning the CASE Initiative.

STATISTICS SHOW THAT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN HAVE BEEN LURED INTO PROSTITUTION ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. **
