

# County News

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## Legislation for brownfield sites completed

By STEPHANIE OSBORN  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

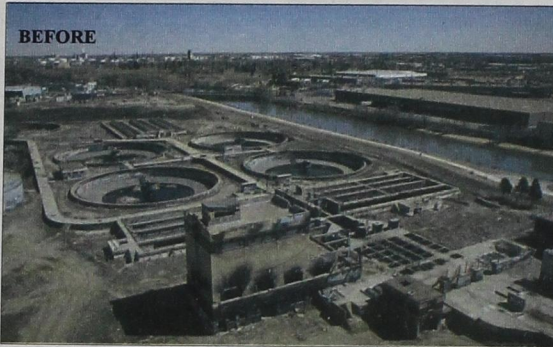
Significant new funding and program flexibility will be provided to state and local governments for the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites under legislation approved by Congress on Dec. 20, 2001.

President George W. Bush, who called for the legislation and has touted brownfields revitalization as a hallmark of his environmental agenda, is expected to sign the bill into law this month. NACo strongly supported the bill.

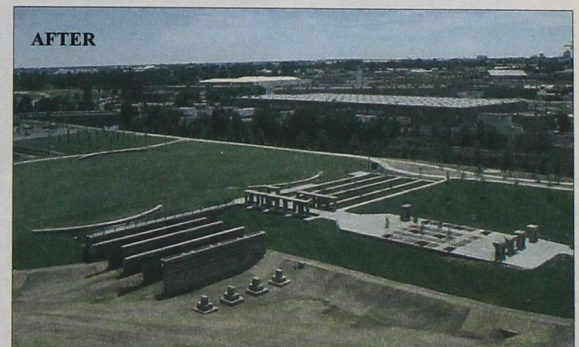
"Enactment of brownfields legislation would be a major asset for counties," NACo President Javier Gonzales, commissioner, Santa Fe County, N.M., told members of Congress at a House hearing on brownfields in 2001.

"By restoring these sites to productive use, we can facilitate local smart growth planning through infill development, and help address the nation's affordable housing crisis by clearing the way for cost-effective development in areas with existing infrastructure."

The new law will authorize \$200 million annually for grants and



BEFORE



AFTER

North Denver's 70-acre Northside wastewater treatment plant (left) along the South Platte River was polluted by multiple contaminants. An extensive partnership led by the City and County of Denver redeveloped the abandoned sewage plant into a new 13-acre park, a wetland, a storm water retention pond, and a National Guard Armory (right).

loans to local jurisdictions for identifying pollutants, assessment and remediation of brownfields—commonly abandoned industrial and commercial properties with low levels of environmental contamination. Federal funding previously has lingered around \$95 million per year. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will continue to administer the program.

The legislation also makes a

number of positive changes to increase the flexibility of the brownfields program:

- Eligibility for funds will be extended to sites contaminated by petroleum, such as gas stations that contain leaking tanks, or "LUSTs."

- Encouraging redevelopment by the public and private sectors, the new law will provide certain liability

See **BROWNFIELDS** on page 3

## Some county issues squeak through Congress as first session ended

What happened? What didn't happen? And what's the future hold for the next session? NACo's Legislative Affairs staff recaps the first session of the 107th Congress and makes some predictions about the state of county issues in the next one.

### Election reform

The House of Representatives passed an election reform bill (HR 3295) on Dec. 12 by an overwhelming vote of 62 to 33. The legislation was supported by NACo, the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks, and other state and local government organizations.

Bipartisan agreement was reached at the end of the session on another bill in the Senate that includes a num-

ber of detailed, prescriptive mandates for states and counties.

Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle (D-S.D.) said he will make election reform a top priority for 2002. Even if legislation is enacted early in the year, there will be a problem getting funding during this fiscal year. The House leadership supports adding funding to a supplemental appropriation bill. Otherwise funding would not be available to states and counties until after Oct. 1.

NACo has concerns about the overly prescriptive mandates in the latest Senate compromise. States would be allowed little discretion in developing provisional voting procedures and a statewide voter registration system. NACo is urging sena-

tors to sponsor the House-passed bill and to get many of its provisions included in the final Senate bill

### Remote sales tax

Efforts to pass legislation giving congressional authorization for states and local governments to require retailers in other states to collect sales taxes were stalled in the last session. There were a number of reasons Congress did not act, but the biggest factor was the resistance of many high tech firms and direct marketing retailers to any changes. They like the system the way it is and they contribute a lot of money to congressional candidates.

See **RECAP** on page 6

## Summer food program serves eligible youth

By MARILINA SANZ  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

There are more than 12 million children in the United States who qualify for reduced or free school lunches during the academic year. Since they qualify for this program they also qualify to participate in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), operated by the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. Unfortunately, once summer vacation arrives most of these children fall by the wayside.

Approximately three million children, only 25 percent of those eligible, receive summer lunches either through their summer school program or through the SFSP.

One of the main reasons for this drop in service is that the SFSP does not have enough sponsors. In fact, less than 10 percent of the 20,000 school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program throughout the academic

See **LUNCH** on page 4

## County News

## Quik Takes

Counties with...

**Highest Population of Native Americans\***

Los Angeles County, Calif.	76,988
Maricopa County, Ariz.	56,706
McKinley County, N.M.	55,892
Apache County, Ariz.	53,375
Robeson County, N.C.	46,896

\* Excluding reservations



# Rural planning regulations, transportation spending included in final appropriations bill

By ROBERT FOGEL

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

At the urging of NACo and other local government groups, the FY02 Defense Appropriations bill included a provision instructing the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to issue final rural planning regulations by Feb. 1.

Promulgation of these regulations has been a NACo goal since TEA-21 was passed with a section that strengthened the role for rural local officials in the planning and programming of federal highway and transit funds.

Although FHWA proposed rules in May 2000, the agency has refused to finalize regulations because of opposition from state departments of transportation.

"The conferees are very concerned at the lack of progress the department has made in issuing the rural consultation provision of the statewide planning regulations ... rural local elected officials continue to be left out of statewide planning discussions. The conferees fully expect this rule to be promulgated no later than Feb. 1."

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-Mo.)



Rural transportation regulations due Feb. 1.

and Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) led the effort to include this language on the defense appropriations bill. Both have been consistent and long time supporters of the view that each state must institute a process for consulting with rural local officials as the statewide transportation planning plan is put together. Originally the provision was to be included in the transportation appropriations bill but a drafting error led to the wrong language being included and the correction was made in the defense bill.

## Additional provisions

The defense bill also included several other transportation provisions. It added \$50 million for the Essential Air Service program, which subsidizes air service to rural and underserved communities. This amount supplements the \$63 million in the DOT appropriations bill and ensures that no service cuts will occur in this important program.

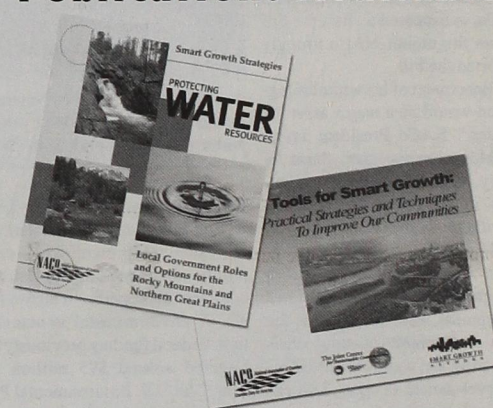
Language was also included in the bill prohibiting Amtrak from using federal funds or its own funds to fi-

nance liquidation planning until Congress passes a reauthorization bill. This provision was included in response to a November action by the Amtrak Reform Council, which in a surprise move had voted to impose a requirement on Amtrak to prepare a liquidation plan.

The defense bill also included the disaster relief/homeland security supplemental that contained \$20 billion in congressionally directed funding. Of interest to coun-

ties is \$175 million that will be made available to reimburse airports for the costs on new security measures they have had to adopt since Sept. 11. More than \$94 million is made available to local port authorities to improve port security. Amtrak is given \$100 million for enhanced security of several New York City tunnels. The bill also gives New York City \$176 million for highway and ferry service and \$124 million in transit grants.

## New NACo Smart Growth Publications Available



ABIGAIL FRIEDMAN  
SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER

What land use tools are available to counties faced with growth and development challenges? How can counties protect water resources critical to the public health, economic stability and environmental quality of their communities? These questions and many more are addressed in two new publications:

*Local Tools for Smart Growth: Practical Strategies and Techniques to Improve Our Communities* presents tools, resources and case examples to help local governments make their own smart growth decisions. This publication was produced by NACo, the Joint Center for Sustainable Communities and the Smart Growth Network.

*Smart Growth Strategies, Protecting Water Resources: Local Government Roles and Options for the Rocky Mountains and Northern Great Plains* provides an overview of how local governments can utilize land use tools to protect water resources. While case examples are specific to the Rocky Mountains and Northern Great Plains region, counties across the country may benefit from the tool resources and a smart growth checklist for water resources protection available nationwide.

Both publications are available in hard copy and pdf versions. *Local Tools for Smart Growth* can be accessed at [www.naco.org/programs/enviro/sources/localtools.pdf](http://www.naco.org/programs/enviro/sources/localtools.pdf), and *Smart Growth and Water Resources* at [www.naco.org/programs/enviro/sources/smartgrowth.pdf](http://www.naco.org/programs/enviro/sources/smartgrowth.pdf).

(To order a free hard copy, contact Stacey Kennedy at [skennedy@naco.org](mailto:skennedy@naco.org). For more information on NACo technical assistance on water resources and smart growth, contact Abigail Friedman at (202) 942-4225 or [afriedma@naco.org](mailto:afriedma@naco.org).)

## \$384 million for roads and schools released under Craig-Wyden Act

By PAUL V. BEDDOE

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the release, through the USDA Forest Service, of more than \$384 million for counties that host national forest lands to improve public schools, county roads and local participation in stewardship of their forests. This year's payment, authorized by the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (the Craig-Wyden Act), will be followed by another \$1.1 billion over the next six years.

"This historic legislation helps provide important solutions to some of the challenges facing rural communities," she said. "States and local counties will make the decision on how the dollars will be spent."

Sens. Larry Craig (R-Idaho), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Gordon Smith (R-Ore.), and Reps. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) and Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), along with Veneman, announced the first payment, Dec. 13, 2001 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, unveiling a large-scale check, repre-

senting the first checks mailed out to states.

"I am thrilled to be sending this much-needed money to our rural communities for education and conservation projects," said Craig. "Not only does this bill provide an annual funding stream for schools and county infrastructure, it also promotes collaborative projects on public lands for the benefit of these rural communities and the environment."

Since 1908, 25 percent of Forest Service revenues from timber sales, grazing, recreation, some mineral use fees and other land use receipts have gone to counties that contain national forests for roads and schools.

Nationwide, these counties have seen a significant drop in payments over the last decade under this traditional arrangement because of a significant decline in timber harvesting on national forests. The Craig-Wyden Act was developed by a national coalition, including NACo and many NACo member counties, to provide a temporary safety net for counties hit hard by disbursement timber harvests over the past decade.

The payment stabilizes payment levels near to their historic high for six years. About 75 percent of the over 700 counties have opted to use the new formula and will receive increased payments.

In addition, the new legislation authorizes community-based resource advisory committees to give communities a voice in funding forestry stewardship projects. Counties that receive \$100,000 or more under the new formula are required to allocate 15 to 20 percent of their funding for investments in county projects or for forest projects that implement stewardship objectives to enhance forest ecosystems or both. To date, 49 resource advisory committees have been established to direct the funding of those stewardship projects.

Union County (Ore.) Commissioner John Howard, NACo's Western Interstate Region First Vice President, who was on hand for the ceremony, observed that Craig-Wyden was more than a federal subsidy for counties — "it encourages county officials to be leaders for collaborative decision-making at the local level."



# Public health gets \$2.5 billion in homeland security funds

By STEPHANIE OSBORN  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Congress approved significant new funding for local public health infrastructure and bioterrorism preparedness, transportation security and other homeland defense efforts before adjourning in 2001.

This spending accounted for the second-half of a \$40 billion emergency appropriation enacted immediately after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, and reflected many of the priorities outlined by NACo's Homeland Security Task Force.

Perhaps most important to counties was \$2.5 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare the nation for public health emergencies. A little more than a third, or \$365 million, is

targeted to improve state and local capacity, and \$1.1 billion is available to upgrade the national pharmaceutical stockpile and purchase smallpox vaccine. Grants to county and municipal public health departments are scheduled to become available in the next few months, and will be passed through state agencies.

Also included was \$175 million from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund to reimburse local airports for a portion of the costs associated with new or revised security requirements imposed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) after Sept. 11. Additional new funds were also provided for the security of seaports, federal-aid highways, local transit systems and Amtrak.

In addition to disaster relief funds for declared areas, \$210 million was provided to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for emergency manage-

ment planning and assistance programs authorized by the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act.

Overall, much of the \$20 billion outlined in the final appropriations bill (H.Rept. 107-350) was aimed at assisting jurisdictions directly damaged by the attacks of Sept. 11 and subsequent anthrax attacks. At press time, President George W. Bush had not signed the legislation into law but was scheduled to do so this month.

In the final days of the session, Congress did not act on NACo's proposal for a minimum \$3 billion local anti-terrorism block grant to assist counties and other local governments with emergency preparedness. It also did not complete work on more comprehensive bioterrorism legislation. The House and Senate have passed bills, but differences were left to be resolved by conference committee in early 2002.

## Dennison run for NACo second VP heats up

Plumas County (Calif.) Supervisor Bill Dennison continues his campaign for NACo second vice president with visits to state associations across the country.

Dennison announced his candidacy for NACo second vice president early last year and was immediately backed by a unanimous vote of support from the California Association of Counties Board of Directors.

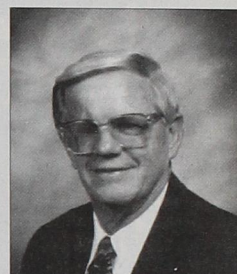
If elected to the second vice president post at the NACo annual conference in July, Dennison would become NACo president in 2005.

"His ability to bring together rural, suburban and urban interests into a statewide coalition representing counties at the national level was a strong factor in the board's vote," says CSAC Immediate Past President Gary Freeman. "Our board values that quality very highly, especially coming from a rural county supervisor. Bill Dennison will be a strong NACo officer."

In the past six months, Dennison has brought his message to state associations in Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Washington. He plans to visit several more states to meet with supervisors and outline his ideas on collaboration and unity.

Dennison served on the CSAC Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Committee. With NACo, he has been a Board of Director since 1997, served as chair of the Public Lands Steering Committee and sat on the Western Interstate Region Board of Directors.

Dennison has more than 20 years' experience in the private industry sector, where he rose through the ranks from a road construction foreman to become president and CEO of the California Forestry Association.



Bill Dennison  
Plumas County Supervisor

During that time, he traveled frequently to Sacramento and Washington, D.C. to provide testimony for legislators on forestry, land use and planning issues. His experience taught him how to effectively work with national elected leaders and staff.

As a Plumas County supervisor, he has been active in air and water quality, utilities and national forest management. He was a member of the Quincy Library Group, which was instrumental in passing national environmental legislation, and was instrumental in negotiating forestry contracts with the U.S. Forest Service that are still in use today.

As vice president of NACo's National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition, Dennison worked tirelessly to pass H.R. 2389, which provides forest receipts throughout the nation.

Dennison also worked on a variety of other issues. In the social services area, he was active in the implementation of a family resource and community center in his district.

When asked to run for NACo office, however, he jumped at the opportunity. "Holding the NACo leadership position will enable me to make closer ties between rural, suburban and urban counties, as well as to work closely with the Washington D.C. administration," Dennison says.

## BROWNFIELDS

from page 1

ity protections for prospective purchasers of brownfield sites and for contiguous property owners.

• It will devolve additional oversight authority to state environmental agencies and support capacity-building at the state level with additional funds.

Gonzales and other NACo officers worked closely with Rep. Paul Gillmor (R-Ohio), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, in drafting and building support for the bill. Brownfields legislation was the subject of a major lobbying push by the Large Urban County Caucus during its annual fly-in in June 2001.

The Senate first passed a brownfields bill, S. 350, by a vote of 99-0 on April 25, 2001. After hearings during the summer, House consideration of brownfields legislation became bogged down in a debate about the application of the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage law. Opponents of Davis-Bacon relented in December, agreeing to allow the current practice of applying Davis-Bacon requirements to brownfields funds to continue.

The final bill, H.R. 2869, which is similar to S. 350, was approved by the House on a voice vote, and by the Senate under a unanimous consent agreement, on the final day of the first session of the 107th Congress.

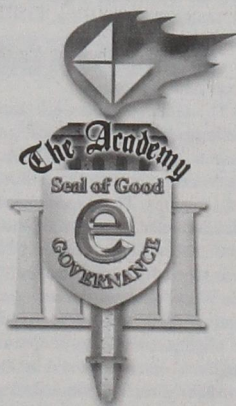
## Seal of Good eGovernance Awards

Application deadline extended to Feb. 1

The Seal of Good eGovernance program, launched in November 2001, has extended its grant application deadline to Feb. 1. The Seal Award, which will recognize best practices and innovations in county-level eGovernance initiatives, is a competitive award for small, local and county governments.

The application process officially opened Dec. 1, 2001. Winners will be notified and awards presented at the NACo Annual Information Technology Summit in April.

The application and additional information about the Seal of Good eGovernance Award Program can be found on NACo's Web site, [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) or at the National Academy of Public Administration's (the Academy) Web site at [www.napawash.org/cim.nsf/pages/seal](http://www.napawash.org/cim.nsf/pages/seal).



If you have additional questions or need information not contained on the Web site, please e-mail the Academy at [SealAward@napawash.org](mailto:SealAward@napawash.org).

## County News

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# PROFILES

## in service...



**Donald Hugh McCormick**

**Magistrate  
Henderson County, Ky.**

**NACo Board  
of Directors**

**Years active in NACo:** Three years

**Years in Public Office:** Eight years

**Occupation:** Power Plant Auxiliary Operator

**Education:** Henderson City High School; Henderson County Vocational School

**The hardest thing I've ever done:** Sit in I.C.U. for a week, not knowing if my daughter would live or die.

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:** Don and Patsy McCormick (my deceased parents) and Bill Clinton.

**A dream I have is to:** Have dinner at the White House with the president.

**You'd be surprised to learn that I:** Am a wood carver.

**The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:** Try to keep up with the Kentucky Delegation at the last NACo Convention ... we all had different hotels.

**My favorite sport is:** Football.

**I'm most proud of:** My family, but since Sept. 11, 2001, this wonderful nation.

**Every morning I read:** Front page headlines.

**My favorite meal is:** Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy.

**My pet peeve is:** Slow drivers in the fast lane.

**My motto is:** "Be happy; Make happy; Love and be loved."

**The last book I read was:** *Success is a Choice*, by Rick Pitino.

**My favorite movie is:** *True Grit*.

**My favorite music is:** Country (Willie Nelson/Merle Haggard).

**My favorite president is:** Harry S. Truman.

## LUNCH

from page 1

year operate a summer food program. Sponsorship in SFSP is not limited to schools, however.

County and other governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, and summer camps, are also eligible. Examples of some of the governmental agencies that participate in the program include health departments, parks and recreation departments, community action agencies and housing authorities.

Access to SFSP is a particular problem in rural areas. Many counties have implemented innovative programs to increase service. Until 1999, Garrett County, Md. had no summer food program. The county department of health combined funding sources from several grant programs and established *Serious Fund Day Camps* for three weeks in three targeted regions that not only provided meals but also taught nutrition and healthy habits.

In 1998, the New Madrid County, Mo. Health Department developed partnerships with local Head Start agencies, the Women, Infants and Children program, school districts, and the Delta Economic Opportunity Corporation, to increase grass-roots outreach. As a result, the department provided 145,000 meals to the children of Jefferson City.

To increase participation in the summer program, the department is testing a paperwork reduction pilot project in the 13 states with the lowest participation rates and Puerto Rico through September 2003.

The states are Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming.

The reduced paperwork initiative is open to schools, local government agencies, National Youth Sports Program sponsors and residential camps. These sponsors will be reimbursed based on the number of meals they serve and will not have to perform cost accounting provisions such as operating and administrative cost comparisons.

Most participating sites provide lunch and one other meal service. However, sites that primarily serve migrant children can provide up to three meals a day. The program does not require a local match.

Additionally, programs that do not have meal preparation facilities may subcontract with a school or public or private food supplier that has approved meal preparation facilities.

More information about the SFSP program can be obtained through the USDA Web site at [www.usda.gov/fcs/fcs.htm](http://www.usda.gov/fcs/fcs.htm). You can also contact the USDA regional offices at the following numbers:

Mid-Atlantic	(609) 259-5025
(D.C., Del., Md., N.J., Pa., Puerto Rico, Va., Virgin Islands, W.V.)	
Midwest	(312) 353-6664
(Ill., Ind., Mich., Minn., Ohio, Wis.)	
Mountain Plains	(303) 844-0300
(Colo., IA, Kans., Mo., Mont., Neb., N.D., S.D., Utah, Wyo.)	
Northeast	(617) 565-6370
(Conn., Maine, Mass., N.H., N.Y., R.I., Vt.)	
Southeast	(401) 562-1800
(Ala., Fla., Ga., Ky., Miss., N.C., S.C., Tenn.)	
Southwest	(214) 290-9800
(Ark., La., N.M., Okla., Texas.)	
Western	(415) 705-1310/04
(Ark., Ariz., Calif., Hawaii, ID, Nev., Ore., Wash.)	

If you wish to participate in the pilot project, you may contact your state agency at the following numbers:

Alaska	(907) 465-8708
Arkansas	(501) 682-8869
Idaho	(208) 332-6820
Indiana	(317) 232-0850
Iowa	(515) 281-4757
Kansas	(785) 296-2276
Kentucky	(502) 573-4390
Nebraska	(402) 471-3566
New Hampshire	(606) 271-3860
North Dakota	(701) 328-2294
Oklahoma	(405) 521-6079
Puerto Rico	(787) 754-0790
Texas	(512) 483-3941
Wyoming	(307) 777-6282

# County News

"THE WISDOM TO KNOW AND THE  
COURAGE TO DEFEND THE PUBLIC INTEREST"

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## National Park Service opens urban park grants competition

The National Park Service (NPS) is accepting applications for grants under the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR). Eligible counties and cities can request up to \$1 million in matching assistance to rehabilitate critically needed urban park areas.

More than 400 cities and counties are considered eligible jurisdictions for UPARR grants. Other jurisdictions located in a Metropolitan Statistical Area and that

address specified "stress criteria" may also compete for grants under this program. The appropriate NPS field office must receive pre-applications no later than March 29. Formal grant offers to successful applicants are anticipated by mid-May.

The UPARR program was established in November 1978 to provide matching grants and technical assistance to economically distressed urban communities. UPARR provides direct federal assistance to urban localities for rehabilitation of

critically needed recreation facilities. The law also encourages systematic local planning and commitment to continuing operation and maintenance of recreation programs, sties, and facilities.

(For more information, call Wayne Strum, Program Lead, LWCF and UPARR Programs, National Park Service, (202) 565-1129; or go to the Internet at [www.cfd.gov/public/viewprog.asp?progid=472](http://www.cfd.gov/public/viewprog.asp?progid=472).)

## UPARR Grant Round Summary

- Grants are normally 70 percent of the total project cost but can reach up to 85 percent if the state also contributes financial assistance to the project.
- Pre-applications must be received by the appropriate NPS field office no later than March 29. Early submissions are encouraged to minimize errors and to clarify program requirements.
- Rehabilitation grants provide capital funding to renovate existing close-to-home recreation areas and facilities in economically distressed urban areas.
- More than 400 cities and counties are considered eligible jurisdictions. Other jurisdictions not on the list but located in a Census Bureau designated Metropolitan Statistical Area and whose application addresses specified stress criteria may also compete for grants under this program as "discretionary" applicants.
- Jurisdictions must have a UPARR Recovery Action Program planning document in place and approval by NPS prior to submitting grant requests.
- Final decisions will be made by NPS Director Fran P. Mainella with formal grant offers to successful applicants anticipated by mid-May.

## Mark D. O'Connell named new executive director of WCA



Mark D. O'Connell

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Board of Directors named Mark D. O'Connell as the organization's new executive director.

"The WCA Board of Directors is very pleased to have chosen Mark O'Connell to lead this organization into the future," said WCA President and Buffalo County Supervisor James Scholmeier. "He has worked very well with our board and we are confident he will represent county government with the highest degree of professionalism."

He succeeds Mark Rogacki, who served as head of the 1,900-member

statewide association since 1983. O'Connell started with WCA in 1989 as a legislative associate. Most recently he served as the chief of staff, overseeing all aspects of the association's activities.

"I greatly respect the people involved in Wisconsin county government and am honored that they have given me this opportunity to serve them in this new capacity," he said.

Prior to joining WCA, O'Connell was with the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration. In his position with the state, he focused on issues of the Wisconsin Retirement System and mediation/arbitration. O'Connell holds a bachelor's of science degree from the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

The Wisconsin Counties Association was created in 1935 and represents all 72 counties in the state on a broad range of issues at the state and federal levels. The WCA Board consists of 22 county officials, nominated from each of WCA's seven regional districts.

## PTI announces board reorganization; increase in member representation

Public Technology, Inc., a national technology research and development nonprofit organization of local governments, reorganized its Board of Directors in a move designed to increase the number of PTI member jurisdictions on the organization's governing body.

PTI, created in the 1970s by NACo, the National League of Cities and the International City, County Management Association, brings the benefits of technology to state and local governments.

The three seats currently held by the executive directors of PTI's three founding organizations will be transferred to PTI member jurisdictions placing its membership in the majority of the newly configured nine-member Board. The founding orga-

nizations will continue to have one representative each on the new Board while a new seat for industry that has also been added brings the total to nine members.

An interim board of directors composed of the six current directors assumed the leadership of the organization on Jan. 1, 2002. They include: Brian O'Neill, council member, Philadelphia, Pa.; city managers Anita Favors, Tallahassee, Fla.; and Rich Kerbel, North Kingstown, R.I.; Ron Aycock, executive director, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners; Chris McKenzie, executive director, California League of Cities; and Patricia Frazier, deputy city manager, San Diego, Calif. The remaining three seats will be filled at a future date.

PTI will continue to be a primary technology research and development resource to its sponsoring organizations.

"NACo's partnership with PTI will continue as we continue to see PTI as an important resource to local governments. There's bound to be another Y2K or E-Gov just around the corner, and I am confident that no matter what form the technology challenge takes, we will collaborate with PTI to find the best solutions for local governments," said Larry Naake, executive director of NACo and outgoing Board member.

"This marks the culmination of a two-year strategic planning process that was undertaken by the board of directors to position PTI to really excel in this new century."

## NACo National Association of Counties Counties Care for America 2002 Meeting and Conference Schedule

### ★ Legislative Conference ★

March 1-5  
Hilton Washington & Towers • Washington, D.C.

### ★ Technology Summit ★

April 4-6  
Sheraton Capital Center • Raleigh, North Carolina

### ★ Western Interstate Region Conference ★

May 22-24  
Yellowstone County  
Holiday Inn Grand Montana • Billings, Montana

### ★ Annual Conference and Exposition ★

July 12-16  
Orleans Parish  
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center • New Orleans, Louisiana

### ★ Workforce Development & Human Services Conference ★

November (exact dates TBA)  
Location TBA



# Health issues in hard stall; energy and telecom held over

RECAP from page 1

Most of Congress' attention last year focused on extending the moratorium on Internet access taxes, scheduled to expire last October. Congress considered proposals to permanently extend the moratorium, extend it through 2006 and to include existing Internet access taxes in the moratorium. NACo and other state and city groups were successful in limiting the extension to two years and to continue grandfathering existing Internet access taxes being collected in 11 states.

This session, NACo will urge House and Senate committees to hold more hearings on state efforts to simplify sales taxes, and the increasing impact and amount of lost sales tax revenues. It is estimated that \$13 billion was lost in 2001 and this will increase to \$45 billion in 2005.

The Senate Finance Committee is expected to hold hearings in early spring on legislative proposals to require collection of remote sales taxes by retailers in other states. It is not clear if Congress will act on legislation in an election year since some fiscal conservative groups would try to depict it as a tax increase.

## Health issues

Last year, Congress failed to adopt a moratorium on the pending Health and Human Services regulation that would further limit the amount of federal Medicaid funding states and counties may draw down using the upper payment limit (UPL) mechanism. The provision is part of the economic stimulus package, which did not pass by the end of the session. NACo, the National Governors' Association (NGA) and many hospital groups supported the delay.

Without a moratorium, the regulation, which may become final as early as next month, is expected to lower federal Medicaid payments by \$2.1 billion over the next two years. The Administration argues that a number of states have used the UPL to inflate the amount of federal matching funds they receive without actually contributing state dollars.

Also within the stalled economic stimulus package is a temporary, one year increase in the federal Medicaid matching rate to states. Supported by NACo and the NGA, the provision would have given states a \$4 billion infusion this year, assisting them as they face state budget deficits. This issue and the UPL may be revisited early this year.

## Mental health

A NACo-supported bipartisan provision to require that health insurers provide mental health benefits on

the same coverage terms and conditions as physical health benefits died in the Labor/HHS spending bill.

House Republican conferees defeated the provision, arguing that the authorizing committees had not yet acted on an authorization bill. Instead, conferees adopted a Rep. Randy Cunningham (R-Calif.) amendment to extend for one year a federal law requiring that health plans maintain the same annual and life time payment limits for mental and physical health. The mental health parity provision is likely to be addressed again this year.

## Medicaid for disabled children

Also pending in 2002 is a NACo-supported bipartisan bill to en-

later this year when the NACo-supported freeze on cuts to the Medicaid disproportionate share (DSH) program expires. The program, which provides additional payments to hospitals serving large numbers of the poor, had been slated in 1997 for five years of phased-in cuts amounting to more than \$10 billion.

A moratorium on the cuts was enacted in 1999, but they will resume in October if legislation is not adopted. Bipartisan bills to prevent the cuts from occurring have been introduced in the House and Senate (H.R. 854; H.R. 1604; S. 572).

include an increase in corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards, which NACo supports

## Transportation

Congress only addressed airport security in 2001 and there is substantial interest in advancing legislation aimed at transit, port, and railroad security. The reauthorization process for TEA-21 will begin in earnest this year, even though the program does not expire until 2003. Committees in both the Senate and House will hold hearings, and NACo expects to testify.

NACo was successful in getting Congress to tell the Federal Highway Administration to proceed with regula-

## Telecommunications

H.R. 1542, the so called Tauzin-Dingell bill to amend the Telecommunications Act of 1996, did not pass by the end of the first session of the 107th Congress, but is likely to receive House consideration in March. It is all but dead in the Senate.

This bill would release the former Regional Bell Operating Companies (SBC, Verizon, Qwest, and Bell South) from the limitations of the 1996 Telecommunications Act on providing long distance data services across boundaries created by the act without opening their local phone exchanges to competition.

Even though the bill would continue the limitation on voice services, competitors and consumer groups are strongly fighting this legislation because they believe it would eliminate the incentive to competition.

NACo has not taken a position on the entire bill, but strongly opposes language in the legislation that would preempt state and local regulatory authorities.

There are a number of bills introduced to provide tax incentives or grants to telecommunications providers to address the digital divide in rural America. Two that drew the most attention were S. 88, introduced by Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.V.) and H.R. 267, introduced by Rep. Phil English (R-Pa.). NACo's Telecommunications and Technology platform supports such legislation. While these bills did not pass in the first session, similar provisions are included in the stalled economic stimulus bill.

## Juvenile justice

Early in the second session the Senate is expected to approve a new comprehensive juvenile justice package that would combine the Children's Confinement Conditions Improvement Act of 2001 (S. 1174) with legislation authorizing the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant. The matter would then go to conference with the House.

Although the House legislation does not contain any of the provisions in S. 1176, it is considered likely that the House conferees will accept at least most of its provisions. The Senate legislation with the support of Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), the ranking member would also elevate the Title I prevention authorization to \$25 million and add prevention as an additional purpose area under the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant.



able families to purchase Medicaid coverage for children who are disabled but cannot find adequate or affordable private health insurance coverage. The Family Opportunity Act (H.R. 600; S. 321) has 73 sponsors in the Senate and 204 in the House.

## Bioterrorism funding

Early this year, House and Senate conferees are expected to convene to resolve the differences between two bills authorizing additional resources for states and localities to prepare for bioterrorism. Last month, both houses adopted similar bills (S. 1715; H.R. 3448). The bills authorize \$3.2 billion for bioterrorism activities, including funding for state and local grants. President George W. Bush is also expected to request a significant boost for public health in his FY03 budget request.

## Disproportionate share

Another Medicaid financing issue is also expected to be debated

## PILT

Landmark "full funding" legislation for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program was introduced by New Mexico Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D) (S. 454) and Colorado Rep. Scott McInnis (R) (H.R. 1811). The PILT and Refugee Revenue Sharing Permanent Funding Act did not get a hearing in either chamber. Hearings are likely early in the year but the bill will face stiff opposition from powerful appropriators on both sides of the aisle.

## Energy

Comprehensive energy legislation passed the House (H.R. 4) but faces an uncertain future in the Senate. The Senate Democrats' bill does not contain the House version's provision for oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Senate Republicans, led by Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski, promise a showdown over the issue, which they consider a question of national security. The Senate bill also does not

tions on rural planning, but will be monitoring the situation closely to see if the congressional mandate is followed. Amtrak is facing serious financial problems. This may be the year Congress decides on the future structure of Amtrak and whether the nation will have an adequately funded national passenger rail system.

## Water infrastructure

In 2001, Congress did not act on legislation to authorize new funding for local drinking water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure—a NACo priority—despite widespread agreement that a \$23 billion investment gap exists over the next twenty years. House and Senate committees heard testimony on water infrastructure needs but no viable bills were introduced. Committee leaders are currently drafting legislation for consideration during 2002; however, its prospects are uncertain due to the lack of a federal budget surplus.



# Our Hopes for the New Year...

Given the events of last year, *County News* asked NACo members what their hopes were for this new year. Below is a sampling of their responses.

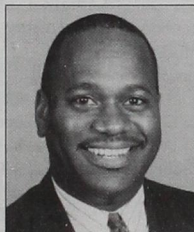
I hope the renewed spirit of the U.S. citizens found through prayer, patriotism and compassion in reaction to the events of 9-11 [will] not be forgotten. If we continue to incorporate these values into our everyday way of life, we will find the necessary strength and hope for the future. Collectively, as a nation we can overcome the evil acts of terrorism.

**Karen M. Miller**  
NACo First Vice President  
Commissioner  
Boone County, Mo.



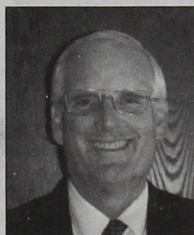
I would like to see a spiritual renewal within the global community. Those individuals who partake in devious acts such as terrorism would be converted. And those of us who have committed our careers to public service share a renewed, restored and refreshed commitment to our profession.

**Angelo Kyle**  
NACo Second Vice President  
Board Member  
Lake County, Ill.



One of the most cherished components that makes our country great, and also makes us vulnerable, is the freedoms we enjoy. It is my wish and hope a balanced public policy will be forged which both protects our freedoms, our homeland and our well being.

**William Hansel**  
Commission Chair  
Umatilla County, Ore.



My wish for 2002 would be for someone like the late Gen. George Marshall to appear on the scene with a plan to keep the people of Afghanistan alive over the winter. The plan would continue with the aid needed for them to recover from the tragedies of the last 20 years. The aid could be provided by many of the nations of the world. We must show them that government can be effective, representative and compassionate. The United Nations should be a presence there for the long time needed for the country to achieve real stability.

**Jean Michaels**  
Commissioner  
Olmstead County, Minn.



Simply stated, my Christmas wish for 2002 is that President Bush will be able to successfully conclude the war on terror and the economy that began to slide in late 2000 will be robust before late 2002.

**Alfred C. Anderson**  
County Treasurer  
Roanoke County, Va.



No more violence in the world. No more unnecessary deaths and injuries. No more children hurt, killed or left orphaned.

**Katherine O'Connor Kuhn**  
Commissioner  
Kent County, Mich.



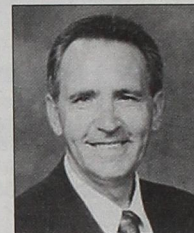
I pray that the 9-11 tragedies will renew our focus and prayers on the importance of God, family and country.

**William Dennison**  
Supervisor  
Plumas County, Calif



I want to see our country reunited, with government and citizens working together to solve problems. Democracy works best I believe when each of us puts our country and our neighbor before personal gain and ambition. Let me strive mightily to persuade you to my point of view but if I fail, support the majority with enthusiasm.

**Ted Anderson**  
Commissioner  
Skagit County, Wash.



I hope that the uncertainty created for our children's future by the 9-11 event be addressed and solved. I wish President Bush and his Administration all the wisdom and support it needs to ensure, for the sake of future generations, that the threat of future terroristic acts will not replicate the threat and fears our generation felt of impending nuclear annihilation.

**Michael Helligenstein**  
Commissioner  
Williamson County, Texas



I trust the year 2002 will bring peace and kindness to the world and that we will be able to laugh again and to look for the best in others.

**Patricia Rogers**  
County Councilor  
Los Alamos, New Mexico



A realistic wish for New Year's is like art and truth, it's in the eyes of the beholder. So, for me, I'd be happier if I could just find a tie that goes with my suit to match my attitude!

**Chris Hart**  
Commissioner  
Hillsborough County, Fla.



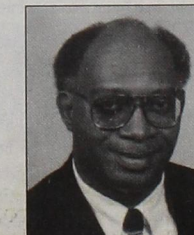
My one realistic wish for the new year is that the people of this great nation support their leadership in every way possible; thus, ensuring our security and restoring the economy for all.

**Ron Christensen**  
Supervisor Chair  
Gila County, Ariz.



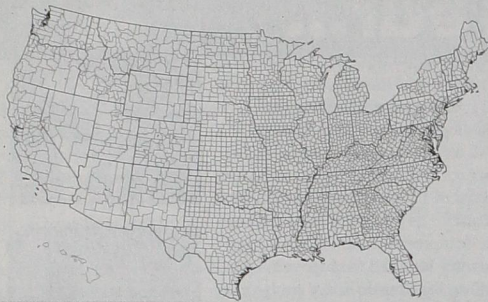
My wish for the New Year is that governmental leaders worldwide will seek love, peace and harmony among all mankind as a precept to all of their official decision making.

**Terry Garrison**  
Commissioner  
Vance County, N.C.





# NEWS FROM THE NATION'S COUNTIES



## INDIANA

• Running out of money after the bankruptcy of Bethlehem Steel, **PORTER COUNTY** got a bit of help before the holidays from Gov. Frank O'Bannon in the form of \$3 million worth of loans.

When the company skipped a \$10 million tax payment in November 2001, schools and municipal governments faced the possibility of running out of money by year's end.

But O'Bannon said the state loans, repaid with 3 percent interest over three years, would help the county avoid drastic measures like closing libraries and laying off teachers.

Northwest Indiana legislators had sought an immediate \$10 million state bailout, but the General Assembly instead passed a resolution to seek a short-term solution through the administration.

• According to an article in *Indiana News*, the Indiana Supreme Court is currently considering a case that could have far-reaching budgetary implications for counties throughout the state. Attorneys for **TIPPECANOE COUNTY** will argue that the decision-making authority over issues like county building security must remain in the hands of the commissioners and council.

The case stems from a Mandate Order issued by a Tippecanoe Circuit Judge ordering the implementation of certain measures designed to improve security at the Tippecanoe County Courthouse. The original Order, issued in Aug. 2000 and up held by a special circuit judge in Aug. 2001, required all entrances to the courthouse be closed except one, and directed the county to purchase a x-ray scanner and cameras "or other more sophisticated technology." The judge also ordered departments to provide the sheriff with the names of all employees who had been pre-screened for "by-pass security entry."

The commissioners and council, following the dictates of the Supreme Court, challenged the authority of the Tippecanoe Circuit Judge issuing the mandate because they believed security issues need to be resolved through consensus and not by the unilateral order of a single judge. The matter is now on automatic di-

rect review by the Supreme Court.

The county has never objected to increased security and that is not its contention with the Mandate Order. In fact, it is working to implement a security strategy that exceeds the scope of the original and revised mandate orders.

## KENTUCKY

According to **GALLATIN COUNTY** Judge Executive George Zubaty, the county of 7,870, which has no current zoning ordinance, is in need of an ordinance before growth gets out of hand.

"We're one of the fastest-growing counties in Kentucky," Zubaty told *The Kentucky Post*. "We're just exploding and we have to have some kind of handle on it."

In addition to regulating land use, the zoning ordinance would create a board of adjustment and require the county to hire a zoning administrator. The ordinance would assign zone designations to all unincorporated land within the county and nearly all land would be zoned agricultural or residential. Among other exceptions would be a strip of land near the Owen County border, which would be designated light industrial.

The Fiscal Court passed its proposed zoning ordinance on first reading on Dec. 13, 2001.

## MARYLAND

The replacement of antiquated punch-card voting machines in **MONTGOMERY COUNTY** with computerized equipment may be delayed by as much as two years.

In 2001, the Maryland General Assembly passed a law requiring new equipment be installed in four counties (Montgomery, Prince George's, Allegany and Dorchester) by Nov. 2002 and statewide by 2006.

While the other three counties will stick with that deadline, Montgomery officials urged the state to reconsider, saying the rush to install untested machines could risk turning Maryland's elections into a national embarrassment. County leaders reached an agreement with the Maryland secretary of state that allows for a more flexible timetable.

According to an article in *The Washington Post*, under the arrange-

ment, county elections officials will still aim to have new machines in all 230 precincts for the 2002 election, but they would not have to be in every polling booth until Nov. 2004.

## MINNESOTA

**WASHINGTON COUNTY** Commissioner Bill Pulkrabek was recently awarded a prestigious Marshall Memorial Fellowship to Europe from the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF).

Pulkrabek is one of 38 American Marshall Memorial Fellows selected for intensive study tours of Europe. The 2002 American Marshall Memorial Fellows will spend three weeks in Europe to gain a greater understanding of European institutions and societies and to explore in-depth a host of European and transatlantic economic, political and social issues.

The fellows will travel to Brussels for briefings on the European Union, NATO, and transatlantic issues before splitting into smaller groups and continuing on to cities in northern, southern and central European countries. The small groups will reunite at the end of three weeks for final briefings and an evaluation session. This unique program combines one-on-one meetings, site visits, hands-on experiences, and formal briefings to provide a variety of perspectives on key issues affecting Europe and the transatlantic relationship. The cost of this intensive study tour is funded entirely by the German government.

Fellows are considered emerging American leaders and come from a wide variety of backgrounds, including business, local and state governments, non-government organizations, law and the media.

## NEW YORK

The Chief Executive Officer of the **SUFFOLK COUNTY** Water Authority announced recently that members of the Water Authority Board unanimously voted to join with the County Legislature, in a major effort to recoup cleanup costs from the manufacturers and refiners of the gasoline additive MTBE.

Steve Jones called the intent of the legislation "good," and said that by joining in the lawsuit, SCWA customers will be protected financially over the long haul. "By joining with the Suffolk County Legislature in this landmark lawsuit, we are seeking to protect our customers from any costs that may be associated with this chemicals past or future cleanup," he said.

Jones noted that the SCWA has already allocated nearly \$30 million through construction of activated charcoal filtration systems that remove pesticides and other contaminants, in-

cluding MTBE from drinking water. The filters cost approximately \$400,000 each, and carbon that must be changed more frequently for MTBE removal, approximately \$40,000 each.

Gasoline in New York contains approximately 13 percent MTBE, however the additive is by far the most difficult and costly constituent of gas to cleanup following a leak, because it degrades very slowly, yet moves quickly into the groundwater. Since MTBE is water soluble, plumes of MTBE in groundwater travel faster than other components of gasoline, and are far more difficult and costly to cleanup. MTBE or Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether is a chemical added to gasoline to reduce carbon monoxide pollution.

## OHIO

• As **CUYAHOGA COUNTY** Commissioner Jane Campbell prepares to step down to take the oath of office as Cleveland's first female mayor, a county judge has temporarily put a halt to efforts to fill her seat.

The order came at the request of County Recorder Patrick O'Malley, one of two front-runners for the seat. O'Malley claims Democratic party leaders are not planning to conduct a fair election. A court hearing was scheduled at press time.

O'Malley and State Rep. Peter Lawson Jones have been campaigning within the party to succeed Campbell. The choice for who will take over the seat belongs to the county's 1,600 Democratic precinct committee members. A special election vote is expected in late January or early February.

O'Malley and three other Democrats want to keep the party from filling vacant precinct committee positions and from scheduling a vote until they receive assurances the process will be fair.

"All I want is a fair election," O'Malley told WKYC.

• Also according to WKYC in Cleveland, **MEDINA COUNTY** commissioners are asking voters to decide whether a county-run nursing home should stay open.

The commissioners voted unanimously to place a five-year, zero-point-two mill levy on the ballot in the May election.

If it fails, the 150-year-old Medina County Home will close July 6 because of a deficit of nearly half a million dollars.

The home, which operates at a deficit because the aged building disqualifies it for federal funding, serves 49 older and disabled residents. There are 41 county-run homes in the state.

The tax would raise about \$734,000 per year and cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$6.12 . . . . .

## VIRGINIA

Everyone is breathing a bit easier at **YORK COUNTY** supervisors' meetings and work sessions the days now that sheriff's deputies are keeping an eye on things.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, deputies — in full uniform on or have been attending county meetings to instill a sense of security there the county employees, public agents, media attending the meetings.

"Not that the Board of Supervisors is a large target, but it is a very elected body," York Supervisor Chairman Jim Burgett told *The Daily Press*. "These are very uncertain times. You just never know."

No extra money is spent on ship security. Deputies attend as part of their regular shifts. They not only attend the meetings, but walk around the building before the meeting starts to look for anything suspicious.

It wasn't one specific threat that prompted officials to invite deputies to the meetings. It was the increasing awareness of possible attacks dictating public officials across the country.

## WASHINGTON

A procedural error in voting on a controversial annexation will require the **THURSTON COUNTY** Boundary Review Board to take a few other votes.

On Dec. 18, 2001 the board seemingly voted to decline a section of city of Tumwater's proposed 4-acre annexation, however the vote has not been accepted because according to the clerk of the boundary review board, it was not clear the chairman voted.

Although he declined to discuss the matter, Chairman Norm Falcone said his vote was apparent.

"It was as clear as the outcome of the vote," Falcone told *The Olympian*.

The excluded portion of the annex is a 280-acre parcel intended as a subdivision. If the review board declines that portion of the annexation, it could mean a loss of revenue for the city of Tumwater. The proposed annexation is within Tumwater's urban growth area.

While the annexation was proposed in June, the review board off a decision on the annexation on Nov. 28, 2001 public hearing with dozens of county residents voiced opposition to the proposal. At discussions in December, the board members said the irregular boundary lines and disruptions to neighbors were reasons to exclude the 280-acre parcel.

(News from the Nation's Counties is compiled by M. Mindy Moore, senior staff writer. If you have news, please call (202) 942-4223 or e-mail mmorette@naco.org.)



## RESEARCH NEWS

# A Primer on Public Health Departments

According to the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), a NACo affiliate, there are 3,000 public health departments in the country. Some are like the ones in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C., and some are very small and township based in the sparsely populated Midwest states. Sixty percent of the local public health agencies are county-based, and 7 percent are city/county based. The rest are township or special district based. About nine percent serve jurisdictions with populations below 50,000. Most people are unaware of the work done by public health departments, but public health departments play a vital role in society. In addition to their roles in food safety and overseeing public water supplies in some jurisdictions, they provide adult and child immunizations, communicable disease control, community assessment, community outreach and education, environmental health services, epidemiology and surveillance, health promotion and tuberculosis testing. A few public health departments provide primary care or direct medical care services. Some provide treatment for chronic diseases such

as cardiovascular disease and diabetes, and mental health services and programs for the homeless. The top priorities of all public health departments include communicable disease control, environmental health services and child health programs.

The average number of employees at local health departments nationwide is 67, with a median of 13

## In the wake of recent events, public health departments have become much more visible.

employees, but many have much larger staffs. The most numerous employees are public health nurses, environmental scientists and specialists, as well as clerical and administrative staff. Many departments currently face a crisis in recruiting and retaining a trained public health workforce.

Local public health departments indicate that support and partnerships within their communities are their

greatest strengths. This includes local and community support including supportive county commissioners, citizens, other health services providers and private sector businesses.

Funding is their greatest challenge. Health departments in the non-metropolitan areas report a greater challenge in obtaining stable funding than do their metropolitan counterparts (a 15 percent difference).

Currently public health departments report 44 percent of their funding comes from local government sources and 30 percent comes from the state (this includes federal pass through funding). Only 3 percent of funds received come directly from the federal government. Nineteen percent of funding comes from service reimbursement including fees for services, Medicaid and Medicare.

In the wake of recent events, public health departments have become much more visible. The networks and systems used for their traditional activities of tracking and treating communicable diseases will be most effective in case of a bioterrorism attack. In New York, county health departments established networks during a recent West Nile Virus alert that can easily be used for an anthrax or smallpox threat.

But not every public health system is this sophisticated. Therefore, efforts to obtain funding, including recently approved federal funds, and local and state efforts must continue to enhance the performance and leadership capabilities of health departments nationwide.

Although funding, training and expertise can come from the state and federal levels, public health emergency preparedness is local. All emergency preparedness planning, including bioterrorism planning, must address local needs and bring together representatives of public health, emergency response, public safety and law enforcement, as well as local doctors and hospitals to develop the plan that meets the needs of the community. The relationships created during the planning stages can be useful networks when emergencies arise.

(Information from the National Association of County and City Health Officials Web site and its publication Local Public Health Agency Infrastructure: A Chartbook was used in this article. For a copy of this publication go to [www.naccho.org/general428.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/general428.cfm))

(Research News is written by Jacqueline Byers, director of research.)

## NACo ON THE MOVE

### UP AND COMING

Donna Smith, director of risk services and retirement benefits for NACo FSC, will address the New Mexico Association of Counties Midwinter Conference, Jan. 14-16 in Santa Fe.

### CORRECTION

Judge Robert Eckels, chair of NACo's Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee and member of the Homeland Security Task Force is from Harris County, Texas (NACo On the Move, County News Dec. 24, 2001).

## WEB WATCH

### Online Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance spotlights Sept. 11 resources

For a helpful summary of federal programs that assist in dealing with the events of Sept. 11, go to [www.cfda.gov/911.htm](http://www.cfda.gov/911.htm). The site is home to the online Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. The CFDA staff has compiled an impressive and easily navigated list of programs, cataloged by department or agency and targeted recipients, such as state and local governments. Even better, the list provides links to comprehensive information about each program, such as funding, eligibility requirements, applications process and contacts.

### National Civic League launches new Web site

The National Civic League, a 107-year-organization dedicated to strengthening citizen democracy, recently unveiled a new Web site at [www.ncl.org](http://www.ncl.org) that provides easy access to NCL's programs, projects and publications. The site also includes summaries of ongoing community renewal projects and applications for NCL's All-America City Award.

The National Civic League is headquartered in Denver, Colo., and has an office in Washington, D.C.

### Lake County, Ind., goes online with tax-default properties auction

Lake County, Ind. became the first jurisdiction in the state to offer an online auction of tax-defaulted properties when 100 properties went up for bid earlier this month. Lake County shares a common border with the city of Chi-

cago and is located in the northwest corner of the state.

The properties offered for sale included residential and commercial lots in Gary, East Chicago and Hammond, Ind.

Bid4Assets, Inc., [www.bid4assets.com](http://www.bid4assets.com), an asset disposition and advisory services company, teamed with the county to mount the online auction.

### Model and Sample Municipal Ordinances

You can supplement your Web base of sample ordinances by going to [www.aloha.net/~inazoo/model.htm](http://www.aloha.net/~inazoo/model.htm). The site, first developed in Kauai County, Hawaii, features sample or model ordinances on topics ranging from animals to public works from a variety of sources. And if you haven't already, why not visit NACo's own collection of model ordinances at [www.naco.org/counties/codes/index.cfm](http://www.naco.org/counties/codes/index.cfm).

### Farm Subsidy Database 1996-2000

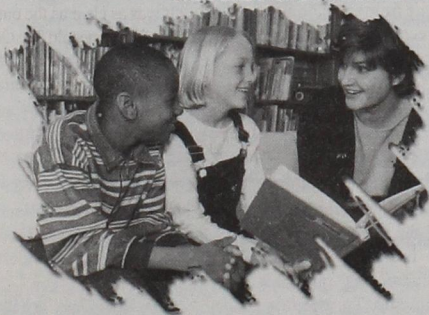
Among the more contentious issues surrounding the renewal of the farm bill is the level of farm subsidies. Supporters say they are needed to save the family farmer. Opponents, like the Environmental Working Group (EWG), say subsidies primarily benefit corporate farm operations. To show its point, EWG has posted a comprehensive database of agricultural subsidy payments by county by farm. If you're curious, go to [www.ewg.org/farm](http://www.ewg.org/farm).

(Web Watch is compiled by Beverly Schlotterbeck, executive editor.)

## Counties Care for Kids

### AMERICA'S PROMISE

THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH®



Helping our children succeed is the most direct route for ensuring the health of our communities for decades to come...

For more information,

- visit the NACo Web site at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)
- e-mail your request to [tgoodman@naco.org](mailto:tgoodman@naco.org)
- or call (202) 942-4222

Together, we can make a difference.



If you have a site you would like featured, please e-mail [bschlott@naco.org](mailto:bschlott@naco.org).



## THE H.R. DOCTOR IS IN The HR Olympics

In honor of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake County, Utah, and in recognition of the olympian feats performed everyday by HR professionals, the HR Doctor proposes a new series of events making up the HR Pentathlon.

The first event is called Jumping to Conclusions. This event features teams of elected and appointed officials in a competition to make decisions before the facts are known and without considering the liabilities or long-range consequences of acting prematurely. The greatest number of points will be awarded to the team which creates the most unfortunate consequences for the community in the shortest amount of time without ever receiving staff recommendations or options.

The second greatest number of points goes to those who have acted after totally ignoring any input!

The second event is the Power Whining competition.

Candidates score points based on the volume, intensity and duration of their whining. Extra points are given to the whiner who drains the most energy and takes the most time away from supervisors who have many other, more productive things to do.

Power Whiners may enter from any of a number of categories. These include union representatives, very senior and long-serving employees, and dissatisfied people from anywhere in the organization, including managers or supervisors. Curiously, there are rarely any entries from employees during their probationary periods.

Next comes the Dancing on Thin Ice competition in which teams com-



pete to see which one will be the last to realize that a long-held belief or way of doing business is past its usefulness and needs to be changed or modernized.

Past winners have included the civil service system (see the HR Doctor's several articles on this subject at [www.hrdr.net](http://www.hrdr.net)) and heavy reliance on paperwork-intensive processes rather than "e-HR" systems for greater access and customer convenience.

The world and Olympic record, however, for this event, goes to "hubris" — the unfortunate outcome of officials too arrogant to change or help when they should.

Fourth comes the event entitled Crawling Over Broken Glass. It will be won by the organization that has the rules, regulations, processes and timeframes that most annoy customers, clients and job applicants!

This is the event which features rules such as "no applications accepted after 2:30 p.m.," as one organization does. It features long lines, no online alternatives, inconvenient hours, one location only and poor customer service.

Participants in this event will take weeks or months to return phone calls, if they ever do. They will make you fill out endless, complex forms and then reject the applications with no explanation. They will be appropriately dressed for the competition by wearing jack boots.

Finally, the competition for Running Marathon Meetings rounds out the HR Pentathlon.

The manager who conducts the most and the longest meetings with the least discernible productive purpose will win this competition. This popular category will draw teams from all over the world since so many people spend so much time practicing for the event.

The HR Doctor is excited about being a judge in each of these events and at being present to award the gold, silver and bronze medals. I know teams representing federal agencies will be tough competition, but so will those representing school districts, universities, cities and yes, even counties!

These are the events in which champions are crowned in management avoidance in enabling and tolerating negative role model behavior.

Perhaps there will come a day when public agencies all around America will strengthen their commitments to innovation and to banning the events which make up the HR Pentathlon from the "Public Service Olympics!"

The HR Doctor wishes you a great Olympics!

**Phil Rosenberg**

The HR Doctor  
[www.hrdr.net](http://www.hrdr.net)

## Hats Off to...

### 2001 Achievement Award Winners. Employment and Training

#### Beyond the Basics: An Approach to Training and Support for Summer Playcamp Staff Charles County, Md.

Many challenges face county agencies as they strive to provide working families with affordable, safe and fun community summer day camps. Balancing the cost of camp with recruiting and training quality seasonal staff in an era of escalating potential for violence, complex family situations and a growing number of children on behavior medications has become increasingly difficult.

Through the collaborative effort of two agencies, the idea of *Beyond the Basics* summer camp staff training and support emerged.

This cost-effective, mandatory half-day training program focuses on behavior management, group dynamics, crisis intervention, developmental stages and strategies for prevention was provided to all summer camp staff.

The county offers six weekly sessions of affordable Play Camps at eight local community centers serving approximately 1,200 children between the months of June and August.

To achieve the goal of increased staff training in behavior management and basic child development, the county organized two distinctive modules, In-House Camp Training and Contracted Behavior Management Training with on-call support.

The training and consultation services were tailored to enhance the work, performance, morale, and knowledge of summer camp and community center staff. The cost of the training was \$7,340, which included consultation time, instructors, materials and refreshments. To date, approximately 50 persons participated in these programs.

Customer/parent surveys revealed a post-training 95 percent satisfaction rate for each of the focus areas.

#### Lee Education and Employment (LEE) Lee County, Fla.

Lee County conducted a needs assessment in 2000 which revealed that the community felt strongly about the increasing demand for vocational training. Lee staff determined there were thousands of low-income adults working primarily in service industries who needed technical training to better support their families.

Statistical information shows one of the greatest needs was for medical office skills and computer skills.

To address this problem, Lee County joined with Edison Community College to offer a non-credit (certificate) course entitled *The Medical Track*, specifically designed for the target population.

The 6-month course includes keyboarding, computer skills, career development, customer service, medical terminology, medical office skills, medical billing and coding, and a 40-hour internship in a medical office or hospital.

Upon enrollment, and before entering class, each client is provided with a used computer donated by the Lee County Computer Refresh program.

Support services for participants include child care assistance for school hours, car repair and transportation to class if needed, job placement assistance and intensive case management.

The cost to operate the program is approximately \$141,000 annually and includes case managers, direct client services, support, rent and local travel. Most of the funding is received from Community Services Block Grant and the remainder is taken from the Lee County ad valorem dollars.

The first class graduated April 2000. Thirty-two people enrolled for training in *The Medical Track*. Thirty people completed all or part of the program — 23 of the 30 have increased their income as a result.

(Hats off to ... was compiled by Christina Crayton, research assistant, and features 2001 NACo Achievement Award Winners. For more information, call (202) 942-4285.)

## NOTICES

### PUBLICATIONS

■ The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) recently published *Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads (ADT≤400)*. The publication addresses the design issues highway designers and engineers face when determining appropriate and cost-effective geometric design policies for low-volume local roads. A new approach to geometric design of these types of roads, stemming from research on the safety and cost effectiveness of geometric elements and site-specific safety conditions, is incorporated into this work. For more information and details on how to order a copy of the guidelines, visit AASHTO's bookstore at [www.transportation.org](http://www.transportation.org).

### OTHER RESOURCES

■ The American Correctional Association (ACA) released its *Inmate Management Systems* video package. The video set discusses roots of unit management and how to successfully implement or maintain a system of unit management. The first tape of the set, *History of Unit Management*, traces the development of unit management from its inception. The second tape, *Unit Management at Work*, takes a look at the interworkings of members of a unit staff, facility administration and inmates. It focuses on the changes which should be incorporated to ensure the success of the program. It also examines the effects of this type of management on the offender.

The final tape *Direct Supervision — Unit Management in Jails*, takes a look at a new direct supervision jail facility and examines the differences between unit management in jails and prisons. The package also includes a leaders guide. To order a package, contact ACA's customer service department at (800) 222-5646, ext. 1860 and ask for item #782-F1. The video is available for \$350. Include \$16.50 for shipping and handling.



## JOB MARKET/CLASSIFIEDS

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES — FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO.

Salary: \$87,482 annually (some negotiation possible).

The Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services has an immediate opening for the position of Assistant Director. Agency is located in Columbus, Ohio, (state capital), located in the second largest county and the fastest growing metropolitan area in Ohio, with rapidly changing demographics. Ohio has a county administered state supervised approach to human service delivery. Agency has responsibility for TANF, food stamps, Medicaid (including CHIP), subsidized childcare, Title XX and workforce development through the Workforce Investment Act. Delivery of services is centralized in five full-service community opportunity centers, which also use the WIA one-stops. This highly responsible position serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority and is one of two positions assisting the Director in administering the agency. The position oversees the administration and implementation of the program side of operation, directly managing the Community Opportunity Center Direc-

tors and the Workforce Development Director.

- Paid Holidays and Vacations
- Family Medical/ Dental/ Vision Coverage
- Continuing Education Program
- Positive Work Environment
- Public Employees Retirement System

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree required. Master's degree preferred. Completion of undergraduate major program core coursework in social work, or sociology or child and family community service or rehabilitation (or 24 months experience in human services organization), senior management experience in similar type of agency or similar responsibility in related field of work, training or experience in federal or state laws and rules governing this type of agency and interest in staying at the agency for several years, either in this or advanced position.

**Salary:** \$87,482 annually (some negotiation possible)

Interested candidates should send a resume by 1/31/02 to the Franklin County Human Resources Department, 373 High Street, 25th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215.

Need more information?

See <http://columbus.careerboard.com>

-EOE-

### Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Tribal Operations Manager

Auburn, Washington

(Starting Salary Range to  
\$115,000 D.O.E.)

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (1,800 members) has a centuries old tradition and cultural connection to the Pacific Northwest. Current reservation lands cover six square miles in King and Pierce Counties between Seattle and Tacoma. The Tribe has the largest casino operation in the State of Washington, which is one of the principle businesses supporting the development of facilities, public works infrastructure, health care, schools and human services programs provided to members. Recent reorganization has created the new position of Tribal Operations Manager (TOM), which is tasked with developing and guiding the internal operations and administrative support activities for the organization. The Muckleshoot Tribe has a strong reputation for being a financially sound, well managed and high quality service organization. Reporting to the nine-member Tribal Council, the TOM will coordinate activities with the Tribal Finance Officer, Tribal Council, General Manager/Casino Operations and other key stakeholders. The TOM will directly oversee three Assistant Tribal Operations Managers who have responsibility for nearly 12 separate departments. The Muckleshoot Tribe employs 300 full-time personnel and has an annual budget in excess of \$40 million. Over 150 new employees will be added to staff beginning in late 2001, to help provide services at a new state-of-the-art daycare facility. The creation of the three Assistant TOM positions resulted from a recent organizational study/analysis that sought to bring efficiencies to the Tribe's administrative organization, reduce an excessive span of control for the TOM, and to enhance internal communications.

The successful candidate must possess a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Finance, Government, Management, Marketing, Political Science, Public Administration or a related field. An advanced degree or graduate level training

is highly desirable. A minimum of seven to ten years of senior level management experience, preferably in a tribal government, is required. Preference may be given to Native American applicants, or those who demonstrate significant work experience or understanding of specific issues related to the operations of Native American Agencies.

The ideal candidate will have an extensive background as a senior executive in a municipal government (City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Director of Finance or Administration). Service as the General Manager of a Special District or similar organization would be highly acceptable. Backgrounds must also include demonstrated successes in employee relations, capital improvement planning, strategic organizational and budget planning and knowledge of related areas. Prior experience working with Boards/Commissions or Councils of elected officers is preferred. Candidates should be familiar with all aspects of community relations with Native communities. Submit a statement of qualifications, current salary information and a resume. NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 2002 to:

Marcia Isenberg or Jerry Oldani at:

THE OLDANI GROUP

188 - 106 Avenue NE, Suite 420

Bellevue, Washington 98004

Phone: 425.651.9988 / Fax: 425.453.6786

E-Mail: [resume@theoldanigroup.com](mailto:resume@theoldanigroup.com)

General Inquiries: [search@theoldanigroup.com](mailto:search@theoldanigroup.com)

<http://www.theoldanigroup.com>

### 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:** [skennedy@naco.org](mailto:skennedy@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 **Stacey Kennedy**

County News Job Market representative: Tel. (202) 942-4256.

### CITY ENGINEER — CITY OF WICHITA, KANS.

(Population 350,000) **Salary:** \$63,809 to \$95,709 with excellent benefits.

Wichita is the largest city in Kansas. Residents enjoy a central location, a diverse population, a strong local economy and four distinct seasons. Quality of life amenities are excellent and the cost of living is very reasonable.

Wichita has a full service, stable Council/Manager government. The present City Manager has been in his position for over 16 years. The City's Engineering Division has 86 full time employees and a FY02 budget of \$3.8 million. Functions include Design, Traffic Engineering, Construction and Street Inspection, Special Projects and Subdivision & Development Review, Construction, Project Budget, Design & Utility Review, Pavement/Sidewalk Inspection and Administrative Support. Typically, the annual CIP program is between \$50 and \$100 million including several multi-year major projects along with many smaller projects.

The City Engineer is responsible to the Director of Public Works to effectively manage all work performed by the Engineering Division including the project design, standards and specification development, scheduling, supervision and overall administration of the City's large and complex CIP program, representing the City and coordinating engineering functions with outside organizations as well as other City departments, developing and monitoring the engineering budget and serving as acting Director of Public Works as needed.

Requires a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering and at least 5 years of progressive supervisory and management level experience in public works engineering design and construction work. Must be registered as a professional engineer and be eligible and willing to acquire current Kansas PE registration.

**Send confidential resume IMMEDIATELY to:**

Robert E. Slavin, President  
SLAVIN MANAGEMENT  
CONSULTANTS

3040 Holcomb Bridge Road,  
Suite B-1

Norcross, Georgia 30071

Phone: (770) 449-4656

Fax: (770) 416-0848

e-mail: [rsalavin101@aol.com](mailto:rsalavin101@aol.com)

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY RECRUITER/EMPLOYER

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/ CONTROLLER — KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICH.

**Salary:** \$98,987—\$128,689.

Kalamazoo County, Michigan is seeking an experienced administrator to serve as chief administrative officer for County operations. The Administrator will report and serve as principal advisor to the Board of Commissioners on County-wide management in all aspects of fiscal and general administrative operations. The Board now consists of nine members and will increase to 17 members in 2003. Kalamazoo

County Government is committed to a team concept and has approximately 900 employees with a total operating budget of \$105 million.

Kalamazoo is a progressive, mid-sized university community with rich social, cultural and recreational resources. Kalamazoo County occupies 576 square miles with a population of 238,603.

Master's degree in public administration or related field with a minimum of five years progressively responsible experience in the public or private sector—or any comparable combination of experience, education and training—is required. Must have a strong managerial and economic development background, communication skills, and leadership skills with the ability to bring together diverse groups and build consensus. Must also have a high level of analytical expertise to deal effectively with complex administrative issues. Salary is negotiable depending upon qualifications within a range of \$98,987—\$128,689, plus excellent fringe benefit package.

For consideration, application must be received by 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2002. Confidentiality can be maintained upon request up to the interview. Submit detailed resume and credentials including references and salary history/requirements to:

RICHARD KINAS, HUMAN

RESOURCES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY

GOVERNMENT

201 W. KALAMAZOO AVE.

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49007

FAX (616) 384-8099

[www.kalcounty.com](http://www.kalcounty.com)

Kalamazoo County is an equal opportunity employer M/F/H/V and values diversity at all levels of its workforce.

### COUNTY MANAGER — SUMMIT COUNTY, COLO.

(Re-opened) **Salary:** \$80,000—

\$113,000. Thriving Summit County.

Located in heart of the Rocky Mountains including year-round recreation, residential/commercial amenities and many top ski destinations, seeks a professional Manager with positive leadership, modern management and decision making skills. \$53M Budget, 500 employees. Appointed as chief administrator by 3-member Board of Commissioners. Salary range \$80,700—\$113,000, starting salary \$80,700, plus excellent benefits. Degree in related field, master's desired and 10 years top public or private management experience appropriate to the size and complexity of this County service organization. Responsible for operating divisions of Human Services, Public Safety, Community Development, Public Works, Public Transit and administrative services. Strategic thinker, team-builder with customer service orientation and intergovernmental cooperation. Resume and salary history to Tom Dority, The Mercer Group, Inc. 4520 W. 14th Street Drive, Greeley, CO 80634-3147, [tomdority@attbi.com](mailto:tomdority@attbi.com). by February 4, 2002. EOE.

### DIRECTOR OF LAND USE AND PLANNING — WASHINGTON COUNTY, CALIF.

**Salary:** \$88,668—\$107,784.

Recognized as one of the most livable areas in the country, Washington County (pop. 445,342) is located on the western edge of the City of Portland. Located only an hour's drive from the beach and mountains and less than a half-hour to downtown Portland, residents enjoy the benefits of a healthy urban environment in addition to well-preserved rural areas. The Department of Land Use and Transportation's nearly 400 employees provide a wide range of transportation, planning, permitting and road maintenance services for its citizens including: capital project management, engineering and surveying, land development, operations and maintenance, and planning. To manage these services, the County is searching for a Director who will assume a strong leadership role while emphasizing inter-department communication and a collaborative working environment. The ideal candidate will have a strong technical knowledge of Land Use and Transportation program development and be capable of developing organizational effectiveness through staff recruitment and selection, training and performance management. Candidates should have a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, Urban Planning, Public Administration, or a related field. A Master's Degree is desirable. The salary range for this position is \$88,668 to \$107,784. If you are interested in this outstanding opportunity, please submit resume by February 7, 2002 to Bob Murray, Bob Murray and Associates, 735 Sunrise Avenue, Suite 145, Roseville, CA 95661, (916) 784-9080, (916) 784-1985. fax, E-mail [apply@bobmurrayassoc.com](mailto:apply@bobmurrayassoc.com). Brochure available.

### DIRECTOR, PARKS AND RECREATION — LANCASTER COUNTY, PA.

**Minimum salary** \$39,998.

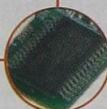
The County of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is seeking a Director, Parks and Recreation. This position, reporting to the County Administrator, oversees the management of the County's park system of over 2,000 acres, consisting of six regional parks, natural areas, recreational trails, pool, skate park, lighted ball fields, and active and passive facilities with a budget in excess of \$3 million. Essential functions include, but are not limited to staff supervision, acquisition and development coordination, park planning and design, budget and project management, and public relations. Individuals with a Bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation, planning, environmental science, landscape architecture or related field and 10 years of progressively responsible experience in park/land management, recreation planning or related work are encouraged to apply. Minimum salary \$39,998. Send resume to Bonnie Ashworth, Personnel Specialist, 50 N. Duke St., Lancaster, PA 17603 or Fax (717) 293-7269. Deadline for applications: February 15, 2002. EOE.



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