

County News

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NACo reviews the 2003 Budget

By NACo LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS STAFF

President George W. Bush has submitted his FY03 budget to Congress and there are three themes that permeate the entire document—national security, homeland security and economic security. Recognizing these priorities, there are a number of initiatives—and program reductions—that would affect programs of interest to counties. The NACo legislative department has done a quick review of the documents and here are some highlights, along with a chart of some of the specific programs:

First Responder State/Local Preparedness Grant Program

The president's budget proposes funding of \$3.5 billion for FY03 (Administration has not decided whether this is a one-year program or multi-year program) for this initiative here are some of the details:

- eligible expenses: training, equipment, planning, exercises (not staff)
- block grant to governors based on population, with a floor for small states
- 25 percent of funds allocated for state programs; 75 percent distributed to local governments based on population.

States may distribute a portion of their 25 percent to local governments to meet additional needs and target specific terrorism risks. Local governments must submit emergency plans, and governors determine boundaries for regional collaboration.

- 25 percent local match (softmatch)
- grants administered by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

The Bush Administration highlights three aspects of the program: flexibility and efficiency, enhancement of mutual aid among local jurisdictions and states, support for exercises and evaluation.

According to the Administration, this initiative consolidates several existing programs, including the first responder grant program previously administered by the Department of Justice (FY02 funding \$635 million) and the recently created FEMA FIRE grant program (FY02 funding \$360 million).

Community and Economic Development

• CDBG

Under the CDBG formula, more than 1,000 local urban governments and states (for non-metropolitan areas) receive about \$4.3 billion of CDBG funds annually. CDBG supports various community development activities directed primarily at low- and moderate-income persons. Several smaller programs are also funded within CDBG. A three-fold increase for the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program will provide \$65 million for competitive grants to non-profit faith-based and community-oriented organizations that support homeownership.

See **BUDGET** on page 6

HHS releases \$1.1 billion in grants for bioterrorism preparedness

By MARILINA SANZ
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

On Thursday, Jan. 31, Health Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson announced release of \$1.1 billion in terrorism preparedness grants included in the 2002 Defense Appropriations Act.

The funds are divided into two parts:

- funds for bioterrorism, infectious diseases and public health emergencies administered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- funds to create regional hospitals administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and
- funds for 25 new jurisdictions added to the Metropolitan Medical Response System.

The funds will be distributed to states, but Los Angeles County, New York City and Chicago will also

receive direct funding. These three jurisdictions had previously entered into cooperative agreements with CDC for past bioterrorism funding.

Grantees will immediately be allowed to begin spending up to 20 percent of their allotments. The remaining 80 percent will be released upon completion and approval by HHS of the jurisdiction's bioterrorism preparedness plan. State plans are due to HHS between March 15 and April 15. HHS will review the plans within 30 days.

Each plan must cover 16 criteria that explain how the jurisdiction will respond to bioterrorism and other health emergencies and how it will strengthen public health capacity. Among the criteria are an advisory commission that includes local governments and health officials and a hospital bio-preparedness planning committee that would include representatives of emergency management agencies. Some of the other criteria include:

• timetables for developing state-wide and regional preparedness plans

- developing plans for a communication system that provides critical health information among hospital emergency departments, state and local health officials and law enforcement 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- assessing training needs, with emphasis on emergency department personnel, infectious disease specialists and public health staff

- ensuring that at least 90 percent of the population are covered by the Health Alert Network, and
- assessing epidemiologic capacity, with a provision for at least one epidemiologist for each metropolitan statistical area with a population greater than 500,000.

Please contact your state governor's office for more information.

County News

Quik Takes

Suggested Valentine's Day Destinations

Loving County, Ala.
Love County, Idaho
Rosebud County, Mich.
Love County, Okla.
LaMoore County, Ore.
Loving County, Texas



Senate to debate election reform

By RALPH TABOR
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The Senate is expected to debate a bipartisan sponsored election reform bill early this session. The House passed a NACo-supported measure by a vote of 362 to 63 in December.

The Senate will consider a bill (S.565) similar to legislation reported by the Senate Rules Committee last August. The latest version of the bill goes much further than the House-passed bill in what it mandates states and counties do. The House bill allows states flexibility in how mandated services can be developed and implemented.

NACo has deep concerns about the overly prescriptive mandates in the Senate bill. States would be allowed little discretion in developing provisional voting procedures and a statewide voter registration system.

The legislation essentially federalizes state and local election systems. The Department of Justice would draft initial program regulations and determine who would receive grants for new voting equipment. Eventually this role would be assumed by a new Elections Administration Commission.

NACo has joined with the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of

Secretaries of State, the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks and the Election Center in support of three amendments to the Senate bill. The proposed changes would make the legislation similar to the House-passed bill. The state and county amendments would,

- provide block grant funding using a voting age population formula for distributing the funds with a minimum amount earmarked for each state

- allow states to certify compliance with minimum standards requirements subject to review by a new Election Administration Commission and restrict the role of U. S. Justice Department to enforcement of election and civil rights laws, and

- provide a mechanism for state and county input and consultation similar to the advisory committees in the House-passed bill.

The latest version of S.565 is reported to be opposed by a number of civil rights organizations because of several anti-fraud provisions included in the bill. One of the provisions would require photo identification for first time voters in a precinct.

The schedule for considering the Senate bill is not clear. The Senate leadership continues to say that election reform is a top priority for floor action.

President issues call for volunteer

By M. MINDY MORETTI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

During his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush issued a call to arms, so-to-speak, for citizens to volunteer 4,000 hours (two years) of time to one of several programs falling under the umbrella of the new USA Freedom Corps.

Aside from strengthening the Peace Corps, and improving and enhancing Americorps and Senior Corps, the president's initiative calls for the creation of a Citizens Corps to "engage citizens directly in improving homeland security."

Driven by local Citizen Corps Councils, the program will help civilians become involved in homeland security efforts by engaging them in a variety of existing, as well as new programs.

- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) will build on existing local programs in which volunteers help local police departments perform non-sworn functions

- Medical Reserve Corps enables retired healthcare workers to augment local health officials' capacity to respond to an emergency

- Operation TIPS (Terrorist Information and Prevention System) will give transportation, postal and public utility workers throughout the country the means to identify and report suspicious activities

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trains citizens to participate in emergency management planning and preparation for



response to disasters and other emergencies, and

- Neighborhood Watch Programs are expected to double in the next two years under the new program.

The president is requesting \$144 million for FY03 to support the formation and training of the local councils as well as an additional \$230 million in FY03 to support the individual programs.

While no one denies the need for citizens to become more involved, there are concerns within the volunteering community about the new Freedom Corps. Some worry it is yet another program that could take resources — financial and man hours — away from programs already in place such as America's Promise and the Points of Light Foundation.

"The creation of a new entity when we already have several good programs in place, such as Points of

Light, is not something we've prepared for," explained Susan H. strategic planner for Fairfax County, Va. and board member of the National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government (NAVPLG), a NACo affiliate.

NAVPLG, which itself is a volunteer organization, has formally discussed or issued a statement on the new initiative.

Still, the promise of a new vision of volunteers is exciting. Cary, the volunteer services director for Worcester County, Md., increased media attention about the initiative has already improved interest for potential civilian volunteers. "The volunteer program in Cary's county is in its infancy," she said. "It was designed to incorporate volunteers in the 14 county departments not already utilizing volunteers previously only the library and parks department had volunteers."

"We're going to do the best we can to appropriately place people," said Cary, who is also a member of NAVPLG's board. "It's our mission, and we want to make the citizens as best as possible."

The Freedom Corps

The USA Freedom Corps, as proposed by President George W. Bush during his State of the Union address in January, is a three-pronged initiative designed to get citizens more involved in their county, country and the world.

Citizen Corps

www.citizen corps.gov

The Citizen Corps will implement a variety of initiatives designed to get citizens more involved in homeland security within their own communities.

Some of the programs already exist, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Neighborhood Watch and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and some are new, like a Medical Reserve Corps and a Terrorist Information and Prevention System (TIPS).

Americorps and Senior Corps

www.americorps.org • www.seniorcorps.org

The Administration is planning to reform and expand both programs and engage thousands of new volunteers in community-based service opportunities.

The plan will add more than 200,000 volunteers in community service (25,000 Americorps participants, generally more than 75,000 local volunteers and 100,000 new Senior Corps participants).

Peace Corps

www.peacecorps.gov

The Administration proposes doubling the Peace Corps program over the next five years including specific efforts targeted at rebuilding Afghanistan.

(For more information about any of these programs, visit the Web address or visit the USA Freedom Corps address www.usafreedomcorps.gov or call (877)872-2677)

Idaho repeals term limits

By PAUL V. BEDDOE
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The Idaho legislature overturned Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's (R) veto of a controversial term limits repeal measure Feb. 1. In doing so, the nation's most Republican legislature formally turned its back on one of the central tenets of the 1994 Contract with America.

The Senate voted to override the veto 26-8 and the House 50-20. The vote in each chamber exceeded the two-thirds majority required.

The version of term limits passed by citizen initiative in 1994 was among one of the most restrictive in the nation, applying term limits to all elected statewide constitutional officers, state legislators, county officials, city officials and school board members.

The initiative originally included members of Congress, but the U.S. Supreme Court struck down that provision in 1995. Term

limits for county officials, and others, however, were set to kick in this November.

The Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) aggressively supported the repeal effort, joining a statewide coalition that also included the Association of Idaho Cities, the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, the Idaho Education Association, the Idaho Association of Realtors, the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, the Idaho Sheriffs' Association, and the Idaho State AFL-CIO.

Noting that term limits would undermine county government in Idaho, Dan Chadwick, IAC executive director, said, "Idaho's county elected officials worked closely with their communities to ensure that their citizens retained the right to choose their own elected officials."

He went on to say that the legislature responded to the common

sense arguments of the county officials and their allies despite vicious personal attacks from the term limits lobby.

Steve Ahrens, president of the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, an influential business organization, chaired the coalition.

"The debate over term limits focused initially on misinformation — i.e. that states could term limit members of Congress — and in all the rhetoric from then on never did zero in on the two essential problems with the term limits concept," said Ahrens. "First, that term limits are a direct attack on voter rights... Second that it is simply bad public policy to arbitrarily eliminate experience and expertise from government at all levels. Arbitrarily wiping out skilled management in business because the CEO had served eight years is unthinkable and it should be equally unthinkable in government."

Report released grading 40 of nation's largest counties

Fairfax County, Va.; Maricopa County, Ariz. receive top grades; Most counties receive C's, D's vs. A's, B's

County governments face a tangle in their struggle to provide a ever-widening range of public services against a backdrop of a tight economy, according to a report in the February issue of *Governing Magazine*.

The report reaches into the standard responsibilities that become more important in a leaner climate, county management is encumbered by obsolete laws, clumsy organizational structures, and limited control over resources, said the report produced by the Maxwell School of Syracuse University and *Governing Magazine*. The authors of the *Governing* report write: "But while the media focus on the electorate continue to elect counties — except to mock or the occasional bad apple — it is that they are becoming important players in American government with each passing year. State and federal governments pulled back on funding in areas such as health care, aid to the poor, criminal justice, it is counties — more than cities or states — that are generally obligated to move to fill the gap."

The report grades 40 of the nation's largest counties on how well they manage.

Grading the Counties: A Management Report Card is the fourth in a series of reports grading state,

city and county governments on how well they manage the systems that deliver public services. It is based on the most comprehensive evaluation of county government ever completed. The effort is part of the multi-year Government Performance Project (GPP), a collaboration of The Maxwell School and *Governing Magazine* funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

GPP County Management Report

One of the biggest problems faced by many counties is the arbitrary control imposed by the states in which they operate. This is particularly true in New York, Ohio and California. Another significant obstacle is the decentralization of power. Operating with little central authority, most counties function as a confederation rather than a unified public institution. A variety of elected officials operate apart from county commissioners. Many agencies dispensing services are independent and autonomous. With decision-making diffused over many political entities, disciplines like personnel and information technology management are immersed in a ceaseless struggle to avoid fragmentation and inefficiency.

The 40 counties received grades in five management areas as well as an overall average grade. The management areas are financial management, human resources management, information technology management, capital management, and managing for results.

The GPP selected the largest counties by revenue from each of the four geographic regions in the United States as defined by the U. S. Census Bureau: Northeast, South, Midwest and West. (For more information on the selection process, visit www.maxwell.syr.edu/gpp).

Good news

There is good news in the report. The depth and breadth of the constraints facing counties have compelled some to become innovative. From King County, Washington's sophisticated model categorizing all capital projects by level of need to Hennepin County, Minnesota's telecommuting experiment that increased caseload productivity of economic assistance workers by 15 percent, the report identified successful innovations in all four regions that serve as models for all counties.

While no county received an overall average grade of A, Fairfax County, Va. and Maricopa County, Ariz. were awarded an A-, quite an achievement as the majority of counties (55 percent) rated C's and D's. Against such odds, how have these two counties accomplished this feat?

About the Government Performance Project

The Government Performance Project (GPP) is a multi-year project created to rate the effectiveness of government management systems that support public service delivery.

Funded by a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Maxwell School's Alan K. Campbell Public Affairs Institute administers the project in cooperation with *Governing Magazine*, one of the nation's leading magazines dedicated to fostering better public management. In 1999 and 2001, GPP reported on all 50 states. In 2000, the report focused on the 35 largest cities by revenue in the United States. The 2002 report examines 40 of the nation's largest counties across four geographic regions.

Fairfax County, Va.

Fairfax County, the only one to rate an A or an A- in every management category, deals with decentralization by using a strong performance-measurement system to provide direction for departments that are given a lot of flexibility.

Fairfax County "leads [the] nation in integrating IT into all management," according to the report, and its "generally superior personnel policies" include increased salary levels for new hires and significant reductions in the numbers of job classifications.

Like other Virginia counties, Fairfax is prohibited by the state from structuring its own tax system and now, suffering from the drop in sales tax receipts because of the recession, it confronts budgetary strains. Yet Fairfax County has AAA bond ratings in part thanks to its long history of sound financial management.

Maricopa County, Ariz.

Maricopa County, Ariz. shares the limelight with Fairfax County, but not its long history of sound management. Prior to the mid-1990s the "come back county" was marked by falling bond ratings, an ailing health system, incompatible IT systems, and independent and quarrelsome elected officials running many government functions.

Maricopa County now gives its departments freedom to make spending decisions, retain savings and offer rewards to employees. But woe to the department that goes over budget; tight restrictions apply. Led by a strong administrative officer and a supportive board of supervisors, Maricopa County rated in the A category on financial management, information technology and managing for results.

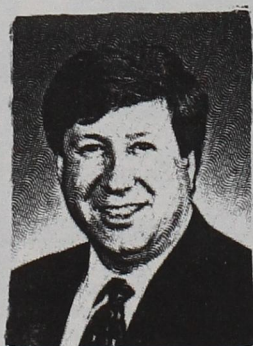
(The full report is available on the Internet at www.governing.com.)

Average Grades for the Counties

Alameda, Calif.	C+
Allegheny, Pa.	D
Anne Arundel, Md.	C
Baltimore, Md.	B+
Broward, Fla.	B-
Clark, Nev.	C+
Contra Costa, Calif.	B-
Cook, Ill.	C+
Cuyahoga, Ohio	C
Dallas, Texas	B
Erie, N.Y.	C+
Fairfax, Va.	A-
Franklin, Ohio	B
Fulton, Ga.	C
Hamilton, Ohio	B
Harris, Texas	C+
Hennepin, Minn.	B
Hillsborough, Fla.	C
King, Wash.	C
Los Angeles, Calif.	C
Maricopa, Ariz.	A-
Mecklenburg, N.C.	B
Miami-Dade, Fla.	C+
Milwaukee, Wis.	B-
Monroe, N.Y.	C
Montgomery, Md.	B
Nassau, N.Y.	D-
Oakland, Mich.	B
Orange, Calif.	B
Palm Beach, Fla.	C+
Prince George's, Md.	B-
Riverside, Calif.	C+
Sacramento, Calif.	C+
San Bernardino, Calif.	C-
San Diego, Calif.	B+
Santa Clara, Calif.	C+
Shelby, Tenn.	B
Suffolk, N.Y.	C-
Wayne, Mich.	B-
Westchester, N.Y.	C+

A reminder...

President-elect Ken Mayfield Seeks Leaders for NACo Appointments

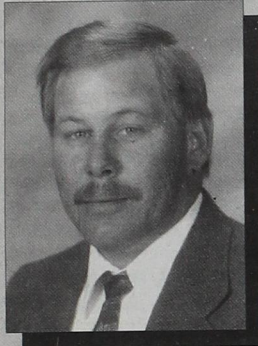


If you are interested in serving NACo and counties across the country as a member of a NACo committee, please contact NACo President-elect Ken Mayfield, Dallas County (Texas) Commissioner, 4403. W. Illinois Ave, Dallas, TX 75211, (214)339-8381, kmayfield@dallascounty.org.

In addition to steering committee chairs and vice chairs, The NACo president also appoints members to several standing and advisory committees, as well as the NACo Board. Mayfield is looking for energetic, committed leaders to fill these vacancies. Mayfield will have all of his appointments made by the WIR, May 22-24. He will be making time available at the Legislative conference to speak with individuals who are interested in being appointed.

PROFILES

in service...

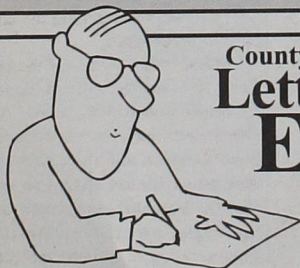


Wade Williams

**Commissioner
Stutsman County, N.D.**

**NACo Board
of Directors**

Number of years active in NACo: Six years
Years in Public Office: 20 years
Occupation: Government relations for the North Dakota Association of Counties
Education: High school
The hardest thing I've ever done: Was quit farming.
Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: My two grandfathers and Robert Kennedy.
A dream I have is to: Obtain a college degree.
You'd be surprised to learn that I: Am the youngest person elected to the North Dakota legislature.
The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Fly an airplane when I was eight years old.
My favorite sport is: Baseball.
I'm most proud of: My family.
Every morning I read: The Jamestown Sun.
My favorite meal is: Fried chicken.
My pet peeve is: Receiving history for a question that can be answered yes or no.
My motto is: Take advantage of every opportunity.
The last book I read was: America Attacked: Terrorism, by Sara Jess.
My favorite movie is: Rio Bravo.
My favorite music is: Soft Rock.
My favorite president is: John F. Kennedy.



County News invites Letters to the Editor

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

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

NACo Testifies on TEA-21

By ROBERT J. FOGEL
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Commissioner Chris Hart of Hillsborough County, Fla., who chairs NACo's Transportation Steering Committee, testified on Jan. 24 before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Hart outlined NACo's views on TEA-21 and the legislation's impact on the nation. "TEA-21 and its predecessor, ISTEA," stated Hart, "have been very helpful to our members and to our nation as a whole."

"There is little doubt in my mind that these programs have contributed to the overall economic growth that our nation experienced in the last decade." He added that NACo supported the financing changes that

made the 40 percent boost in highway spending in TEA-21 possible and urged no changes in this policy. "It would be an economic disaster if Congress were to eliminate the firewalls established in TEA-21 or began to use the Highway Trust Fund to either finance other programs or mask the deficit."

Hart told senators that a major change in the highway program has been more flexibility and more input from local elected officials. That, he said, has resulted in better planning, better decision-making and better projects. The TEA-21 reauthorization should provide for even more input from local elected officials.

NACo, Hart told the committee, will announce several recommenda-

tions for changes in the program once the work of the NACo TEA-21 Reauthorization Task Force is completed. He did indicate that environmental streamlining, urban congestion and a rural road safety program are likely to be among the items NACo's proposal will address.

The need to come up with solutions to congestion are very important, stated Hart, as, "Time, and productivity are all lost in commerce, the American economy and tourist are stuck in traffic."

Pointing out that rural localities had the highest rate of fatalities on types of roads, Hart concluded testimony by saying, "If Congress wants to reduce auto fatalities, there is no better investment than on in rural counties."

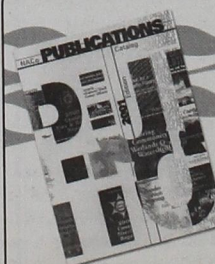
This was the committee's key hearing on the reauthorization of TEA-21, the federal government's \$121 billion highway and transit program. The hearing, entitled, "Partnership: America's Transportation Future," examined reauthorization issues at the federal, state, and local perspective. Joining Hart at the hearing were U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, and the mayors of Burlington, Vt. and Boise, Id.

(A copy of the NACo testimony can be found on the NACo Web at www.naco.org.)



Photo by Bob Fogel

For the record: Hillsborough County (Fla.) Commissioner Chris Hart, gets ready to testify before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Jan. 24. Hart chairs NACo's Transportation Steering Committee.



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your fingertips...

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online at www.naco.org.

County News

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

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NACo Satellite/Internet broadcast focuses on combatting bioterrorism

BY LOIS KAMPINSKY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND EDUCATION DIRECTOR

On March 21, from 1-3 p.m. six
ups will join NACo to present a
lite and Internet broadcast on
bating bioterrorism.

The broadcast will describe re-
al approaches to preventing and
aring for bioterrorism, and will
lore and demonstrate how coun-
ties, states and the federal gov-
ment can work seamlessly to safe-
ed citizens.

The seven organizations include
Co, the National League of Cities
C), the International City County
agement Association (ICMA), the
onal Association of Development
anizations (NADO), the USDA Co-
ative Extension Service (CREES),
National Association of County and
Health Officials (NACCHO), and
International Association of Emer-
y Managers (IAEM).

Entitled First Responders Com-
bat BioTerrorism, the broadcast will
address issues affecting all local gov-
ernments — rural, suburban and ur-
ban areas. Despite the fact that the
Sept. 11 terrorist attacks were aimed
at large metropolitan areas — New
York, and Arlington County, Va. —
terrorism could affect all of America,
including for example, agricultural
production sites, chemical plants,
nuclear power plants and federal fa-
cilities located in rural areas.

The broadcast aims to prepare
people to respond to all bioterrorist
situations by devising and using re-
gional plans. Such plans should in-
clude how to coordinate local, state
and federal responses to long-term
threats as well as dealing with im-
mediate cataclysmic situations.

Part I is from 1-2 p.m. Eastern
Standard Time (adjust locally). It
will include a five-minute introduc-
tion by Homeland Security Chief,

Tom Ridge (invited) and NACo and
NLC executive directors.

It will also feature a tabletop ex-
ercise viewers will witness nation-
wide. This exercise, or simulation,
will state and analyze the verbal re-
actions to a cataclysmic bioterrorist
situation. The moderator will pose
various "what ifs" to people respon-
sible for local safety, well-being and
community functions in a commu-
nity. These are "first responders,"
such as a county manager, a city
official, an emergency manager, a
fireman, a sheriff, a health officer
and a county extension agent.

On cue, each will outline the
steps they would take, their consid-
erations, which other "first respon-
ders" and "later responders" they
would contact, and the effects their
decisions and actions would likely
to have on various segments of the
population. The moderator will con-
tinually "spin" the scenario by chang-

ing the dangers and possible im-
pacts, and asking how these first
responders would change their ac-
tions with each new circumstance.
Following the simulation, the na-
tional audience will be able to an-
alyze the process by questioning mem-
bers of the group themselves by
phone, e-mail and fax.

Following a five-minute break,
the second segment will run from 2-
3 p.m. This section provides ex-
amples of real and proposed bio-
terrorist threats to several commu-
nities. Representatives of each locality
outline the regional responses
mounted against these threats and
examine the lessons to be learned.

They will discuss their state or
preparedness, the short and long-term
strategies used or proposed, the im-
pacts on health and safety and the
local economy and the social and
psychological harm each threat posed.

Among the communities proposed

for this section are San Jose, Calif.,
Wasco County, Ore., Palm Beach
County, Fla., Ohio and North Caro-
lina. Topics include agricultural prod-
uct security, purposeful food contami-
nation, the introduction of anthrax or
smallpox, and hoof and mouth dis-
ease. A second question and answer
period will follow these examples.

Downlink guides, including
background materials for participants
and technical information, will be
sent to site coordinators that register
a site. The downlink guide will also
be posted on NACo's Web site
www.naco.org. All sites are encour-
aged to set up a discussion following
the broadcast about their own pre-
paredness and regional plans.

(To register or obtain more in-
formation, e-mail your request to
NACo's Education Division
education@naco.org or call Phyllis
Pines at (202) 942-4299.)

Broward County, Fla. program helps young fire setters

BY M. MINDY MORETTI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

With her son happily sitting in the
hen enjoying an after school snack,
Mucklow stepped outside for just

a moment. When she returned, she
was greeted by the unmistakable smell
of a recently lit match.

Turning to 10-year old Alexander,
Mucklow questioned the boy, who

repeatedly denied lighting matches.
After searching the entire kitchen,
Mucklow finally found a pack of
matches, as well as two spent matches,
in Alexander's pants pocket.

Concerned for the safety of her
son, her family and her home,
Mucklow turned to the only place she
could think, the Broward County Fire
Department. Luckily for the Mucklow
family, as well as thousands of other
families, the county is home to the
Juvenile Fire Setter Network.

Developed in 1990 by Division
Chief Charles Rakin, the program
combines family therapy with fire
prevention education and other social
interventions to help children under-
stand the dangers of setting fires.

"We started realizing that we were
having a lot of fires started by chil-
dren, and people were looking for
help and we had nowhere to send
these people crying out for help,"
Rakin said. "We recognized we had
to get something going, and I got with
the county commission and it took us
about a week and I had everybody in
the world in the room and they dove-
tailed us into these already existing
programs. It was great."

The program, which is completely
self-sufficient through in-kind ser-
vices and time volunteered by
firefighters, is a two-pronged pro-
gram. Children are referred to the
program either by the court system or
a family member and within two
weeks, often much less, the children

are enrolled in the counseling ses-
sions and attending fire prevention
programs at one of the county's 24
fire stations. The program was re-
cently the subject of a study pub-
lished in the *American Journal of
Forensic Psychology*.

"They go to counseling first, and
we really want them to understand
that there is a consequence to what
they are doing," Rakin said.

The state attorney works with the
fire department and in many cases,
when a child has started a fire, if the
child successfully completes the pro-
gram, they will withhold adjudication.

Since its inception over 10 years
ago, more than 2,000 families have
participated in the program and while
no statistics on program efficacy are
available, it is noted that the program
has reduced recidivism.

One of the requirements of the
program is that a family member must
attend with the child.

Mucklow and Alexander attended
the program together, and she attests
to the power of the public education
portion of the program.

"They showed him these movies,
really explicit movies about what
happens in fires, and he absorbed
every word of that movie and it made
a great impact on him," Mucklow
explained. "They just don't know the
consequences, and then he saw these
movies and that was great."

The two biggest months for juve-
nile fires in Broward County are Feb-

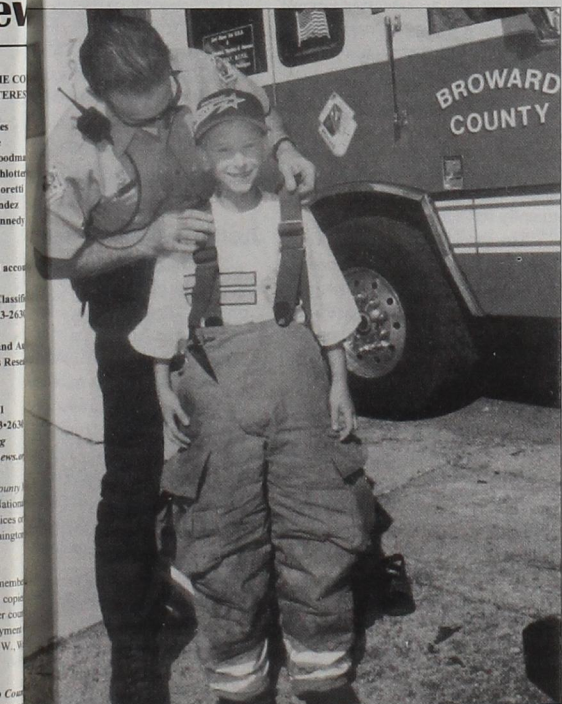
ruary and July, and the biggest of-
fenders are African American boys
aged three to seven and Caucasian
boys ages nine to 12.

All members of the county's
firefighting staff are trained to spot
potential juvenile fire setters and ac-
company the fire marshal when in-
vestigating suspicious fires. While
firefighters are required to have eight
hours of public education training,
Rakin said Broward County goes be-
yond those hours to require more
extensive training, particularly in the
field of juvenile fire setting.

"Our firefighters don't even leave
the scene until the investigators show
up," Rakin said. "Years ago, the cops
and fire guys would say 'Oh, it's just
a kid playing.' But they realized they
weren't helping anyone and now they
see it for the problem it is now and the
potential problem it can be. We're
very serious about getting the chil-
dren in the program."

When Rakin speaks of the pro-
gram, you can hear the pride and
accomplishment in his voice. And
while the program is extremely suc-
cessful, Rakin and the county fire
department are not resting on their
laurels. There are future plans to take
the program into schools and into the
homes of those identified as potential
fire setters.

"I never expected it to go this
well," Rakin says. "We still have
some room for improvement, but it's
still amazing how far we've come."



Broward County (Fla.) Fire Rescue Firefighter/Paramedic Mark Cantor
stands with Alexander Mucklow, a graduate of the Fire Setters Network,
with the tools of the trade.

Administration proposes significant change to Community Development Block Grant

BUDGET from page 1

The budget proposes reforms to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to return its focus to low-income communities by redirecting funds from the wealthiest, highest-income communities to lower-income areas. The Administration believes requiring that more CDBG funds be provided to those communities with the greatest need will make the program truer to its intended purpose and less like a general revenue sharing program.

• Homeownership

To promote the development of affordable single-family housing in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods, the budget proposes a tax credit of up to 50 percent of the cost of constructing a new home or rehabilitating an existing property. Eligible homebuyers would be required to have incomes of not more than 80 percent of area median income.

The budget substantially increases the Down Payment Assistance Initiative from its 2002 level of \$50 million to \$200 million. Through HUD's HOME program, this initiative provides state and local governments with matching grants to provide down payment assistance to first-time home buyers.

• Rural Development

The budget for rural development programs within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) received essentially the same funding as FY02 levels. Several rural development programs of importance to rural elected officials were either slightly increased or decreased in funding levels. Proposed spending for FY03 for the Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP) included an increase of \$3 million for water and waste disposal grants from \$584 million to \$587 million. Also included under RCAP is the community facilities grant program that finances essential community facilities such as health care clinics, police and fire stations, schools, and child care centers. This program was cut by \$8 million down to \$17 million. Telemedicine grants were cut by \$3 million from \$28 million to \$25 million.

• Election reform

The budget requests \$400 million for states and counties to purchase new voting machines and for election administration costs.

Health Programs

• Medicaid Financing/UPL

The budget does not assume any additional cuts to Medicare Upper Payment Limit (UPL) or the Dis-

proportionate Share Hospital payment program (DSH). The Administration's budget does assume, however, that the final regulation published last month on the UPL will be implemented and will save \$9 billion over 10 years. Budget documents cite the abuses that the HHS Inspector General has discovered in a number of states.

The budget also includes \$10 million to assist HHS in increasing the number of audits and evaluations of state Medicaid programs.

The Administration does assume that the two-year moratorium on further cuts to DSH will expire on Oct. 1, as slated under current law. If allowed to expire, the cut will cost hospitals at least \$1.2 billion in FY03.

• Medicaid financing of school-based health

The Administration announced it will release clarifying guidelines this year on the ability of schools to bill for Medicaid services. It notes that some school systems have entered into contracts with consulting firms to take advantage of the program, and the firms have been paid on a contingency basis. That practice and other abuses will be addressed in the guide.

• SCHIP

The Administration's budget would allow states to retain the nearly \$3.2 billion in unused funds for the State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) program. Under current law, states that did not use their full allotment during the previous three years are required to return the funds to the U.S. Treasury.

Funds due to expire in FY02 and FY03 would remain available until FY06 for states to cover additional children and/or their parents. Extending SCHIP will also save the Medicaid program \$730 million over five years due to children being covered by SCHIP rather than Medicaid.

• Transitional Medicaid benefits

The Administration, which is slated to expire on Oct. 1, has budgeted a one year extension of \$350 million to continue Medicaid eligibility for up to one year for families who have left welfare.

• Bioterrorism/hospital preparedness

The budget includes \$518 million in FY03 for hospital preparedness and infrastructure. These funds are in addition to the \$135 million released last week. The grants are to be used to upgrade the capacity of hospitals, outpatient facilities, and emergency medical services systems to prepare and care for victims of bioterrorism.

• Bioterrorism/public health preparedness

The Administration includes \$940 million for increasing the capacity of state and local public health departments to respond to disease outbreaks, including bioterrorism events. This funding is in addition to the \$865 million in FY02 funding released last week. Of the \$940 million, it appears that states and localities are to receive the same funding (\$865 million) as last year. The funds are to be used for a number of initiatives, including: expanding the Health Alert Network which links public health agencies through the Internet; disease detection, planning and coordination between agencies, and training exercises which include public health and hospital systems.

• Bioterrorism/health communications

The Administration proposes a \$392 million initiative to create a national information management system that provides timely information to first responders. Included is \$202 million that links emergency medical responders with health care providers, and \$175 million to assist states and local public health agencies to purchase communications equipment.

• Tax Credits for health insurance

The budget contains a \$1,000 per person tax credit for low to middle income individuals who purchase private health insurance. Families with two or more children and incomes under \$25,000 could receive up to \$3,000 in credits. The credit phases out at \$60,000 for families. A similar proposal was made last year. The plan is estimated to cost \$89 billion over 10 years.

• Ryan White, AIDS

The Administration proposes to freeze funding for AIDS programs funded by the Ryan White CARE Act at last year's level of \$1.9 billion.

• Community Health Centers

Bush is requesting an 8 percent increase (\$114 million) to a level of \$1.5 billion for community health centers. The increase is the second installment in a multi-year effort to increase the number of sites by 1,200 from the approximately 3,000 that exist today. This proposal would create about 170 new and expanded health centers.

• Maternal and child health (MCH)

The Administration proposes current level funding of \$739 million for MCH.

• Substance abuse/mental health block grants

The Administration is requesting a \$60 million increase, to \$1.785 billion for the substance abuse block grant and current level funding of \$433 million for the Mental Health block grant.

• Community Access Program (CAP)

Similar to last year's proposal, the Administration is proposing to eliminate the \$120 million CAP program, an initiative to provide grants to health systems to improve access for the uninsured. The budget states that the money would be better used in expanding community health centers.

Human Services Programs

The president's proposal gives a few hints on where the administration is headed with this year's reauthorization of the 1996 welfare reform law. The most detailed information is the proposal regarding immigrant eligibility for food stamps. The Administration would extend food stamp eligibility to those legal immigrants who have resided in the United States for five years and meet the program's income criteria.

Under current law, legal immigrants cannot qualify for food stamps until they have paid 40 quarters of Social Security taxes. The food stamp program is part of the farm bill Congress is considering right now. The president's proposal is seen as a boost to provisions in the Senate bill that would expand legal immigrants' eligibility.

The House bill does not include immigrant provisions. The 1996 welfare reform law removed legal immigrants from the food stamp program, but some groups were subsequently reinstated.

The president's proposal would keep the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to states at its current funding of \$16.7 billion, and restore the supplemental population grants (\$319 million) and the contingency fund (\$2 billion), which expired last year. The president's proposal would fund the Child Care and Development Block grant at current levels.

The block grant is divided into an entitlement program, funded at \$2.7 billion and a discretionary program funded at \$2.1 billion.

Similarly, the president would extend the Transitional Medicaid Assistance Program through FY03. This program provides 12 months of continued Medicaid eligibility to families that are no longer eligible for TANF because of increased earnings.

The budget proposal also mentions that the Administration plans to

include changes to the TANF requirements and maintenance effort when they submit their reauthorization proposal to Congress, but the full details are not given.

The Administration also plans to change the out-of-wedlock reduction bonus to research, technical assistance and demonstration programs for broader family initiative. The president's budget also includes \$350 million for child support enforcement proposals. Beginning in FY05, the federal government would share the cost of passing through child support collections directly to the families.

The direct pass-through would remain optional, and the federal share would be for states that distribute child support as income for eligibility purposes.

The federal share would be greater of \$100 month or \$50 over current state pass-through.

The president also proposes a \$25 annual fee to families to receive child support collections through the federal child support system. The Administration would reinstate a requirement that states review and just child support orders for families every three years.

The president's proposals also hold the line on funding for the Services Block Grant and the programs funded by the Older Americans Act, with the exception of a \$1 billion increase for home delivered meals.

The president, however, is proposing to reduce the flexible transfer 10 percent of the TANF grant to SSBG (Social Services Block Grant) to 4.25 percent. This authority was reduced several years ago, and it has subsequently been restored to 10 percent through appropriations process.

Justice and Public Safety

The Justice Department requests the elimination of the Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funded currently at \$100 million. In addition, it consolidates the Local Law Enforcement Grant program (\$400 million) with the Byrne Formula Grant program (\$1 billion) under a new \$800 million Justice Assistance Grant Program.

While many of the administration details for the new program are being developed, the Administration claims that the consolidation makes sense because the two programs have similar purposes. There is, however, a big difference. The LLBG provides direct block grants to local governments by formula.

The Byrne grants are block grants to the states with mandatory

See **BUDGET** on page 7

GET from page 6

ough provisions. Under Byrne, a crime commission selects the categories of funding and decides which local governments are to receive the funds. The Justice Department maintains that overall support for local government increases since education is redirected and consolidated within FEMA's budget for first responders (see the top of the story). The president's budget also proposes \$350 million for FEMA flood mapping, up from only \$32 million in FY02. NACo has been calling for increased funding for this program.

Workforce Investment Act Programs

The proposed reductions in Workforce Investment Act programs are severe. The proposed budget would all but eliminate the Youth Opportunity Grants program and re-

duce by nearly one-tenth the year-round youth program and dislocated worker programs would be cut by nearly 15 percent.

Such reductions in funding are coming at the same time that unemployment remains at near record levels and the nation faces severe workforce shortages in fields for which some level of training is needed.

NACo believes that funding for these programs must be enhanced, rather than diminished, to ensure that America's counties can continue to achieve one of President George W. Bush's three announced goals—overcoming the recession and moving people into jobs.

PILT

The president's budget cuts the PILT program from \$210 million in FY02 to \$165 million for FY03. The rationale given for this cut is that the Department of the Interior had to

make some difficult budget choices and since many of the decisions were based on performance measures, PILT does not fit into the conservation mission of the department.

Transportation

The FY03 transportation budget provides an overall spending decrease for the U.S. Department of Transportation. Total funding will be decreased from the current level of \$59.5 billion to \$52.8 billion.

The highway program, whose funding level is guaranteed under Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), accounts for a substantial part of that decrease and will be cut by \$8.6 billion from the current level of \$31.8 billion to \$23.2 billion, a 27 percent reduction. This funds programs such as the Surface Transportation Program and the Bridge Program that provide federal dollars for county projects.

The reason for this cut is lower estimated tax revenue coming into the Highway Trust Fund and some less than accurate revenue forecasting.

Under TEA-21, a mechanism was included in the law called the Revenue Aligned Budget Authority, (RABA), that allowed spending above the authorized level if anticipated revenue projections showed extra funds coming into the Highway Trust Fund.

In the current year, this extra funding totaled \$4.5 billion, a number that has apparently proved to be too optimistic. That plus a lower estimate for the upcoming fiscal year has resulted in a downward adjustment.

Transit funding, also guaranteed under TEA-21, will be increased by 5 percent to a level of \$7.2 billion. This includes \$3.8 billion for the formula program that provides \$3.3 billion for large and small-urbanized areas and \$235 million for the rural transit program. The capital investment pro-

gram gets \$3 billion that includes \$1.2 billion for new starts, \$1.2 billion for rail modernization and \$607 million for the bus program.

Another transit program, the Job Access and Reverse Commute program is increased from \$125 million to \$150 million. The Airport Improvement Program, which provides funds for infrastructure projects at local government owned airports, is funded at \$3.4 billion, basically the same level as the current year.

The Small Community Air Service Development Program, a new program and a priority for NACo, was funded this year for the first time at a level of \$20 million and receives no funding in this budget. Essential Air Service, which subsidizes air service to small and rural communities, is level funded at \$113 million. Funding for Amtrak is proposed at \$521 million, a cut from current year funding of \$621 million.

President's Proposed FY03 Federal Budget

Figures shown are in the millions.

Program	Actual FY02	Proposed FY03	Difference	Percentage Change
Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP - Overall)	3,490	2,760	-730	-26
Water & Waste Disposal Grants	584	587	3	+5
Community Facilities Grants	25	17	-8	-47
Telemedicine Grants	28	25	-3	-12
CDBG	4,968	4,700	-268	-6
HOME	1,870	1,970	100	+5
EPA-Clean Water				
State Revolving Fund	1,350	1,212	138	-10
EPA-Drinking Water				
State Revolving Fund	850	850	0	0
EPA-Nonpoint Source Grants	237	238	1	0
EPA-Brownfields (for localities)	98	121	23	+23
HUD - Brownfields	25	25	0	0
Election Reform	0	400	400	+100
Hospital Preparedness	135	518	383	+283
State & Local				
Bioterrorism Preparedness	940	940	0	0
Community Access Program	120	0	120	-100
Substance Abuse Block Grant	1,725	1,785	60	+3
Mental Health Block Grant	433	433	0	0
Maternal and Child Health	739	739	0	0
Ryan White AIDS	1,900	1,900	0	0
Food Stamps	21,473	22,920	1,447	+6.7
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	16,700	19,000	2,300	+14
Child Care and Development Block Grant	4,800	4,800	0	0
Child Support Enforcement	3,448	3,517	69	+2
Medicaid Transition	350	350	0	0
Social Services Block Grant	1,700	1,700	0	0
Older Americans Act (OAA) Congregate meals	492	492	0	0

Program	Actual FY02	Proposed FY03	Difference	Percentage Change
(OAA) - Support services & centers	357	357	0	0
(OAA) - Home delivered meals	223	225	2	+1
(OAA) - Family caregiver support	141	141	0	0
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant	400	0	-400	-100
Byrne Memorial Block Grant	595	0	-595	-100
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)	565	0	-565	-100
Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant	249	215	34	-14.7
Juvenile Justice	286	238	48	-16.8
Drug Courts	50	52	2	+4
COPS	1,000	600	-400	-40
Justice Assistance Grant Program	0	800	800	+100
FEMA - First Responder Initiative	0	3,500	3,500	+100
FEMA - Flood Plain Mapping	32	350	350	+1093
Workforce Investment Act (WIA) - Adult	950	900	-50	-5
WIA - Year Round Youth	1,103	1,000	-103	-9
WIA - Youth Opportunity Grants	225	45	180	-80
WIA - Dislocated Workers	1,590	1,383	207	13
Stateside LWCF	140	200	60	+43
PILT 210	165	-45	-21.4	
Technology Opportunity Program	15	0	-15	-100
Federal Highway Obligation Ceiling	31,800	23,200	8,600	-27
Transit - Total	6,900	7,200	300	+5
Transit - Formula	3,600	3,800	200	+5
Transit - Rural	223	235	12	+4
Transit - Capital Investment	2,800	3,000	200	+7
Access to Jobs and Training	125	150	25	+20
Airport Improvement Program	3,470	3,400	-70	-2
Small Community Air Service Program	20	0	-20	-100
Essential Air Service	113	113	0	0
AMTRAK	621	521	-100	-16
Transportation Security Agency	1,300	4,800	3,500	+29

Mark Your Calendar for a Critically Important Satellite and Web Broadcast...

"First Responders Combat Bio-Terrorism"

Satellite and Web broadcast on preventing and mobilizing against bio-terrorism

When: Thursday, March 21, 2002 • 1-3 p.m. Eastern Time (test & tone 12:30-1 p.m.)

Where: Satellite downlink sites nationwide and on the Internet.

Why: To showcase and promote a regional approach to bio-terrorism threats by county, city, state, and federal agencies, especially by the "first responders" of local government.

Who: Anyone responsible for a community's well being should attend—county and city officials, emergency response personnel, sheriffs, fire departments, public health officials and workers, transportation and infrastructure managers, school system administrators, power plant managers, water system administrators, etc.

How: The broadcast/Web cast will demonstrate the necessity for regional approaches to bio-terrorism and strategies for achieving region-wide cooperation. It will feature a simulation of various catastrophic factors besetting a fictional community. It will also show examples of approaches counties and cities have taken for several of the factors in the simulation.

Satellite downlink sites and Web broadcast sites involving groups must register and pay a \$150 fee. An individual at a single computer (desktop) must register and pay a \$25 fee. Satellite downlink coordinates, computer passwords, and Downlink Guides will be provided when registration and payment are made.

Sponsors:

The NACo Association of Counties (NACo)
The National League of Cities (NLC)
The International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)
The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA—CREES)
The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)

Contact: Education@naco.org



Registration Form...

Please Note Process:

There is a \$150 registration fee for viewing this at a satellite broadcast site or as a group on a web broadcast site.

There is a \$25 registration fee for individuals viewing this alone at their computer. This 2-page form, along with a check, purchase order, or credit card number, must be received by NACo. Upon receipt, NACo will FAX back a confirmation, along with satellite coordinates or the web address and password.

A Downlink Guide for the broadcast, containing materials to photocopy for site participants, will be available on NACo's web site at www.naco.org by March 8. Sites may register until March 20. However, sites that want NACo to mail their site coordinator a Downlink Guide must send their registration form to NACo by March 14. (Only Site coordinators will receive a Downlink Guide.) Note that the broadcast content outline and presenters are subject to change until air time.

Please supply ALL requested information.
Do so by filling out Part A or Part B and Part C. Please print clearly.

PART A: GROUP SITE

(For Satellite Downlink or a Group Viewing the Web Broadcast)

Please Check one

- ☐ This is a satellite downlink site. Please send coordinates along with the confirmation.
- ☐ This is a site using a Web link/video projection for a large group. Please send the URL and password along with the confirmation.

Site Location: _____ (Name of Facility)
Site Address: _____

Name of Site Coordinator: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

Email: _____

Coordinator's Address (A Downlink Guide will be sent here upon request.)

Name of Satellite Site Technician or Web Technician: _____

Phone (Broadcast Day) _____ (Critical Information!)

FAX (Broadcast Day) _____ (Critical Information!)

PART B: INDIVIDUAL WEB VIEWER

- ☐ I wish to view the webcast solo, on my computer.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

County: _____ State: _____

Email: _____

(Print clearly, please. URL and password will be sent here.)

PART C: ALL MUST FILL OUT

DOWNLINK GUIDE (Check one)

- ☐ I will get the Downlink Guide from www.naco.org. Do not send it.
- ☐ Please send a Downlink Guide to our site coordinator at the address listed above.

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Payment Choices (Please Fill in Appropriate Information Below.)

- ☐ Check Enclosed. (\$150 for a group at a satellite downlink site or at a large group web site or \$25 for an individual at their desktop.)

- ☐ Purchase Order with Number and Authorized Signature Attached. (\$150 for a group, as described above.)

- ☐ Credit Card _____ AE _____ V _____ MC _____ Discover

No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____

FOR SECURITY PURPOSES, PLEASE EITHER MAIL OR CALL IN CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.

• Send this form and your check or credit card information to NACo Broadcast, P.O. Box 79007 Baltimore, MD 21279-0007. Make your check out to NACo.

• FAX this form and purchase order with number and authorized signature to (202)737-0480.

• FAX this form to the number listed directly above and also CALL Phyllis Pines at (202)942-4299 with your credit card information.

NOTE: Registrations cannot be processed without all requested information. Please do not skip any. Need a Downlink Site or Group Web Site to Try? NACo has compiled lists of past downlink sites and hotels where groups can see the webcast on a projection screen. To hear about them, please call Phyllis Pines at (202) 942-4299.

Utah counties undertake an olympian effort

By M. MINDY MORETTI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As the athletes of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City compete, and the scores of Olympic personnel keep the show running, the thousands of volunteers do their part, it's business as usual in the counties surrounding the Olympic venues. Well, almost.

With flexible work schedules, liberal leave policies and double shifts in place, the governments in counties surrounding the Salt Lake Games, are working to continue providing services to their constituents while allowing employees to participate in the Games and keep athletes and visitors safe.

While none of the counties in the area are giving employees special leave specifically to volunteer for the Games, many are allowing department heads to work with their employees to take regular leave during the two weeks to volunteer or otherwise participate in the Games. "We have several people volunteering during the Games and we

have worked with them and their supervisors to make sure that time was available," explained David Rowley, personnel director for Wasatch County. "And we are giving everyone off for the torch run when it comes through the county."

And in order to accommodate potential traffic tie-ups, some counties with venues in them, such as Utah County, are shifting the hours of some county departments to al-

low employees to leave by 2 p.m. This gets the employee traffic off the roads and frees up parking lots for spectators.

While the counties are working hard to keep it business as usual, there has had to be a bit of give and take to accommodate the Games. In Salt Lake County, the epicenter for the Games of the XIX Olympiad, the county council was forced to cancel its regularly scheduled meeting.

"We have canceled our meeting for next Tuesday and we'll play catch up the following week," explained

Commissioner Marvin Hendrickson. "But our facility is far enough away from downtown that we've asked everyone to maintain their schedules."

In addition to working with their own employees during the Games, quite a few of the counties in the area have been asked to provide additional support personnel to the Games such as security and health department personnel. Sheriffs' departments in the surrounding counties have worked with the Secret Service and other federal agencies in the months and years leading up to the Games to provide the safest experience possible.

"We're expecting the unexpected," Rowley said. "We've spent years of planning and preparation and we feel we're able to handle anything."

Aside from assisting in security measures before and throughout the Games, the biggest efforts of local law enforcement will go to traffic situations. All this while continuing to perform their regular duties.

"We're doubling up the shifts so there will be no lack of service," explained Utah County Commissioner Gary Herbert. "They [the sheriff's deputies] are

going to be putting in a few more hours over the next few weeks. But we need to maintain our services while providing additional services for the Olympics."

The Utah Olympics Public Safety Command (UOPSC) signed contracts with counties throughout the state to provide additional public safety coverage at the venues and throughout the area during the Games. The funding for the Games coverage and for any overtime necessary during the games will come from UOPSC.

Counties are also providing staff from their health departments to help inspect the set ups for food vendors, not only in the athletes village where thousands of athletes will be fed at least three meals a day, but also in the concession areas for spectators.

But it won't be all work and no play. Herbert animatedly discussed some of the more fun aspects of the next two weeks including an ice carving competition and an ice village at the historic courthouse in Provo.

"It's been an olympian effort to get to this point," Herbert said. "But now there are also going to be some opportunities to have fun as well."

Counties and the Environment at a Glance

What issues are important to local officials? How are county officials across the country tackling these issues? We've taken a glimpse into the what, who and hows of county environmental issues and programs as reported in NACo's 2001 Operations Survey.

Focus on Wetlands

Is your county implementing wetland protection or restoration?

Yes	45 percent
No	52 percent

Which of the following wetland protection/restoration activities have been implemented by your county?

Resolutions	24 percent
Ordinances	21 percent
Policy	22 percent
MOU/partnership agreements	14 percent
Public education efforts	18 percent
Other	4 percent

These figures were taken from NACo's 2001 Operations Survey. The counties selected to participate in this year's survey were divided into eight population categories.

From these categories, a stratified sample of 365 counties representing 47 states were selected to participate, with 85 counties from 39 states responding.

(For more information on NACo's Operations Survey, or to order a copy of the complete survey, contact Joseph Hansen, research assistant at (202) 661-8834 or jhansen@naco.org. To learn more about NACo's environmental programs, contact Jason Shedlock, environmental assistant, at (202) 942-4252 or jshedlock@naco.org.)

Counties sue lead industry for paint-related damages

Twelve counties in California, Texas, Mississippi and New Jersey have sued the lead industry for damages stemming from lead-based paint. In addition, over 20 cities, including San Francisco, Oakland, Calif., Milwaukee, Wis., Newark, N.J. and St. Louis, three school districts and the state of Rhode Island have filed complaints.

It is time to hold the lead pigment manufacturers responsible for the "lives they have ruined and the damage they have caused," said Union County, (N.J.) Freeholder Chairman Al Mirabella, in a Dec. 23, 2001 *Star-Ledger* article.

Counties and other governmental entities have incurred significant costs stemming from the presence of lead-based paint in public and private buildings, including housing. Most of the lawsuits seek to recover public expenditures to detect and abate lead hazards, perform medical screening and treatment, and educate the public about the dangers of lead-based paint.

In addition, the plaintiffs have requested punitive damages, on the grounds defendants maliciously and intentionally concealed the hazards

of lead-based paint.

Many of the jurisdictions allege the companies created an environmental hazard that is interfering with the health, safety and comfort of their residents. They have asked the courts to order the defendants to abate this public nuisance.

Childhood lead poisoning remains the number one environmental health threat to children in this country. Children exposed to low levels of lead are subject to reduced IQ and attention span, reading and learning disabilities, impaired growth, hearing loss and a range of other health, intellectual and behavioral effects. The primary source of exposure in the United States today is lead-contaminated household dust from lead-based paint in older homes.

The Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating the disease, believes the lead industry should help clean up the hazard it created. "For decades, the industry aggressively promoted lead-based paint as safe for use in homes, schools, hospitals and nurseries, claiming that it promoted health and sanitation. Although the industry

internally acknowledged the hazards of lead-based paint early in the 1900s, it concealed them from the public. To date, however, the lead industry has not contributed dime one to addressing the problem," said a spokesperson for the Alliance.

"More importantly, these lawsuits have the potential to generate urgently needed resources to eliminate lead hazards in high-risk, older housing. With 40 percent of the U.S. housing stock contaminated by lead-based paint, substantial resources are needed to protect children from lead exposure. Lead poisoning is an entirely preventable disease, but prevention requires acquiring additional resources and targeting them to protect children at greatest risk."

The Alliance is working with health experts, legal thinkers and community leaders to develop principles that should shape remedies and settlements to maximally advance prevention.

(For additional information on the Alliance or the lawsuits, please contact Eileen Quinn at equinn@aecpl.org, (202) 543-1147, or visit the Alliance's Web site at www.aecpl.org.)

Nationwide technology at work for NACdo

To meet its mission to assure a program that is competitive and meets the needs of its participants, NACo's Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee recently visited Nationwide Retirement Solutions and saw first-hand how technology serves county employees and their retirement needs. (NACo's is the only 457 deferred compensation program in the country that receives oversight by county participants.)

At the committee's meeting in January, members toured NRS' new home office in Columbus, Ohio and observed how Nationwide uses telephone-based and online technologies to serve plan participants.

Managing phone service

The committee learned about the four applications NRS uses to ensure that the quality of its telephone service is timely and proactive, as well as reactive and responsive. For instance, in a demonstration of a technology called CentreVu, customer service representatives and managers were able to track call lengths and volumes so they can reallocate resources with the click of a button as needs ebb and flow. CentreVu also stores data so managers can use daily, weekly and monthly reports to identify trends and opportunities.



Photo courtesy of Nationwide Retirement Solutions

The newest member of NACo's Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee, Jimmy Morales, Miami-Dade County (Fla.) commissioner (r), along with his colleagues, is briefed on NRS' customer service division during the committee's tour of NRS' headquarters in Columbus, Ohio.

SYMOM, which links directly to CentreVu, pulls call center data by the half-hour, reports in "ticker-style" format and shows the number of calls waiting, average wait times, available representatives, and service level per half-hour for each regional team. When call volumes

spike sharply higher, SYMOM electronically pages the regional manager so he or she can personally attend to the situation.

In addition to making sure that NACo's participants are responded to on a timely basis, Nationwide also employs a system called NICE to

record all incoming and outgoing customer-service calls.

Managers can sample the calls and review key impressions with each customer service representative in an effort to maintain the high service quality. The NICE tool includes a screen-capture function to help man-

agers "see what the customer service representative saw" as (s)he used computer to serve the caller. The feature is useful for determining training needs or offering coaching training.

Finding answers online, quickly

The advisory committee also saw how NRS' retirement specialists use customer service representatives' online resources to reduce paperwork and respond to participant needs more quickly. These resources include:

- an intranet service, known as RNET, that houses case-specific information, legislative changes, pertinent internal data, and questions and answer guides, giving service reps access to answers while talking to a county employee so follow-up calls are not necessary;
- through various Microsoft Access databases, NRS employees can track customer inquiries, log fund exchanges, and process unforeseeable emergency distribution requests — among routine customer service processes — only creating a streamlined process for the handling of customer concerns they arise.

To assure service integrity, electronic processes — whether by phone, database or online — are fully secure and backed up off-site daily.

Counties vote for parks and open space

Seventeen counties were among the 137 local governments that passed open space ballot measures in 2001, according to a new report issued by the Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust Alliance.

LandVote 2001, an annual accounting of state and local funding for parks and open space funding, provides details on all of the ballot measures for conservation funding in 2001. It includes analysis, recommendations of counties and towns, and documents the continuing trend of strong voter support for open space.

LandVote 2001 found that a total of 196 different open space measures were considered by voters in 2001. Of these, 137 were approved, generating nearly \$1.7 billion in funding for parks, farmland, wildlife and other open space purposes. Since 1998, voters have given support to more than \$19 billion in open space funding, passing 529 referenda. During that period, 83 of 107 county measures were successful, a 78 percent success rate.

In 2001, 17 of 22 county ballot

measures for land protection passed (77 percent), including large measures in California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey and Texas.

Morris County, N.J., had the largest single measure in the country, increasing its existing open space tax by \$9.6 million annually, or \$192 million over a 20-year period.

Morris County Freeholder (commissioner) Jack Schrier summed up the positive impact that voter-approved funding for land conservation has played in his county. "Since its inception in 1993, the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Program has helped safeguard more than 10,000 acres. Now, with our latest successful referendum, many more thousands of acres will join them. No, an 'asphalt jungle' we will never be." New Jersey's long tradition of state and local land conservation is profiled in LandVote.

Among the other county measures approved in 2001 were,

- Middlesex County, N.J., \$188 million for land conservation, recreation, farmland or historic preservation

- Santa Clara County, Calif., \$160 million for the acquisition, preservation and development of open space, parks, trails, and waterways

- DeKalb County, Ga., \$125 million for parks and green space

- McHenry County, Ill., \$68.5 million for open space, wildlife habitats, recreation and water supply protection

- Harris County, Texas, \$60 million for acquisition and development of parks

- Douglas County, Colo., \$43 million for open space, wildlife habitats, and agricultural lands

- Lake County, Fla., \$30 million for park preservation

- Orange County, N.C., \$20 million for parks, open space and recreational facilities, and

- Greene County, Mo., \$18.7 million for parks, trails and historical and natural resource protection.

LandVote 2001, a partnership of the Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust Alliance, is available through either organization's Web site: www.tpl.org or www.lta.org.

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

Homeland security and recidivism focus of retreat

By DONALD MURRAY

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

NACo's Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee meeting in Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 23-26, devoted its annual retreat to two major issues facing county governments: homeland security and the reintegration of inmates back into the community.

Monroe County (Pa.) Commissioner James Cadue, chair of NACo's Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee, set the tone for the meeting by highlighting the role of counties in preventing terrorist attacks and by emphasizing the importance of lowering jail recidivism rates in order to achieve major cost savings during a period of crisis.

Cadue noted that thousands of municipalities have, for many years, contracted with counties for specialized and regionalized services, including such preventative purposes as DNA testing, regional laboratories, advanced law enforcement training, record keeping, communications, regional intelligence systems and the like.

Exploring the relationship between homeland security and prisoner re-entry, Cadue quoted from a column by veteran columnist of the *New York Times*:

"The costs of jail and prison



Photo by Donald Murray

Duncan Campbell, (r) director of intergovernmental affairs, White House Office on Homeland Security, chats with Jefferson County (Colo.) Commissioner Patricia Holloway (left), vice chair, Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee; and Monroe County (Pa.) Commissioner Jim Cadue, committee chairman.

were already high," Butterfield observed. "After Sept. 11 with governments looking to save tax dollars, it's all the more important to rethink re-entry as a way to both save money and increase security."

"Recidivism rates at the state and at the county level have simply gone through the roof," Cadue added. In some jurisdictions 50, 60 and even 70 percent of the inmates are returning to jail."

Patrick M. Libbey, president of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), an affiliate of NACo and director of the Thurston County, Wash. Department of Public Health and Social Services, gave a status report on public health preparedness at the county level.

Libbey, a former NACo board member, indicated that a bioterrorism incident was no longer hypothetical and one high level federal official predicted such an incident was likely to occur within the next several months.

As far as county public health departments are concerned, Libbey noted, "We are not unprepared but we are not fully prepared."

Of some 3,000 local public health agencies in the United States, 60 percent are organized around single counties, 8 percent are multi-county, 10 percent are part of a district, 7 percent are found within city-county consolidated governments and 15 percent are townships and other models.

Among the most common public health responsibilities counties perform are

- communicable disease control
- immunizations
- public education, and
- epidemiology and surveillance.

Libbey stressed that combating bioterrorism was largely a local mat-

ter. "It's communities where emergencies occur — that's where they happen and that's where they will be initially detected and responded to," he said. "Emergencies, events don't occur at the state level," Libbey added.

The state role is supportive and responsive to work generated at the local level.

The big question Libbey asked was whether we are getting a sufficient stream of information we can analyze and determine in the event something untoward is occurring.

In late September, NACCHO conducted a survey of public health departments. Fifty-one percent rated themselves as "well prepared," 39 percent as "somewhat well prepared" and 9 percent as "not prepared."

Duncan Campbell, director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House Office on Homeland Security discussed the evolution of the Office of Homeland Security and plans to establish a state and local government advisory group.

Campbell, who has been with Gov. Tom Ridge since 1993, and served as Ridge's deputy chief of staff, discussed President George W. Bush's \$3.5 billion First Responder Initiative, which would direct significant funding to local governments.

Building on existing capabilities at the federal, state and local level, the First Responder Initiative provides incentives to engage in joint planning, comprehensive coordination and mutual aid at all levels of government.

With respect to community re-

integration of inmates, Cadue acknowledged that reintegration made sense for many, if not most leaving prison — however, he said that it also made sense for the 10 million persons leaving county jails each year.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Jails 1999, only 8 percent of all jail detainees were participating in jail education programs, and only 15 percent were receiving guidance for job placement.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics found that two-thirds of state inmates were re-arrested, within three years, after leaving prison, while 41 percent were re-incarcerated. The overall correctional costs, have also been dramatic. In 1982, state governments were spending \$9 billion on corrections but by 1997 the pricetag had climbed to \$47 billion.

"We are spending a lot of money that could be put back into prevention," Amy C. Solomon, policy associate at the Urban Institute said. Moreover, the social costs are enormous. "It isn't just a criminal justice issue. It's a public health issue, a job's issue and a family issue."

A large share of jail and prison inmates have infectious diseases, Solomon added, such as hepatitis B, yet one-third of people with hepatitis B were released back into the community from a correctional facility. Moreover, the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that 16 percent of the jail and prison population were mentally ill and one and a half million kids had a parent that was incarcerated.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Cheryl Nolan discussed the Justice Department's new "re-entry" initiative which was released on Feb. 1. The initiative is aimed at violent offenders. Approximately one half of the 1.2 million state inmates are classified as violent offenders.

Nolan said the initial requirement that an inmate spend at least 12 months in secure custody had been deleted from the program requirements but the final guidelines specify that an inmate be convicted of a Part I felony offense in order to qualify. Since convicted Part I offenders do not generally serve their time in county jails after conviction, the requirement appears to benefit only state governments.

Nolan agreed to review the entire matter this week to see if and how county concerns raised at the meeting can be addressed.

Green County Commissioner Darrell Decker, past president of the County Commissioners Association of Missouri, hosted the event.

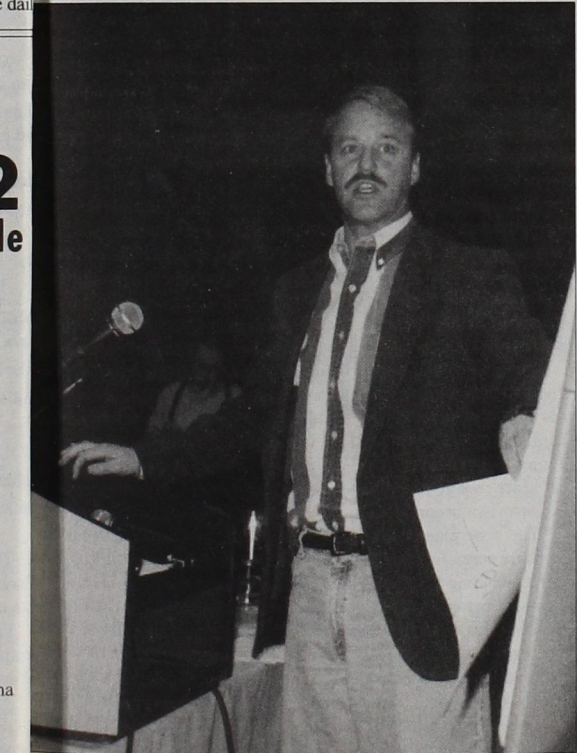


Photo by Donald Murray

Commissioner John Brackney, chair, NACo Emergency Management Subcommittee and chair of the Arapahoe County (Colo.) Board of Commissioners, served as a Workgroup Leader at the "retreat."

NEWS FROM THE NATION'S COUNTIES



DELAWARE

In mid-January, the Delaware Federal Court dismissed a suit against **NEW CASTLE COUNTY** in a contentious development and rezoning case.

In 1971, the county zoned the land in question as DPUD (Diversified Planned Unit Development) and the original record plan, to be developed as more than 300 apartment units, was approved in 1974. Frank Acierio acquired the property in 1984 and re-subdivisions revising the development plans were approved in 1986 and 1988, but construction on the project never began.

In 1991, the county council adopted a resolution requesting the (then) Department of Planning to make a recommendation whether to void the existing record development plan. The council was acting in response to concerns that DPUD rezonings were not being developed in a timely fashion, that the density of housing might adversely impact upon the general quality of life in the county, that an updated review of traffic, water and sewer facilities were necessary and that the development of the property should be reviewed in light of the character of the then existing community.

In 1992, the county rezoned the property to a much less intense zoning category and Acierio filed his first lawsuit claiming his constitutional rights had been violated by the council's decision to void his development plans.

The case went through nearly 10 years of litigation before the recent and final decision that preserves a large parcel of land from over-development based on antiquated development plans.

"This is a victory for the integrity of our land use process," County Executive Thomas P. Gordon said. "Clearly, it is essential that we retain the ability to sunset dated projects that may no longer fit existing community character."

FLORIDA

In late January, **MIAMI-DADE** employees, elected officials and County Manager Steve Shiver unveiled a new government information and services awareness program that includes a new county mantra,

"We're more than just county employees...we're your neighbors."

Components of the program include a new county newspaper *County Citizen*, which will cover a wide range of issues including department news, employee profiles, features on volunteer activities and service access tips.

In addition to the new newspaper, the county unveiled a "government on the go" bus that will travel throughout the county providing services — animal adoption and tag renewal, parking ticket payment, library card issuance, etc. — access to the county's Web site, county literature and staff to answer resident's questions.

Other elements of the program include bumper stickers that feature the county's Web site, a new news program on Miami-Dade Television, and an ongoing campaign to highlight county employees and the work they do.

"Bringing government services and information closer to our residents is a must if we are to continue improving our efficiency," said Shiver. "It's also important that residents know of the many community building activities our employees take part in both on and off the clock."

IOWA

In an effort to improve the health and well being of its citizens, the **POLK COUNTY** Health Department recently announced a new plan, "Healthier Together, Announcing Healthy Polk 2010, the Accomplishments of Healthy Polk 2000."

The new plan was developed with specific goals and targets to improve the health status, longevity and quality of life for people of all ages, socioeconomic levels and ethnic backgrounds. A group of 650 county residents were involved with setting the agenda for the 10-year program.

The priority of Healthy Polk 2010 will be to address four "trend-bender" areas, which if addressed effectively, can significantly improve the health and quality of life of the community. The areas are access to care, substance abuse, mental health and healthy weight.

Healthy Polk was created in 1993 as a way to address a myriad of health issues facing the citizens of the county. The initial committee

was charged to "promote the prevention of premature death, disability and illness by developing a Polk County community health plan."

Copies of the plan can be downloaded from the Healthy Polk Web site at www.healthyolk.org.

MARYLAND

With the help of a grant from the state, **CARROLL COUNTY** will soon implement a videoconferencing system that will have prisoners appearing on camera to have their bail reviewed by a judge rather than being searched and shackled, then driven the one block from the jail to the courthouse.

The system, which will cost the county \$52,413 to implement and maintain, will ultimately save the county thousands of dollars in man-hours as well as lowering the risk of escape and interference by victims or relatives.

According to *The Baltimore Sun*, equipment will be installed in two circuit courtrooms, one each in the courthouse and in the courthouse annex. A videoconferencing system will be placed in both courtrooms of the new District Court building as well.

Carroll is not the first Maryland county to implement the videoconferencing system as a cost cutting and safety increasing method. About half of the state's jurisdictions use videoconferencing for bail reviews.

"It can be used for other things [such as] jury orientation," Carroll Circuit Administrative Judge Raymond E. Beck told *The Sun*. "So I think it will have some added benefits for the Circuit Court. But the main purpose is to avoid tying up sheriff's deputies' time to shuffle back and forth."

NEVADA

For those keeping score at home, break out the scorecards because the Nevada Supreme Court has weighed in on the Verdi-area annexation issue in **WASHOE COUNTY**.

On Jan. 17, the Court granted a motion by the county District Attorney's Office to issue a stay restraining the City of Reno from putting into effect its ordinance to annex the contested 3,000 acres for the duration of the county's appeal of a District Court ruling in the case.

The State Supreme Court further agreed to grant the county's motion for an expedited briefing schedule and directed the county to file an opening brief within 70 days.

Just to bring those up to speed who may be unfamiliar with the case, the county filed a petition in July 2001 asking the District Court to void the city's annexation ordinance, because, according to the

petition, the city exceeded its lawful authority. What followed has been a series of motions, petitions and court hearings.

The county intends to pursue this to the highest level, so stay tuned.

NORTH CAROLINA

Faced with unending piles of paperwork and a lack of communication between various human services agencies, the **CALDWELL COUNTY** commissioners set out to find an integrated computer database that would be accessible via the Internet and would allow staff in various agencies access to client records.

When the commissioners couldn't find a system such as the one they were looking for, they set out on a fact-finding mission that took them to Indiana, Kentucky, Florida and finally Arkansas. It was there the commissioners entered into an agreement with a small start-up firm that developed the necessary system for the county in return for the county agreeing to serve as a beta site for other counties.

The program features five core partners and 50 percent of the funding came from the county, while the remainder comes from the partners.

"We're treating this like a business, not a government, and that took a different mentality to a large degree," said County Manager Bobby White. "We made a decision early on that we would not try to convince every agency in the county to join in. We wanted to build a system that was expandable so if they decided they wanted to join, they can."

The system was scheduled to go online in January.

Representatives from 12 counties recently met at the **MECKLENBURG COUNTY** Health Department offices to discuss preparedness for a bioterrorism attack.

The North Carolina Division of Public Health divided the state into seven sections called "Public Health Bioterrorism Defense Teams" in order to make best use of state money allocated for bioterrorism preparedness.

The state plan for bioterrorism response consists of several components including improving communications between the state, the regional teams and individual counties, a series of regional laboratories to prevent a rush on the state lab and finally, the regional team concept.

The seven teams will get start-up and operational cash, plus salary and benefits money for several new positions to help the regional teams step-up their community surveillance efforts.

SOUTH CAROLINA

And another county is feeling effects of the recession and fallout from Sept. 11. **FORSYTH COUNTY** will likely be forced to raise property taxes, trim services and maybe even cut county jobs.

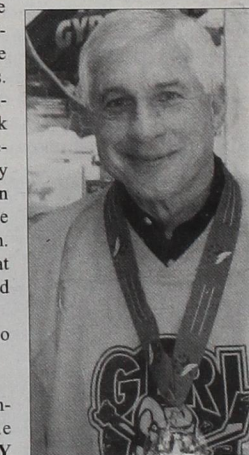
County leaders told local television station WXII that they have no choice but to raise taxes since they have seen a decline in sales tax revenue and more debt from programs such as the new government center.

Officials, who said they were already looking at a substantial increase before Sept. 11, say the amount of the increase is unclear.

VIRGINIA

Ian Treggett, a nine-time **STAFFORD COUNTY** Cooperative Extension Office employee, recently captured a bronze medal at the 2002 Senior Olympic Championships held in Lake Placid.

Treggett's team, the Hatricks, participated in the senior national games in early January and wracked up a 4-1 record to win the bronze.



Ian Treggett

Sixty-three year old Treggett is a part-time gypsy moth coordinator for the Extension Service, suffers from a cracked rib and sprained ankle, but he made his way to the Senior Olympics, but let any of that stop him.

"I'm very competitive," Treggett said. "I'll keep playing ice hockey until I fall down and they have to drag me off the ice."

The first biennial Winter Olympics were held in 2000 at Lake Placid. The games provide an opportunity for athletes who are aged 50 and older to participate in a national event. Treggett said he plans to compete in the next Senior Olympics in 2004.

(News from is written by M. Moretti, senior writer. If you have news, e-mail: mmoretti@naco.org)

RESEARCH NEWS

Valentine's Day Is for Everyone



Illustration by Jack Hernandez

Valentine's Day is a time when thoughts turn to love, candy and flowers. What is the history of this sentimental holiday? There are several stories about the origin of this day. One version says that originally called Lupercalia, this ancient Roman celebration, held on Feb. 15, honored several gods as well as Romulus and Remus, legendary founders of Rome. The festivities and Lupercalia were used to induce men to women whose names were drawn from a box or a jar. The couple was paired until the following year's celebration.

The name Valentine's Day was used until later. Emperor Claudius II decreed that no Roman soldiers could have wives or be engaged so that they would not be distracted from the needs of war. However, Valentine, a romantic priest, would perform marriage ceremonies in secret. For his violation

of the decree he was put to death on Feb. 14.

He was named a saint after his death and priests moved the celebration of Lupercalia to Feb. 14 and named it to honor him.

Nearly 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year. Publishers ship \$277 million worth annually, more than any holiday except Christmas. Teachers receive the most cards, fol-

lowed by children, mothers, wives and sweethearts.

Not everybody gets just a card. Many receive candy, including chocolate. If the chocolate is domestic, it is probably part of the

\$11.5 billion in chocolate and cocoa products shipped in this country each year. California and Pennsylvania lead the nation in candy producing companies. California has 85 companies that make candy and 115 more that make chocolate candy. Pennsylvania has 110 businesses that make chocolate.

If the candy is imported, it may be part of the \$314 million worth of chocolate imported from Canada each year, the leading source of imported chocolate. Americans consumed 26 pounds of candy per person in 1999, much of it purchased from the nearly 4,000 confectionary stores in the U.S.

If flowers accompany that Valentine's Day card, the nearly 26,000 florists in the country are ready to fill the order. The leading supplier of cut flowers to the United States is Colombia, which exports \$300 million a year. If not imported, they are probably part of the more than \$500 million worth of cut flowers harvested domestically.

San Diego County, Calif. is the largest flower and nursery crop producing county in the world, with sales exceeding \$700 million in 2000. San Diego leads the list but nearly every coastal county in California has commercial nursery or flower production industries because of the year round mild climate. Los Angeles, Monterey, Orange, San Mateo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties all produce more than \$100 million in nursery crops and flowers each year.

Valentine's Day is also a symbolic day for getting married. Clark County, Nev., home of the Las Vegas quickie chapel marriage, has watched the number of people who wed during the Valentine Day period increase every year.

The *Las Vegas Sun* reported in an article in 1998 that nearly 2,600 marriage licenses were issued over the four-day Valentine's weekend that year. Each year since then it has increased. Since this holiday has the heaviest turnout for weddings, many chapels sponsor special events and contests including a Valentine's Day sweethearts ball and a chance to win a free Valentine's Day wedding.

In a July 2001 press release from Judith A. Vandever, Clark County recorder, the county and city of Las Vegas reported celebrating their 3 million marriage mark in February 2001, laying claim to their title of "Marriage Capital of the World."

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

Hats Off to...

2001 Achievement Award Winners... Health Programs

Wellness Works: Health and Fitness Initiative for Older Adults

Milwaukee County, Wis.

The Wellness Works Health and Fitness Initiative is a collaborative program among county, state, and local government-sponsored university departments to provide access to a combination of innovative technologies, health and fitness experiences, and intergenerational contacts for older adults. This program helps provide the motivation older adults need to adopt positive health-related behaviors and maintain those behaviors as they age.

Centered in a new, senior-friendly fitness center equipped with strength and cardiovascular training equipment, the initiative also provides computer access to health assessment and management at over 10 sites throughout Milwaukee County. Milwaukee County Department of Aging and the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee School of Health professions, coordinate program activities at all sites.

Founded on a holistic health model, Wellness Works includes many programs to enhance participant's physical, emotional, and spiritual health and wellness. This is accomplished by providing access to:

- fitness training in a fitness center

with help from personal trainers

- health and wellness assessments and information on the Internet
- free health publications and other printed material
- individual counseling on nutrition
- fitness and other health related topics, and
- medical monitoring.

The program successfully promotes intergovernmental cooperation with the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services and Milwaukee County's Department on Aging. It also helps generate new revenue sources for prevention-based health promotion programs and activities.

Since the program's implementation, the county has seen a 10 percent increase in the total number of unduplicated participants at senior centers, a 14 percent increase in units of service reported for physical fitness exercise programs and a 53 percent increase in units of service reported for medical monitoring service programs at senior centers.

Total program costs for 2000 was \$309,000. Capital costs totaled \$125,165 including purchase of equipment and supplies for startup of the fitness center and kiosk computer access. Operating costs of \$155,286 included administrative costs to the university, faculty, and

student stipends and fees for computer consultants. Funding was awarded from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.

Enterprise Health Care and Dental Center

Clark County, Nev.

Clark County and the Cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas established the new *Enterprise Health Care and Dental Center* to give the residents in poorer neighborhoods a chance to receive proper health and dental care. One of the main problems for these communities is that many uninsured residents can not afford to pay the high cost of medical and dental services.

It was estimated that in the elementary schools within the West Las Vegas Community, over 5,000 children were in need of proper dental attention. Another concern in the community was the lack of a health or dental clinic within a four-mile radius of the community.

In 1996, the three jurisdictions decided to construct an 18,400 square foot medical facility within the West Las Vegas area. This medical and dental facility provides primary care and dental care within the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community and houses four agencies that specialize in primary and dental care for adults

and children, as well as for those infected with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

The four agencies housed in the facility are: University Medical Center, which provides quick care services to patients throughout the valley; Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County, which provides screening for STDs; Nevada Health Services, which provides primary care to residents who have limited or no medical insurance, and the University of Nevada Las Vegas, which provides routine dental cleaning, examinations, as well as education for children as well as for adults.

The center provides services to an average of 100 patients per day and the average costs to residents for services and prescriptions is \$15.00

The total cost to build the facility was \$3,082,524. Construction of 14,000 square foot medical facility - \$2,000,000, Community Development Block Grant 1998/1999 \$332,524 and 1999/2000 \$189,000; Engineering Design \$190,000; Dental Clinic \$560,000 and Donated Land Acquisition \$348,480.

(Hats off to... was compiled by Christina Crayton, research assistant. Hats off to... features 2001 NACo Achievement Award Winners.)

WEB WATCH

Students track disaster management

The Web site is a bit funky (red on bright blue background). Nonetheless, the online *EMGT 232 Disaster Newsletter* provides a good of perspectives on activities in disaster management field in the United States and around the world. Produced by students in the Crisis and Emergency Management at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. The current newsletter features events mostly related in some way to Sept. 11. One article, in particular, takes an interesting scan of impact of false alarms, or hoaxes, on communities, and makes suggestions on how to deal with them. You can find *EMGT 232 Disaster Newsletter* at www.seas.gwu.edu/emse232/emse232.

Harris County, Texas taxman sets record digital gains

More than 1,800 local taxpayers online at www.tax.co.harris.tx.us ahead of in line at the Harris County Office Jan. 31, Tax Payment Day. They paid more than \$3 million dollars in property taxes credit card, compared to about \$100 tax payments for more than 2 million dollars last year. For the second year, the number transactions in the virtual Tax Office exceeded the number of transactions at any of the counties' 14 offices, said Paul Bettencourt, Harris County Tax Collector.

Human Services IT Integration and Welfare Reform

The results of a GAO-cosponsored conference on modernizing information systems to meet the challenges of welfare reform is now available at www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/trp?GAO-02-121. The conference specifically examined how well state information systems are meeting the demands of welfare reform; what states have done to improve their systems; and what strategies states used to facilitate integration between

human services agencies. Among the highlights in the 44-page document (in PDF format) is New Jersey's One-EaseLink initiative, which provides hardware and software to counties so they can create county-level networks that integrate public and private human service providers.

Don't Be Put Off by the Name

If you care about Web site design or have any interest in what Web pages look like, click your way to www.webpagethatsuck.com. The site's name may be a bit off putting, but if you hate text scrolling across the bottom of your monitor, à la CNN *Headline News*, or the frenzied antics of creatures that pop onto your screen with an uninformed click, you'll find great company there.

The site is a favorite with those teaching good Web site design, and highlights some of the most annoying, dumb or confusing Web pages ever posted. Its irreverent treatment of Web designers' sacred cows — like Cascading Style Sheets or Java Script — will make you wish you had said it first. For a laugh ... or to avoid finding your site among the infamous featured ... check it out.

Who's Online Offline, Out of Line

Another government report, this one from the U.S. Department of Commerce, provides comprehensive information on Americans' Internet use. A Nation Online: How Americans Are Expanding Their Use of the Internet, is based on the September 2001 U.S. Bureau's Current Population Survey. As such, it is probably the most broad based and accurate data now available on how the country accesses and uses the Internet. A copy of the report can be downloaded from www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/dn/nationonline_020502.pdf.

(Beverly Schlotterbeck, executive editor, compiles Web Watch. If you have a site you would like featured, please e-mail bschlott@naco.org.)

Job Market - Classified Rate Schedule

- Line Rates: \$7 per line, NACo member counties; \$10 per line, others.
- Display Classified: \$50 per column inch, NACo member counties; \$70 per column inch, others.
- Billing: Invoices will be sent after publication.
- Mail advertising copy to: Job Market, County News, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.
- FAX advertising copy to: Job Market, County News, (202) 393-2630.
- E-mail advertising copy to: 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.

JOB MARKET/CLASSIFIEDS

CITY MANAGER — CORAL GABLES, FLA.

Salary: DOQ plus competitive benefits. Incorporated in 1925, Coral Gables is among the most livable communities in the United States, providing its residents first-rate municipal services in a culturally-rich and diverse environment. Known for its quiet neighborhoods and its Mediterranean architecture, the beautiful city also has a thriving business sector.

The city has a strong mayor form of government; 5-member city commission appoints City Manager. \$92M budget, 14 departments, 850 employees. City Manager reports directly to the Mayor and City Commission. Two assistant city managers and 14 city departments report to the City Manager.

Required qualifications: bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and at least five years of experience within the last 10 years in city or county government at the level of County Manager, Assistant/Deputy City or County Manager, or City or County Department Director. Experience with an ethnically diverse community and both residential and commercial taxpayers desired. Understanding of the role of international commerce and trade in urban development. Ability to motivate employees and build a cohesive workforce. For full position description and further information, please fax (305) 443-0110 or e-mail info@performancesearch.com

DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING DEPARTMENT — TOPEKA-SHAWNEE COUNTY, KANS.

Salary: \$58,846-\$89,200, DOQ. Topeka is geographically located about 60 miles southwest of Kansas City, Missouri, and about 150 miles northeast of Wichita, Kansas. Population: 126,000 for the City and 170,000 for Shawnee County. Topeka and Shawnee County are the center of a larger geographic, economic and demographic region in northeastern Kansas. Topeka operates under a Charter Ordinance providing Home Rule with Major-Council-Chief Administrative Officer form of government. The County Commission is composed of three elected full-time Commissioners, each from a district.

The Topeka-Shawnee County Metropolitan Planning Department is involved in completing a revision of the Comprehensive Plan. A new Growth Management/Land Use Plan is being formulated to guide growth over the next 30 years. Economic Development is a major emphasis of the Department, working with the Chamber of Commerce and Growth Organization of Topeka (GO Topeka!).

This position involves managing and directing the Planning Division and includes the primary responsibility for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the City and for Shawnee County. The Director works without supervision with work reviewed for results achieved. This level position is normally supervised by the Mayor for the City and by the County Commission. Job duties include supervision of subordinates with respect to being held accountable for performance and behavior, other personnel related functions, and others. The successful candidate must have graduated from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in

Municipal Planning, Civil Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, or other related field with five years of experience in planning management. A Master's degree in city or regional planning may be substituted for two years of planning experience. Additional licenses or certifications may be required for this position. Salary range expected to be \$58,846-\$89,200, DOQ. Resumes should be sent by March 2, 2002, to James L. Mercer, President, The Mercer Group, Inc., 551 W. Cordova Road, #726, Santa Fe, NM 87505. VOICE: (505) 9500; FAX: (505) 466-1274; E-mail: mercera@mindspring.com. EOE.

FIRE MARSHALL — COLUMBUS COUNTY, N.C.

Salary: \$26,039-\$41,627. County of approximately 54,000 located 45 miles west of Wilmington and 50 miles north of Myrtle Beach is seeking a Fire Marshal with supervisory skills and considerable experience in fire inspection, prevention, and fire fighting work. Works under the supervision of the County Administrator. County residency is required. Must have a minimum of a certification as a NC Fire/Arson Investigator and NC Fire Inspector Level II (Standard Certificate). NC Fire Inspector Level III desired. Salary Range: \$26,039-\$41,627. Deadline: February 28, 2002. Contact the Employment Security Commission for application or send resume and cover letter to: Debbie Long, Personnel Director, 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, NC 28472 or e-mail to ccpersonnel@intrstar.net. Columbus County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR (PLANNER COORDINATOR) — PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD.

Prince George's County Planning Department, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Upper-Marlboro, Maryland (a suburb of Metropolitan Washington).

Salary: 43,654-\$69,869
The Prince George's County Planning Department, a nationally recognized land development planning agency seeks experienced professional to coordinate legislative and intergovernmental functions.

Individual will be responsible for tracking progress/developments on proposed legislation, establishing and maintaining strong relationships with officials and administrators at the state and local level, serving on legislative committees or workgroups, writing and maintaining a list of descriptions of the department's legislative initiatives on our Web site.

Requires Master's degree in public policy, public administration, planning, law or related fields, and three years professional experience in land development planning, government and the legislative process. Must have exceptional communication and presentation skills.

Salary range \$43,654-\$69,869 plus benefits. E-mail replies to: recruiting@mncppc.state.md.us or send replies by February 28, 2002 to:

Legislative Coordinator Vacancy
#10107
Employment and Testing Section
6611 Kenilworth Avenue
Riverdale, MD 20737
www.mncppc.org

NOTICES

CONFERENCES

■ The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCHC), Academy of Correctional Health Professionals and Certified Correctional Health Professionals will host the *Clinical Updates in Correctional Healthcare Conference*, April 13-16, at the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Broward County Convention Center. The conference, which is tailored for health care providers — physicians, nurses, administrators, mental health care providers — is designed to present information on clinical practice and theory, tools and information for professional development and legal and ethical issues facing correctional health care professionals today. Attendees will come from a variety of clinical settings including prisons, public and private health facilities, private practice and health departments. For more information, visit the NCHC Web site at www.nchc.org.

PUBLICATIONS

■ Omnigraphics published the *Government Assistance Almanac 2002-2003*. The almanac provides information on 1,479 federal domestic assistance programs. It includes Web site addresses for the programs and references to legislation authorizing government assistance. For more information or to order, visit the Omnigraphics Web site at www.omnigraphics.com or call (800) 234-1340.

OTHER RESOURCES

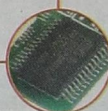
■ The John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University is sponsoring the 2002 Innovations in American Government Awards. The program seeks to identify and celebrate outstanding examples of creative problem solving in the public sector. The deadline for paper applications is May 3, 5 p.m. (EST). The online applications deadline is May 17, 8 p.m. (EST). Applications are available through the Innovations in American Government Program, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 79 JFK Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. For more information, visit the Web site at www.innovations.harvard.edu.

(Notices is compiled by Stacey Kennedy, editorial assistant.)

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