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Counties propose economic stimulus package

By MARILINA SANZ

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

NACo president Javier Gonzales has written to President George W. Bush and the congressional leadership calling for an economic stimulus package that addresses the economic needs of counties and focuses on services to individuals and public investments. "NACo believes that immediate attention must be given to those workers who have lost their jobs due to the sudden economic downturn," Gonzales said.

Congress and the Administration are working on a stimulus package that could be as high as \$75 billion. This is in addition to the \$55 billion already enacted in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Many on Capitol Hill were surprised when the president came out in favor of a \$60 billion to \$75 billion package. They were under the impression the Administration was going to propose between \$40 and \$60 billion.

The details of the proposals have yet to be decided but will combine cuts and discretionary spending.

The proposals are already generating considerable partisan debate. For example, the president is proposing an additional tax rebate to low-income workers who did not qualify for this year's rebate. This proposal is supported by the Democrats, but has received a tepid response from Republicans.

On the other hand, Democrats say the president's proposed extension of unemployment insurance (UI) does not go far enough. His proposal would provide a 13-week extension for up to 18 months in states that have experienced a 30 percent increase in unemployment since Sept. 11.

Gonzales proposed four measures to help dislocated workers:

First he recommended extending unemployment insurance to all workers who have lost their jobs, regardless of how many hours they worked or how much income they earned.

Second he proposed restoring the FY01 \$177.5 million rescission in workforce development programs and a \$2 billion package to provide training and jobs to dislocated workers.

Third he suggested efforts be made to use some of the economic stimulus jobs to provide public sector employment, particularly in counties that need highly skilled workers to deal with homeland security issues.

Fourth NACo proposed providing a low-cost health insurance program to unemployed workers.

Individuals who lose their jobs and their health insurance are likely to end up relying on county emergency room services for their health care needs.

Gonzales's letter recommended that most of the new dislocated worker funds be distributed through the existing Workforce Investment Act (WIA) structure and that a percentage of the funds be put into National Emergency Grants (NEG's) so the Secretary of Labor may respond to regional or industry dislocations. The president's proposal would distribute all the new dislocated worker funds through the NEG program.

See *ECONOMY* on page 3

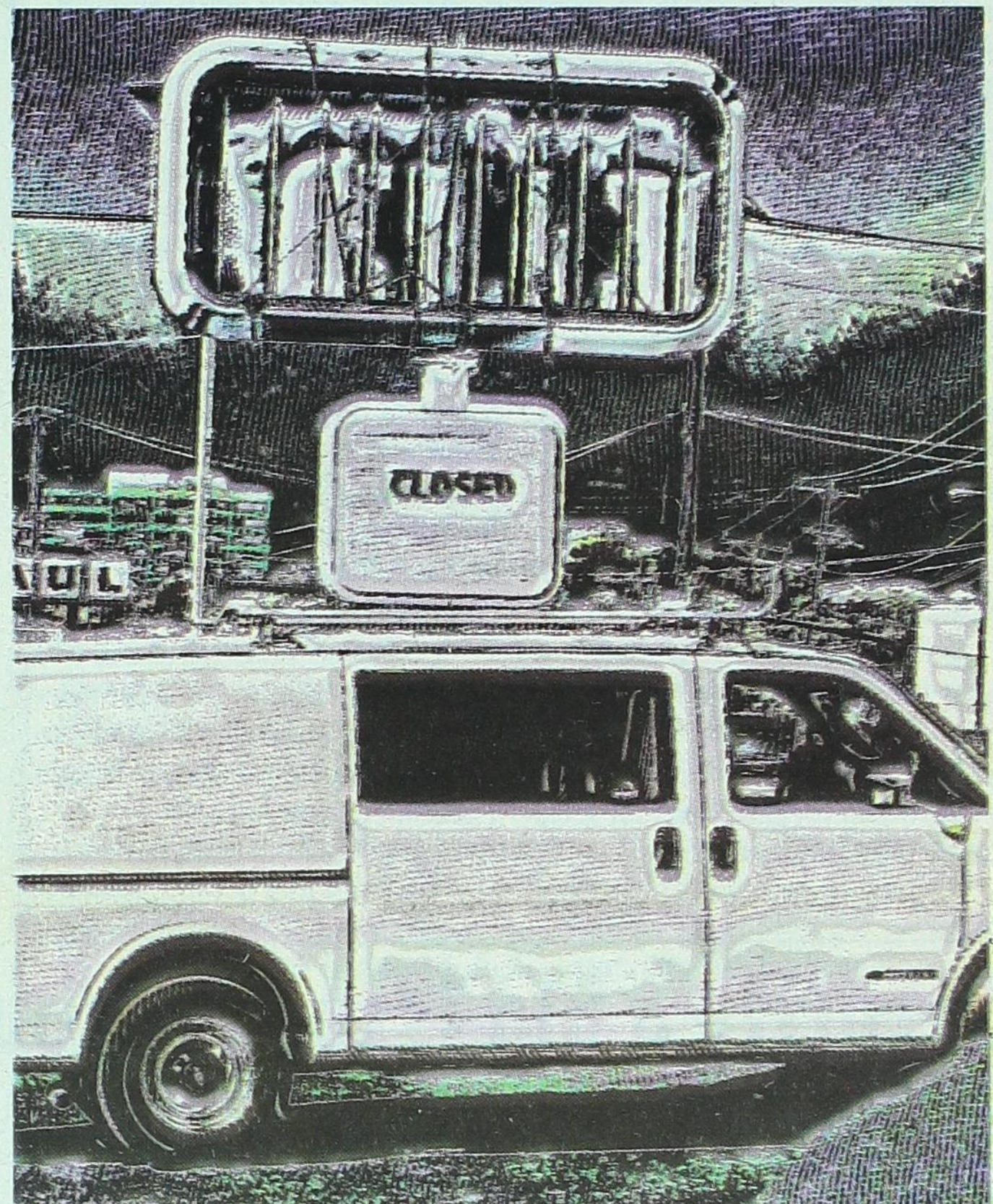


Photo by Beverly Schlottnerbeck

Arlington, Va: nation's smallest county takes on a nation's tragedy

By PAM LOCKE
ARLINGTON COUNTY, VA.

On Tuesday morning, Sept. 11, American Airlines Flight 77 took off from Washington Dulles International Airport on a routine flight to Los Angeles. By 9:43 a.m. that routine had been hijacked by terrorists. The jet was deliberately slammed into the Pentagon, sending up a huge cloud of smoke and forcing hundreds of people to flee from the building.

Some members of the Arlington County Virginia Fire Department actually saw the plane flying overhead at a dangerously low altitude and knew something was wrong. When they heard the crash and saw thick, black smoke billowing up into the sky, they headed toward the site. In minutes they were joined by other firefighters providing aid to the wounded and working to put out the blaze — a fire

that would not be declared "under control" for 24 hours. Arlington police officers, including one who actually saw the plane hit the building, soon arrived to help assist the wounded and to establish a perimeter around the site.

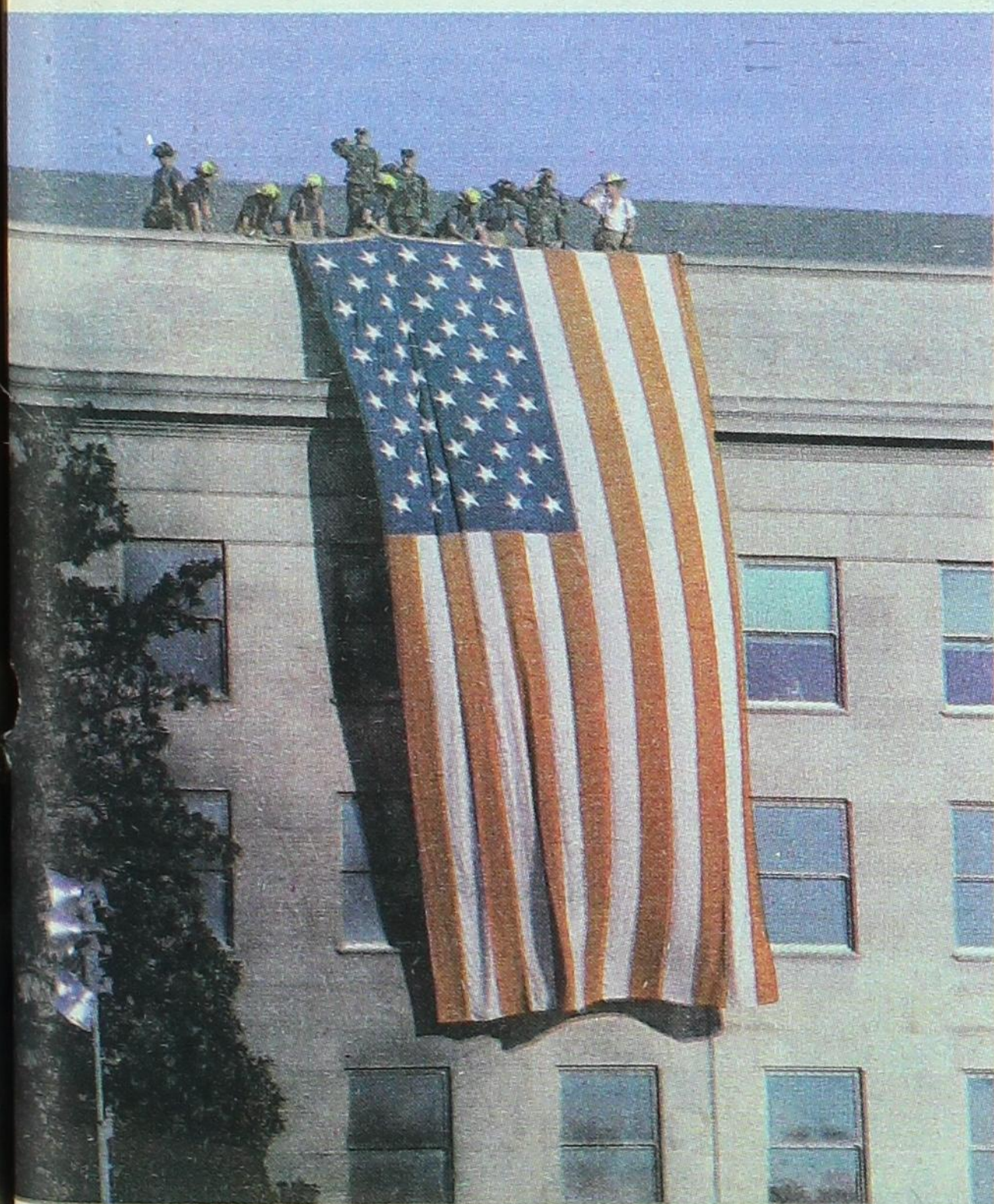
The Pentagon is located in Arlington County — geographically the smallest county in the country — and is served by the Arlington Fire Department, and by prior formal agreement, the department assumed incident command. By mid-morning more than 270 Arlington firefighters and Emergency Medical Services personnel were fighting the fire, rescuing trapped victims and treating or transporting the injured.

Thanks to automatic mutual aid agreements, each of the county's 10 fire stations was "backfilled" with equipment and personnel from neigh-

boring jurisdictions. The Arlington Police Department, with every officer that could be spared from regular patrol, also had a heavy presence performing traffic and crowd control as well as securing the perimeter.

By 9:53 a.m., Arlington's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which coordinates all of the county's disaster response efforts, was activated and employees on the county's emergency response teams were making their way to the center from throughout the county. Less than two hours later at 11:39 a.m., County Manager Ron Carlee declared a local state of emergency. This allowed the county to submit a request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the state of Virginia, which in turn permitted Urban Search

See *ARLINGTON* on page 7



Arlington County, Va. fire and rescue personnel unfurl the flag at the Pentagon crash site.

NACCHO testifies before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Bioterrorism

By SALLY McELROY
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

As Congress continues to intensify its focus on terrorism, bioterrorism and emergency preparedness, lawmakers are becoming more familiar with the important role local officials play in recognizing and responding to such events. Not only are local officials first responders with rescue and law enforcement needs, but also local public health personnel are called upon to be at the ready to respond and to recognize incidents or patterns of disease outbreaks that would indicate a bioterrorist strike.

At a hearing to examine bioterrorism preparedness on Oct. 3, the Senate Appropriations Committee heard testimony from a representative from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

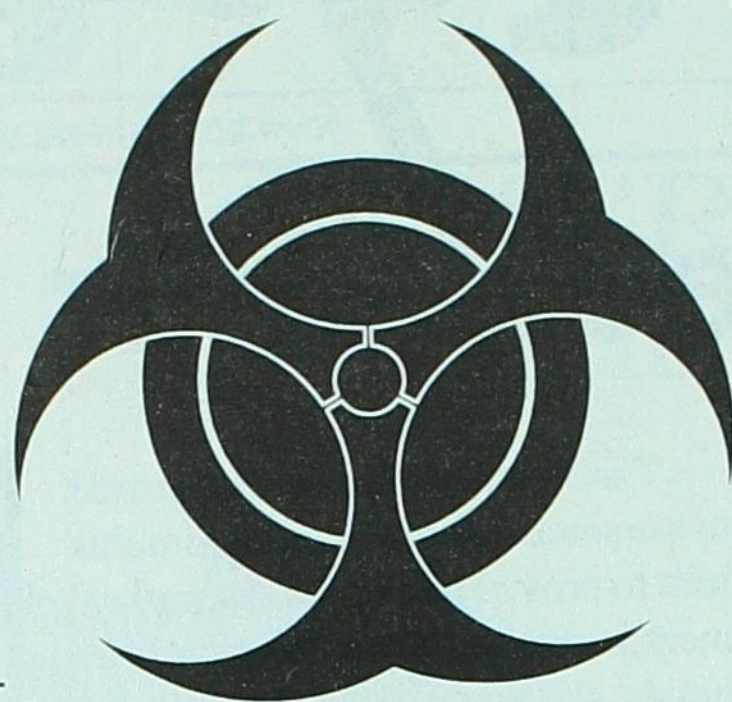
NACCHO, a NACo affiliate, has been intensely involved at the national level to develop guidelines and performance standards for bioterrorism preparedness for local public health systems. Rex Archer, MD, MPH, director of Kansas City

Public Health Department who also chairs NACCHO's Committee on Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness, testified before the committee to provide lessons learned to date about bioterrorism preparedness and the work yet to be done.

Archer praised existing efforts such as the Health Alert Network (HAN), operated by the Centers for Disease Control. This system was used on Sept. 11 to alert health officials to begin heightened disease surveillance. HAN is designed to be an electronic alert network that allows rapid communication of health alerts to state and local health departments. The network is not yet 100 percent complete, therefore, on Sept. 11th, some locations received this alert via fax and some even by word of mouth. However, Archer pointed out that the important thing is there is a system in place and it works.

In addition, the experiences with the HAN program have provided some important lessons which Archer highlighted for the committee. These include:

- problems encountered to improve technology are not technical



problems, but are those related to necessary training, institutionalizing new technology, and the funding to sustain these.

- partnerships that include coordinated advanced planning between public health agencies, health care providers and traditional first responder groups are essential.

- no systems will work if the appropriate people do not know how to use them.

- planning for bioterrorism preparedness also achieves preparedness for other public health emergencies; therefore, any incident can

be dealt with more effectively, and

- many local public health agencies will need major resources to upgrade technology to an appropriate level.

Archer praised the creation of HAN and other federal efforts that have helped state and local officials be better prepared for bioterrorism, but he noted also that there is still much work to be done.

The primary area for this work, according to Archer, lies in developing the capacities needed to detect and respond to an act of bioterrorism as quickly as possible. These "core" capacities include:

- routine surveillance and epidemiologic investigation
- enhanced surveillance during a suspected emergency
- lab work to identify or rule out biological threat agents
- rapid reporting of lab results to the right people
- communication networks among the agencies involved
- methods and systems to receive and transmit data
- plans and protocols for communicating to the public
- public health response that is integrated into the overall emergency response planning of the entire community, and
- activating control measures.

Archer noted that there is a legislative/policy framework in place for improving preparedness — one such policy being the Public Health Threats and Emergen-

cies Act of 2000. NACCHO, NACo, and a whole host of other groups supported the passage of this law. Archer thanked committee members and Senators Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) in particular for their leadership in passing the Public Health Threats and Emergencies Act of 2000.

This Act, once funded, will help federal, state, and local public health systems establish standards for what is needed and then to assess what is already in place and how to fill in the gaps. Funding levels discussed at the hearing were in the \$1.4 billion range.

Archer also emphasized the need for laboratories and data management and communications systems that are properly equipped. He closed his testimony by informing the committee that identifying the capacities needed is only the beginning of the process.

It will take resources to develop them and these resources must incorporate hiring the necessary trained staff to handle the tasks at hand. To move forward with bioterrorism preparedness, adequate federal funding must be allocated, but not in just a one-time boost. To be successful, this effort will require sustained attention, effort, and resources.

(You can access the complete testimony of Dr. Archer and other witnesses who testified at the hearing at <http://appropriations.senate.gov>.)

Security a big issue for county airports

By ROBERT J. FOGEL
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

(Update: The U.S. Senate has passed the Aviation Security Act that would put federal employees in charge of passenger and baggage screening. The largest 142 airports would use federal employees exclusively, while the remaining airports would use some combination of federal employees and local and state law enforcement for passenger and baggage screening. A \$2.50 security user fee paid by passengers will finance these measures. In the House, the issue of using federal employees to do the screening remains unresolved and is holding up consideration of airport security legislation.)

Airport operators, local governments, Congress and the Bush Administration are struggling with how to provide more security at airports. In light of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, all agree the current system for screening passengers and baggage does not sufficiently counter the threat of terrorism and that additional security is necessary in other parts of airports. How to do it, who should do it and how to pay for it are several key issues.

While additional security requirements were implemented immedi-

ately after the attack and implementation was a condition for the reopening of airports, the long-term solutions are still being debated by Congress and the Administration.

Counties own about one-third of the nation's airports and certainly have an economic development interest in all the others. NACo sent several letters to Congress and the Administration outlining its views on financial and security issues. On Sept. 26, NACo joined the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Conference of State Legislatures in sending a letter to the leadership of Congress and the secretary of transportation. The letter pointed out the financial crisis faced by local and state owned airports, which are seeing decreasing revenue with the slowdown in air travel. That led to less revenue for operations and some concerns about meeting future bond obligations. At the same time, additional resources are being redirected toward airport security.

The letter urged the federal government to "...consider a wide range of flexible funding options to help pay for this enhanced security." Among the priorities is a federalization of passenger and baggage screening.

In an Oct. 5 letter, NACo and seven other local and state associations, again brought to the attention of House and Senate members the negative economic effects of the airport closings following the terrorists attacks and the current dramatic decrease in air travel. The situation affects airport capital improvement projects and security.

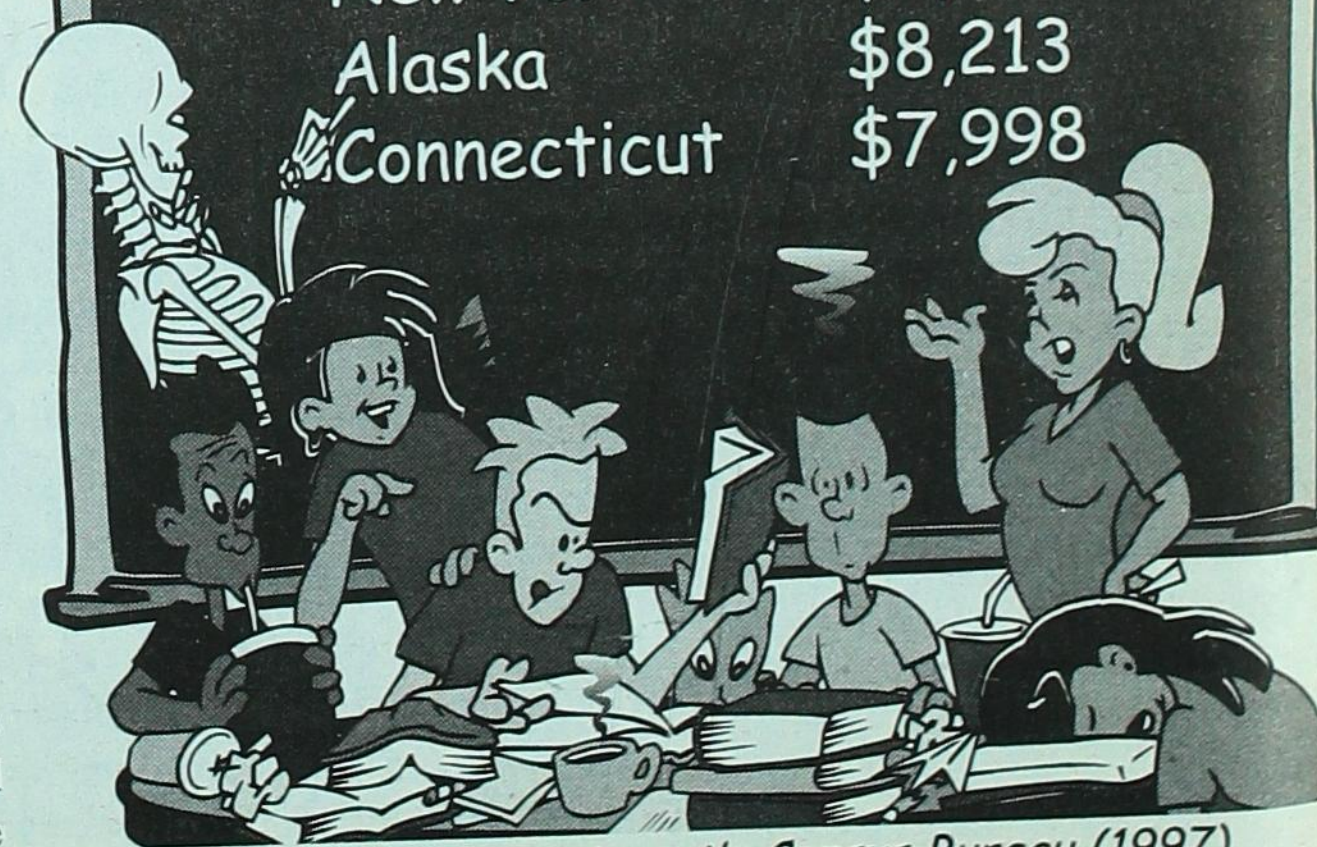
The letter includes a number of recommendations:

- provide federal reimbursement to local governments or airports for additional costs of security measures mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration and Congressional action
- continue federal funding for current and future airport projects
- require the airlines to continue paying all taxes, fees, etc. owed airports
- allow Airport Improvement Program funds and PFCs passenger facility changes to be used for security costs
- allow airports to refinance their debt by allowing them to issue advanced refunding bonds
- ensure that airports have access to war-risk insurance coverage, and
- establish a fund to stabilize airport finances.

County News Quik Takes

Highest per pupil spending

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| New Jersey | \$9,461 |
| New York | \$8,467 |
| Alaska | \$8,213 |
| Connecticut | \$7,998 |



Commerce Department's Census Bureau (1997)

A Letter From NACo's President National Radon Action Week Oct. 14-20



Dear Fellow County Officials,

Radon is a natural, radioactive gas that causes lung cancer. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, it is the second-leading cause of lung cancer. Approximately 15,000 deaths a year are attributed to radon-induced lung cancer.

Everyone is susceptible to the effects of radon. Therefore, it is extremely appropriate to focus our attention on the presence of radon in our homes, schools, and workplaces. Elevated levels of radon have been found in many counties, in all 50 states, and in one out of 15 homes nationally.

Information is one of the most powerful tools. Moreover, while public education activities should be a top priority during National Radon Action Week (Oct. 14-20), I strongly encourage testing for radon. We need to know where it is and where it is not. Radon cannot be detected by our senses. Only by testing can we move from the world of statistical estimates to the realm of certain knowledge. We need to know the extent of the problem and the distribution of the threat.

As the problem is further defined, if excessive levels of radon are found, then there are successful and economical solutions to reduce it. However, before people fix, they need to test. Before they test, they need to know. Therefore, a successful role counties can play is to actively promote radon awareness and testing during National Radon Action Week.

I strongly encourage my colleagues and their counties actively to participate in National Radon Action Week.

Sincerely,

Javier Gonzales
NACo President

(For more information, you can contact NACo's Environmental Indoor Air Project at (202) 661-8806, or visit the project's Web site at www.naco.org/programs/enviro/radon.cfm.)

House Labor, HHS subcommittee markup complete

(As of press time, the House Appropriations Committee has finished its markup of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. Unlike the subcommittee's measure, the full committee has included language that allows states to transfer 10 percent of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds to the Social Services Block Grant. Otherwise, the full House markup remains the same as the subcommittee's version reported on below.)

After several attempts to markup its version of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, the House Appropriations Subcommittee completed its work on the FY02 bill on Oct. 3. Agreements reached between the White House and Congress on funding for education reform cleared the way for the mark-up to proceed. The agreement on education funding would provide \$29.9 billion for elementary and secondary education. This is an increase of \$4.95 billion over the FY01 level.

The subcommittee agreed to provide the nation's workforce investment system with substantially more than the president requested and more than current funding levels. But the amounts do not restore all funds lost during this year's rescission take-backs and are not likely to meet the increasing needs due to the current economic downturns.

If the House subcommittee prevails, adult programs will receive \$950 million, youth programs will receive \$1.35 billion and dislocated worker programs will receive \$1.54 billion. While \$550 million above the president's request, the proposed funding levels are still about \$50 million short of FY01's pre-rescission levels.

Health programs generally fared well in the bill. The Community Access Program (CAP) did receive funding of \$120 million for FY02. CAP received \$125 million in FY01. NACo lobbied to support funding of this program, which had been targeted for elimination in the president's

budget. Community Health Centers received \$1.3 billion, a \$150 million increase over FY01 levels, and the National Health Service Corps also got an increase of \$13 million. The Centers for Disease Control got a boost of \$200 million over last year, with \$4.3 billion overall.

Within CDC, bio-terrorism funding was increased by \$50 million and Public Health Improvement was increased by \$40 million. Other programs with funding increases in the House bill include the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Healthy Start, Health Professions, and Ryan White.

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) received \$1.7 billion, which is the authorized level, but \$25 million less than in FY01. Additionally, the subcommittee did not extend the authority to transfer 10 percent of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block Grant (TANF) to SSBG.

This means that this transfer authority will go down to 4.25 percent for this year unless the authorizing committees or the Senate appropriators act to increase it. SSBG is rumored to be one of the programs that will receive additional funds in the economic stimulus package. NACo supports bringing SSBG back to the funding level authorized by the 1996 welfare reform law, which is \$2.38 billion and maintaining the 10 percent TANF transfer authority.

Other social services programs fared better than SSBG. Head Start would receive \$6.5 billion, an increase of \$276 million over FY01. The Child Care and Development Block Grant would receive \$2.2 billion, an increase of \$200 million. The Safe and Stable Families program would receive \$375 million, an increase of \$30 million. This program funds services to children at risk of abuse and neglect and their families, including prevention and post-adoption services.

(Neil Bomberg, Sally McElroy and Marilina Sanz, associate legislative directors contributed to this report.)

ECONOMY

from page 1

NACo's letter further urged Congress to restore the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to the \$2.38 billion level authorized in the 1996 welfare reform law, and to restore states' ability to transfer 10 percent of their TANF block grant into SSBG. This flexible program helps counties provide a variety of services such as emergency referrals, child welfare and adoption assistance, counseling and case management, and home services to the elderly.

Many of the services provided through SSBG are preventive in nature, which are often the first services cut in times of financial crisis. Several members of Congress have mentioned SSBG

among their priorities for the stimulus package.

The NACo letter acknowledges the contribution county employees are making to the nation's defense. In addition to providing search and rescue assistance, many county employees are members of the National Guard and Reserves called to active duty. This is particularly the case in the field of public safety. As a result, counties face two problems. They have to hire temporary workers to perform basic services, and they would like to supplement the guard and reserve pay so that families do not suffer a loss of revenue.

Gonzales requested funds out of the stimulus package to help counties defray the cost of supplementing wages and hiring temporary workers.

Gonzales also urged the Administration to release the \$300 million

in Low Income Home Energy Assistance supplemental funds authorized this summer but been released. "Low-income individuals who have been laid off need immediate assistance to help pay their energy bills," Gonzales said.

Finally, the NACo letter recommended that the stimulus package should include funding for needed county infrastructure projects. These include the federal-aid highway program, the federal transit program, the federal airport improvement program, the clean water and drinking water state revolving loan fund programs, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME and CDBG programs and the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Agency.

(Neil Bomberg, associate legislative director, contributed to this report.)

Got News? Some

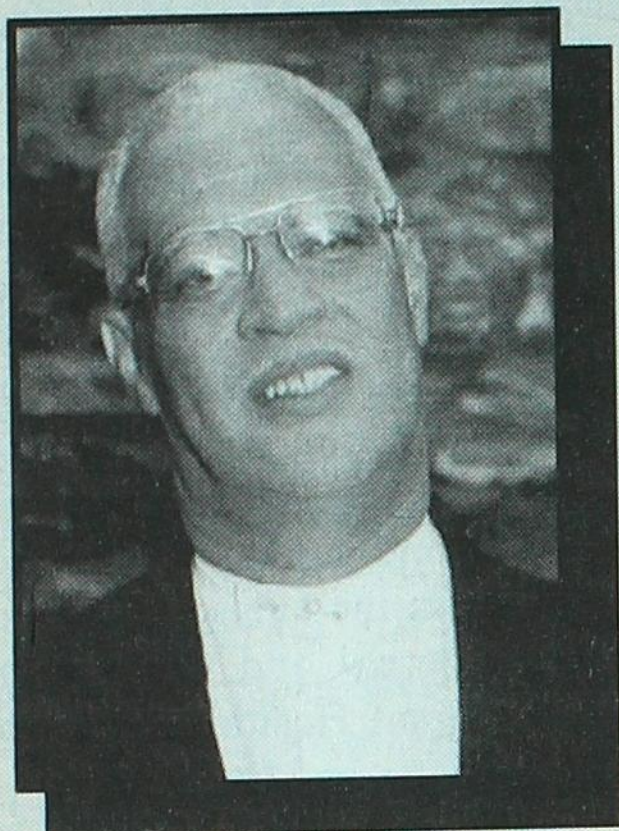
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PROFILES

in service...

Frank D. Stewart



**Will County, Ill.
Commissioner**

**NACo Health
Steering Committee**

Years active in NACo: Six years.

Years in Public Office: 22 years. Sixteen as a school board trustee.

Occupation: Supervisor

Education: Human services major, Saint Martin's College.

The hardest thing I've ever done: Stop talking so much.

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Colin Powell, Martin Luther King and Mother Teresa.

A dream I have is to: Spend time traveling throughout the world.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: Love to be alone and read.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Coordinate a local parade.

My favorite sport is: Basketball (and football).

I'm most proud of: All the young people of my community who have made something of their lives.

Every morning I read: Local and national newspapers.

My favorite meal is: Spaghetti with meat sauce.

My pet peeve is: Someone who constantly complains.

My motto is: "To God be the glory."

The last book I read was: *The Life of Josephine Baker*

My favorite movie is: *Hannibal*

My favorite music is: Gospel and classical.

My favorite president is: Franklin D. Roosevelt (and Bill Clinton).

In my Opinion...

By SUPERVISOR BRETT HULSEY
DANE COUNTY, WIS.

Thanks for the interesting story about NACo leaders traveling to view Alaskan oil operations (*County News*, Sept. 17). However there are two questions we need to answer: Will Arctic National Wildlife Refuge drilling increase our energy security? and Is Arctic drilling 'environmentally responsible' now? Recent reports from the Cato Institute, the journal *Foreign Affairs*, *The Washington Post* and *Wall Street Journal* show the answer to both is probably no.

Given the recent tragic events, it is more important than ever to make our energy supply as secure as possible. Last year we imported 52 percent of our oil, 25 percent from the Mideast, costing \$109 billion.

However, the conservative Cato Institute says drilling the Arctic refuge won't make any difference in our current energy challenge: "As long as the Persian Gulf nations have a lot of \$1.50 a barrel oil laying around — and they do — they're going to dominate the world market whether we allow drilling in environmentally sensitive areas or not."

A recent article in *Foreign Affairs* by energy security experts Amory and Hunter Lovins states that the Arctic Wildlife Refuge will not increase our energy security because Arctic oil is too vulnerable to terrorist attacks. Most of the pipeline is above ground and has already been bombed twice. If terrorists stop the oil flow in winter, the pipeline could turn into the world's largest tube of Chapstick™.

Any Arctic Wildlife Refuge oil would not be available for 10 years and would be headed for trucks, SUVs and cars that are becoming more wasteful. Our fleet average is only 24 miles per gallon, down from 26 mpg. Had we kept making auto efficiency progress since 1985, we would need no Middle East oil now.

Increasing truck and auto efficiency now by just 0.4 miles per gallon would save all the oil expected from the Arctic refuge. *The Wall Street Journal* says increasing auto fuel efficiency standards are not perfect, "But at least they seem to work." Increased efficiency could start reducing our foreign oil use tomorrow. This is why I sponsored a resolution to increase auto efficiency this year that NACo members approved in Philadelphia. Thank you for your support.

But there are added benefits from more efficiency — creating new jobs and saving drivers money. One study shows we can increase average fleet

mileage to 40 miles per gallon by 2012, using available technology. That would save drivers \$10 billion annually and create 40,000 new jobs. With all the layoffs, this would help the economy.

NACo's resolution on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge supports "environmentally responsible oil and gas exploration." Can we drill for Arctic refuge oil and protect clean water, clean air, and critical wildlife habitat? Experience shows probably not.

The Washington Post in-depth investigation last year pointed out that:

- There are 19 oil fields, 4,000 wells, 500 miles of roads, 1,100 miles of pipelines, 22 gravel mines, 450 waste pits, and two dozen production plants.

- The State of Alaska has identified 76 contaminated sites on the North Slope. None have been cleaned up.

- The Northstar drill permit study suggested a 1-in-8 chance of a major spill. Two state "spill drills" failed.

- Oil workers "lost" 2.3 million gallons of toxic drilling chemicals near the pristine Colville River. Oil companies reported spilling 1 million gallons from 1996-98.

The Army Corps oversees drilling there, but refuses to study the overall environmental impact of oil development. It is unlikely that additional environmentally responsible drilling is possible since the current drilling is not environmentally responsible.

What should NACo do to implement our policy? We should not even

consider drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge until we have:

1. Increased truck and car efficiency standards by 40 percent would cut oil imports, save drivers money, create jobs, and reduce air pollution in our counties and neighborhoods.

2. Conducted a comprehensive Environment Impact Analysis to determine the danger of current and proposed oil drilling in the Arctic.

3. Required oil companies to clean up and restore the 76 state-identified toxic waste sites, and to successfully test an Arctic oil spill recovery program.

But don't take my word for it, check out these Web sites for more information, and make up your own mind. Then let your senators know we need a sensible energy plan that creates jobs, security, and saves our constituents money.

For more information, see: "Fool's Gold in Alaska," *Foreign Affairs*, www.rmi.org/images/other/E-FAFoolsGold.pdf; "Drilling in Detroit: Tapping Automaker Ingenuity to Build Safe and Efficient Automobiles," Union of Concerned Scientists and Center for Auto Safety, www.ucsusa.org/releases/06-20-01.html and *The Cato Institute*, www.cato.org/dailys/09-30-00.html.

(Brett Hulse is vice chair of NACo's Energy Sub-Committee, and was a Volunteer in Service to America for the Alaska Division on Energy in the '70s during the Energy Crisis.)

County News

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

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Workforce investment programs critical for economic stimulus, NACo tells Senate

By NEIL BOMBERG

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

In remarks that set a new tone for the current debate on the nation's economic stimulus package, Commissioner Harry Van Sickle, Union County, Pa. told senators that the nation has a fully functioning public workforce investment system and that system is prepared to help every American worker obtain training and employment.

"[W]e now have the infrastructure in place to respond to the current economic crisis and . . . we can spend any funds you are willing to provide to us either through a direct appropriation or through the economic stimulus package. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) has provided us with the tools to provide high quality training and employment services to adults, youth and dislocated workers. Now all we need are the resources to do the job," Van Sickle said.

Providing specific examples of what can be done, Van Sickle told members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, there is a need to help the unemployed upgrade their skills. "We expect many of them to return to their old jobs, especially those in the airline and hospitality industries. But we need to help them become more valuable employees. We can do that."

Van Sickle also proposed allowing counties to hire, through a public sector employment program, in-

dividuals with the skills to help counties improve their own security.

"As you know, counties and cities are often the first to respond to emergencies and are also responsible for so much of our infrastructure. The types of emergencies we are now talking about — acts of terror — are new for all of us. But we know that there are many dislocated workers with significant skills who might be able to help local governments develop methods to secure their data bases, identify ways of improving public health services, and improving security at city and county buildings.

"These jobs would be short term, temporary and designed to provide individuals with employment during the recession only," he said.

The economic problems Van Sickle described were confirmed later in the day when the U.S. Department of Labor announced that new claims for state unemployment insurance totaled 528,000, up 71,000 from the previous week, putting them at the highest level in more than nine years.

Pointing directly to the problems in New York State, Van Sickle painted a portrait of a system under severe constraints:

• Onondaga County officials report that more than 900 people were laid off in the past two weeks, all of their dislocated worker money is spent and most of their adult training money is spent.

• The Herkimer-Madison-Oneida counties program expects to spend all of its funds and needs at least \$250,000 more to meet demand.

• The Erie County program projected a shortfall of nearly \$900,000 in dislocated worker funds before the Sept. 11 tragedy.

• The Oyster Bay Consortium on Long Island reports that since Sept. 11 there has been a dramatic increase in the number of residents coming to its one-stop centers, including individuals who want to change jobs so they do not have to commute to New York City. Most importantly, the centers are out of training dollars.

• Rockland County has obligated 100 percent of its dislocated worker funds. Since Sept. 11, they have seen a 60 percent increase in the number of dislocated workers enrolling in the one-stop.

"The problems don't end in New York or in Virginia. They extend to South Dakota where the high tech industry is collapsing, to Washington State where Boeing Corporation is laying off 30,000 workers, to Florida where the Miami-Dade County workforce program reports upwards of 17,000 layoffs in the airline and hospitality industries. This is a crisis of major proportions and we need the government's help right now. We can't fix these problems alone," said Van Sickle.

Van Sickle urged the Senate to "act now," to give us the resources so we can help the large number of

workers get back on their feet through training and employment services.

Van Sickle spoke on behalf of the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation, the

County Commissioner's Association of Pennsylvania, where he is board chair, and NACo where he serves as vice chair of the Labor and Employment Steering Committee.

NACo/ESRI Technology Foundation Grant Series

an exclusive for NACo Members

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queries

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Maps

Location
Services

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Maps

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For more information on GIS and
other NACo programs and benefits,
call Andrew Goldschmidt at
(202)942-4221 or e-mail to
agoldsch@naco.org.



NACo National Association of Counties
Counties Care for America



Photo by David Hathcox

NACo Executive Director Larry Naake and Deputy Legislative Director Jeff Arnold present copies of county resolutions deploring terrorism to Ruben Barrales, deputy assistant to the president and director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. More than 500 counties, to date, have adopted resolutions condemning terrorism.

Study shows \$13 billion sales tax loss in 2001

By RALPH TABOR
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

A new study by the University of Tennessee shows that states, counties and cities will lose \$13.3 in revenues this year because taxes are not paid on remote online purchases as they are on "Main Street" purchases.

This estimate is 41 percent higher than the researchers previously calculated only last year. Projected annual revenue losses jump to \$45.2 billion in 2006 and \$54.8 billion by 2011.

The continued loss of revenue highlights fairness issues for retailers, taxpayers, states, counties and cities. It creates difficult choices for the 45 states that rely on sales tax revenue: raise sales, income and property taxes to compensate for the loss, cut services like education and public safety, or a combination of both.

Many states and local governments are also experiencing sharp decreases in sales and income taxes as a result of the current economic downturn. The revenue losses from not being able to collect sales taxes from remote sellers compounds this financial situation.

The study projects sales tax revenue losses for each state for 2001, 2006 and 2011. Texas will lose \$1.2 billion to e-commerce sales tax erosion this year. In Florida, the amount is \$932.2 million. Illinois will lose out on \$532.9 million, Michigan will lose \$502.9, Tennessee will lose \$362.3 million and Maryland, \$194.4 million.

In the smallest states, the revenue erosion is large as well. Wyoming will lose \$26.1 million, Rhode

Island, \$436.8 million and North Dakota, \$26.4 million.

In a decade, the revenue losses grow tremendously, according to Donald Bruce, of the University of Tennessee and the study's co-author. "By 2011, the potential revenue loss in Texas alone will be \$4.8 billion — that's almost 10 percent of the state's total expected tax collections. To make up for this revenue, Texas's current statewide sales tax rate of 6.25 percent would have to rise to 7.86 percent."

Historically, states, counties and cities have responded to this erosion in sales tax revenue by raising tax rates, Bruce pointed out. In 1970, the median sales tax rate in the United States was 3.25 percent. This rose to 4 percent in 1980 and 5 percent in 1990. Fifteen states now have rates at or above 6 percent.

"We determined that, to make up for revenue losses due to e-commerce, states and local government would have to raise their sales tax rates between 0.83 and 1.73 percentage points by 2011," said William F. Fox, study co-author and University of Tennessee professor.

The study was prepared by the Center for Business and Research at the University of Tennessee, the pioneers in research on the subject. Data was collected by Forrester Research, Inc., the recognized leader in e-commerce research. The study was commissioned by the Institute for State Studies, a nonprofit public policy group.

(The report is available online at www.statestudies.org.)

Innovation Grants now available for southern counties

Request for proposals were recently announced for the Sustainable Community Grants Program sponsored by the Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture and Education program, and the Southern Region Rural Development Center. Proposal deadline is Nov. 2. Projects will be funded up to \$10,000 and can be up to two years in duration.

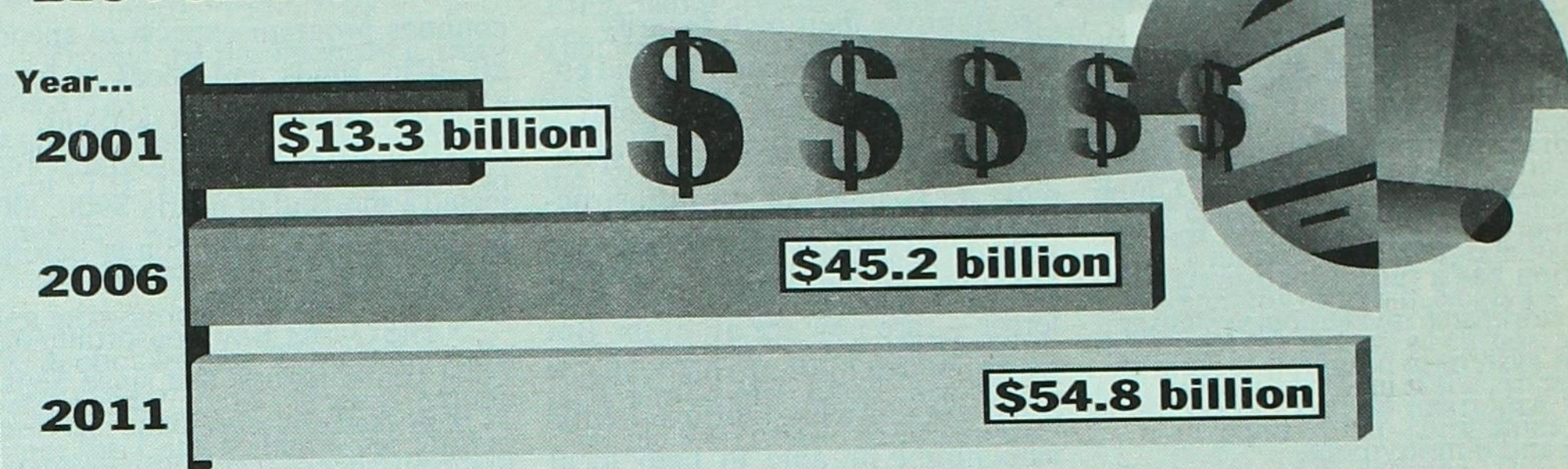
The program funds projects that pursue local strategies linking sound farm and non-farm economic development with agricultural and natural resource management. Applications are encouraged that will increase knowledge, build capacity and make connections among on- and off-farm sustainable activities, economic and

community development, civic engagement, nutrition and health, and local government policy.

Sustainable Community Innovation Grants aim to blend on-farm sustainable agriculture practices with new off-farm community development strategies to increase our ability to resilient farms, businesses, families and communities in the South.

(For more information, contact: Southern Ext. Rural Development Center, Box 9656, 410 Bost Extension Building, Mississippi State, MS 39762; Phone: (662) 325-3207; E-mail: bonniet@srdc.msstate.edu; Web site: www.ext.msstate.edu/srdc)

State and Local Sales Tax Revenue Losses from E-Commerce



"Projected State and Local Revenue Losses from E-Commerce Activity: Updated Estimates," University of Tennessee 2001

Two-year extension of Internet tax ban approved

The House Judiciary Committee voted 19-15 to reduce to two years a proposed extension of the existing moratorium on Internet access taxes and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce. The Oct. 10 vote came at the end of a contentious markup of legislation (H.R. 1552) that would have permanently banned Internet access taxes and would have extended the commerce tax moratorium for five years.

Under the successful amendment proposed by Reps. Spencer Bachus (R-Ala.), Melvin Watts (D-N.C.) and William Delahunt (D-Mass.), both parts of the moratorium would be extended through Nov. 1, 2003. NACo strongly supported the two-year extension. The Bachus amendment also leaves in place Internet access taxes in 11 states that were grandfathered under the Internet Tax Freedom Act in 1998.

Legislation (S. 1481) has been introduced in the Senate by Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) calling for a similar two year extension. Sens. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), John Breaux (D-La.) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) introduced an eight-month extension bill (S. 1504).

(Contact: Ralph Tabor (202) 942-4254; rtabor@naco.org)

Projected State and Local Revenue Losses From E-Commerce Activity

(Figures in millions)

| State | 2001 | 2006 | 2011 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ALASKA | \$177.4 | \$604.3 | \$734.4 |
| ARKANSAS | \$143.8 | \$488.0 | \$590.9 |
| ARIZONA | \$231.1 | \$799.2 | \$982.5 |
| CALIFORNIA | \$1,750.0 | \$5,952.0 | \$7,225.0 |
| COLORADO | \$200.7 | \$686.4 | \$836.2 |
| CONNECTICUT | \$190.5 | \$648.9 | \$788.2 |
| DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | \$36.7 | \$123.1 | \$147.7 |
| FLORIDA | \$932.2 | \$3,214.0 | \$3,944.4 |
| GEORGIA | \$439.0 | \$1,517.8 | \$1,865.6 |
| HAWAII | \$105.1 | \$359.2 | \$438.3 |
| IOWA | \$111.8 | \$372.3 | \$443.7 |
| IDAHO | \$44.4 | \$151.5 | \$184.6 |
| ILLINOIS | \$532.9 | \$1,795.3 | \$2,161.7 |
| INDIANA | \$215.5 | \$728.5 | \$879.8 |
| KANSAS | \$134.4 | \$451.5 | \$542.2 |
| KENTUCKY | \$158.7 | \$535.5 | \$645.8 |
| LOUISIANA | \$302.6 | \$1,008.1 | \$1,202.5 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | \$200.6 | \$683.0 | \$828.6 |
| MARYLAND | \$194.4 | \$664.3 | \$809.2 |
| MAINE | \$43.1 | \$146.4 | \$177.5 |
| MICHIGAN | \$502.9 | \$1,696.2 | \$2,043.6 |
| MINNESOTA | \$270.6 | \$920.6 | \$1,117.2 |
| MISSOURI | \$261.6 | \$884.1 | \$1,066.7 |
| MISSISSIPPI | \$136.5 | \$462.8 | \$560.0 |
| NORTH CAROLINA | \$293.4 | \$1,010.9 | \$1,239.4 |
| NORTH DAKOTA | \$26.4 | \$87.6 | \$103.9 |
| NEBRASKA | \$70.9 | \$238.7 | \$287.3 |
| NEW JERSEY | \$337.8 | \$1,150.0 | \$1,396.1 |
| NEW MEXICO | \$129.1 | \$440.2 | \$535.4 |
| NEVADA | \$126.3 | \$441.7 | \$549.0 |
| NEW YORK | \$1,052.9 | \$3,569.2 | \$4,318.4 |
| OHIO | \$446.7 | \$1,502.2 | \$1,805.9 |
| OKLAHOMA | \$202.8 | \$670.6 | \$794.5 |
| PENNSYLVANIA | \$446.4 | \$1,503.4 | \$1,811.0 |
| RHODE ISLAND | \$36.8 | \$124.5 | \$150.4 |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | \$153.4 | \$525.0 | \$640.5 |
| SOUTH DAKOTA | \$39.4 | \$133.4 | \$161.3 |
| TENNESSEE | \$362.3 | \$1,242.8 | \$1,518.7 |
| TEXAS | \$1,162.1 | \$3,957.0 | \$4,805.6 |
| UTAH | \$104.5 | \$359.0 | \$439.2 |
| VIRGINIA | \$238.5 | \$817.0 | \$997.2 |
| VERMONT | \$21.0 | \$71.7 | \$87.2 |
| WASHINGTON | \$416.5 | \$1,427.3 | \$1,745.3 |
| WISCONSIN | \$213.5 | \$721.5 | \$871.0 |
| WEST VIRGINIA | \$70.1 | \$232.4 | \$276.2 |
| WYOMING | \$26.1 | \$85.2 | \$100.0 |
| TOTAL | \$13,293.1 | \$45,204.3 | \$54,849.5 |

ARLINGTON

from page 1

and Rescue teams from Fairfax County, Va., Montgomery County, Md., and Hampton-Roads, Va., to enter Arlington to assist in the rescue operation. The county Board ratified the declaration later that day.

It was not surprising that Arlington was able to mobilize so quickly. The county has conducted numerous disaster drills in the past with state and federal agencies and other regional jurisdictions that involved a range of scenarios. The county's preparations for Y2K were also a major factor, as the team planned for the worst to happen at the turn of the century, and many of the contingencies put into place for that particular event had applicability for responding to the Pentagon tragedy.

Also, following the 1995 Tokyo subway terrorist attack, the Arlington Fire Department led the nation in identifying issues related to responding to acts of terrorism. The department's work resulted in the formation of a National Medical Response Team, one of four such teams in the country. The team is trained to detect chemical and biological agents and is capable of providing mass casualty decontamination. The team works within local command and control structures.

The complexity and enormity of the situation required a coordinated regional response. Public safety personnel responded from the Defense Protective Service, George Mason and Virginia State universities, Greenbelt, Md., Immigration and Naturalization Services, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the Military District of Washington, Prince George's County, Md., US Airways Fire Services, Virginia Alcohol and Beverage Control, Virginia State Police, U.S. Park Police and Washington, D.C.

There were also a host of Virginia jurisdictions involved including the City of Alexandria, the City of Falls Church, Fairfax City, Fairfax County, Loudoun

County and Prince William County. Urban search and rescue teams from Montgomery County, Md., New Mexico and Tennessee joined them. The degree of cooperation and coordination they displayed throughout the operation was commendable as well as essential and something that would not have been as efficient without the many pre-existing mutual aid agreements.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes at the county's EOC, employees worked around the clock purchasing needed materials, organizing recovery efforts, planning for the transitioning of command to the FBI, establishing computer networks and screening calls from citizens offering donations or wanting to volunteer.

Particular attention was paid to keeping the public and the media informed of the progress of the rescue and recovery efforts. The communications/public affairs team held briefings for the news media twice a day, providing updates as they were made available and facilitating interviews with people who played key roles in the operation. The briefings were aired both on the broadcast channels and the county's cable channel. They were also transcribed and posted on the county's homepage for Internet users.

In other parts of the county, employees who were not involved in the recovery effort made sure the community was being served. There was no break in service, and for citizens who were not aware of the extent of the county's response efforts, it was business as usual.

Recognizing that there were victims of the attack other than those in the building, the county took steps on several fronts to deal with the resulting emotional and economic fall out from the day's events. A crisis program to assist residents was established with mental health professionals available 24 hours a day to provide crisis counseling, stress management education, support, and information and referral. Children and families who were directly affected were identified by the public school system for referral to resources, including child

and family mental health professionals. Support and educational group sessions also will be held throughout the county to provide critical incident stress management.

To assist businesses that were affected by the closing of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as a result of the Pentagon attack, a Business Recovery Center was established. The center acted as a clearinghouse for information regarding traffic pattern modifications, airport and airline updates, mental health assistance for employees, a central point for donations and volunteers, public school information

and general hotline numbers. A temporary bus service between Arlington and Dulles International Airport was implemented to provide Arlington residents, visitors, and businesses inexpensive and convenient access to air service that was lost with the closing of National Airport. In addition, to assist those who lost their jobs or who expected to lose their jobs as a result of the airport's closing, the county's Employment Center provided on-site services.

The county transferred responsibility for incident and site management at the crash site to the FBI at 7 a.m., Friday, Sept. 21. Fire Depart-

ment personnel remained on site to provide fire watch and to monitor the safety of the structure as the FBI conducted its investigation. Arlington Police also continued to assist with evidence collection and security.

Overall, the county's response was efficient and effective and involved every aspect of the county government. In the weeks to come, the county will evaluate its performance and use the information to chart its successes as well as identify areas for improvement.

(Pam Locke is a public affairs specialist for Arlington County, Va.)

Expand Democracy in America

We Need More Poll Workers!

More than 1.4 million citizens realize their civic responsibility and work at the polls on Election Day. But many more are needed.

NACo is launching a national campaign to encourage more people to work at the polls by establishing a coalition of governments, organizations, corporations, schools and colleges. Counties are essential to the campaign. We are asking counties to take a leadership role in their communities and make a commitment to the campaign.

Yes, my county is committed to getting more citizens to work at the polls. (Please check)

- ☐ My county will allow county employees to take administrative leave to work at the polls
- ☐ My county will promote the campaign with ads and Public Service Announcements
- ☐ My county will work with local businesses, community groups, schools and colleges to get more poll workers

Name: _____

Title: _____

County: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Fax Number: _____

**EXPAND
DEMOCRACY**
In America

NACo National Association of Counties
Counties Care for America

Please send your completed pledge to Tom Goodman, NACo Public Affairs, 440 First St., NW, Washington, DC 20001 Fax: (202) 393-2630.

A pledge form will also be available on NACo's Web site at www.naco.org.

Arlington County's Recommendations for Local Governments

As the threat of terrorist strikes on the United States remains tangible, officials in Arlington County recommend all local governments immediately consider taking the following steps:

- 1) Update emergency management plans and make sure they are consistent with state and FEMA requirements.
- 2) Ensure that all mutual aid agreements are current, especially with more distant jurisdictions that may be called upon in a major emergency.
- 3) Review plans for procuring and delivering materials and supplies to an emergency location, especially perimeter fencing, lumber and generator services.
- 4) Review plans for a significantly expanded public information operation.
- 5) Review plans for employee support in an extended emergency.

County leaders, urging tolerance, move to protect Arab, Muslim Americans

By BEVERLY SCHLOTTERBECK
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Within hours of the terrorists attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, frightened, angry Americans lashed out at those who resembled the hijackers and even those who didn't.

Four killings have been directly attributed to the vengeful actions, and scores of ugly threats, vandalism, and assaults began rolling across the country.

National leaders called for tolerance and even as they did, local community leaders had already stepped up

their efforts to contain attacks against Arab Americans and Muslims.

In Harris County, Texas, Judge Robert Eckels began visiting with Arab leaders in his community almost immediately after word of the attacks reached Houston. More meetings followed at high profile sites such as the Arab Cultural Center and a mosque. Local law enforcement officials began working closely with the FBI and ATF. The district attorney's office tagged assault cases looking for possible hate crime charges. "We have a pretty good relationship with the Islamic, Arab, Pakistani communities, and they are nervous," Eckels wrote in an e-mail, Sept. 25, "but they are not facing widespread violence."

Allegheny County (Pa.) Chief Executive Jim Roddy was attending as many interfaith gatherings and prayer services as possible during the week of the attacks, working to get out the message to "assure the community that our government and public officials are committed to maintaining civility, harmony and the safety of all citizens, irrespective of religious, race or ethnic origins."

On the evening of Sept. 11, in Fairfax County, Va., home to six Muslim schools, 10 mosques and four other Islamic-related institutions, Fairfax County Police Chief Colonel Thomas Manger directed district commanders to contact known Arab or Muslim community leaders to offer assistance. By Thursday, Sept. 16, the department had obtained Muslim community directories and copies went to each district with instructions to identify all Arab or Muslim institu-

tions within each district and to contact them with offers of support.

Fairfax County Police Lt. Larry Moser, who was heading up the outreach program, said the county also alerted the local Arab press about police efforts and began widening its outreach by offering additional resources to individuals and groups who perceived themselves to be at-risk.

In the first hours and days after the attack, Moser reported there were 11 "bias" crimes and four bias incidents, approximately 1.6 per day. The more serious included two assaults and two threats with weapons.

During 2000 the county recorded 5 crimes and 2 incidents.

On Friday, Sept. 14, county leaders took a public stand against hate or bias crimes. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Kate Hanley said, "We must not let our anger at these terrorists rip up the fabric of this community. ... As a nation, we are resolved to find and hold accountable those who are guilty of causing such death and destruction, but we must be mindful not to spray blame indiscriminately over those who embrace a particular faith or whose antecedents come from a particular part of the

world. If we do that, these terrorists will have succeeded."

The legal and law enforcement community in Los Angeles County, Calif., stepped up its investigation of hate crimes in the aftermath of Sept. 11. The L.A. County District Attorney's Office went to the media advising residents who had been targets of hate crimes to immediately notify their local law enforcement agency. The office also proposed new legislation that would allow prosecutors to seek tougher sentencing of gang members convicted of hate crimes.

Across the country in Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas wrote in *The Miami Herald*: "No ethnic group has a priority on grief or anger as a result of this act of violence. This is especially important here in Miami-Dade County. We are a diverse people — a microcosm of this great nation. Our Islamic neighbors are part of our grand mosaic, of which we are so proud. They are valuable and respected members of our community. They are members of a noble faith that honors peace. They are fellow Americans who deserve our respect."

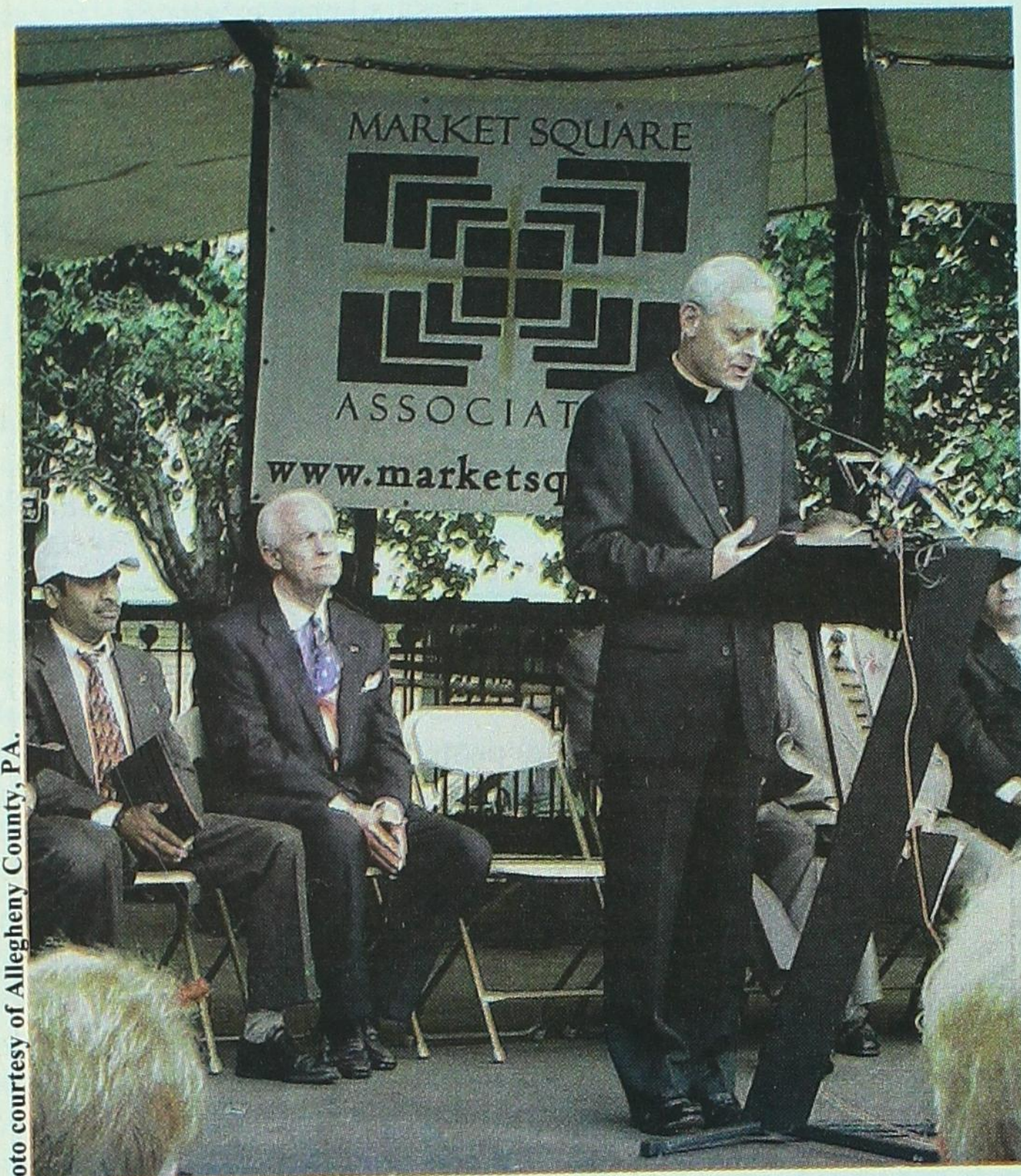


Photo courtesy of Allegheny County, Pa.

Allegheny County (Pa.) Chief Executive Jim Roddy (center) seated next to Farooq Hussaini, director of Interfaith Relations for the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh, listens to remarks from Bishop Donald Wuerl of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. Eighteen leaders of various faiths, local public officials and thousands of citizens attended the interfaith prayer service in downtown Pittsburgh.

House farm bill boosts rural development

By ERIC CILIBERTI
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The House-passed reauthorization of the farm bill, H.R. 2646, would provide \$167 billion over 10 years to fund commodity programs, conservation initiatives, nutrition and rural development programs. Included in the final bill is a NACo-sponsored amendment that boosts rural development funding by \$1 billion over 10 years.

The amendment, sponsored by Reps. Eva Clayton (D-N.C.) and John Peterson (R-Pa.), would devote an additional \$90 million per year on rural community water assistance programs and strategic planning initiatives for rural communities. The remaining \$10 mil-

lion per year would fund infrastructure development that would add value to commodities.

"This is a big win for rural communities," says Rural Action Caucus Chair Jan Porter. "This amendment strengthens the commitment to improving rural communities' vital infrastructure and planning capabilities that are lacking at the local level in rural America."

Within the \$167 billion is \$73 billion in added agricultural spending, which comes out of the 'surplus' and was agreed upon in the budget resolution passed in April 2001. Approximately \$50 billion of this new money would go to traditional commodity groups, such as growers of grain and cotton.

The White House has expressed serious concerns about the 10-year time period of the bill due to "the rapidly changing agriculture sector." Most farm bills in the past have been either five or six years in length. The Administration also has concerns about the price tag of the bill.

Meanwhile, the Senate Agriculture Committee expects to pass a bill before the end of October, although actual floor action in the Senate is uncertain at this time. It is widely assumed the Senate will wait until next year to complete the legislation although House passage of the bill will likely add pressure to Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) to attempt to finish the bill this year.

Top 20 Counties Arab American Population Rank

| County, State (General Population Rank) | Arab American Population |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Los Angeles, Calif. (1) | 197,205 |
| 2. Wayne, Mich. (11) | 109,460 |
| 3. Kings (Brooklyn), N.Y. (7) | 95,231 |
| 4. Cook, Ill. (2) | 82,360 |
| 5. Oakland, Mich. (30) | 54,230 |
| 6. Orange, Calif. (5) | 46,985 |
| 7. Macomb, Mich. (60) | 44,190 |
| 8. Cuyahoga, Ohio (23) | 43,750 |
| 9. Harris, Texas (3) | 41,775 |
| 10. San Diego, Calif. (6) | 39,165 |
| 11. Fairfax, Va. (36) | 34,910 |
| 12. Queens, N.Y. (9) | 34,780 |
| 13. Miami-Dade, Fla. (8) | 34,030 |
| 14. New York County, N.Y. (17) | 32,685 |
| 15. Middlesex, Mass. (19) | 29,100 |
| 16. Bergen, N.J. (46) | 25,690 |
| 17. Montgomery, Md. (49) | 24,055 |
| 18. Santa Clara, Calif. (14) | 21,255 |
| 19. Allegheny, Pa. (28) | 20,980 |
| 20. Norfolk, Mass. (83) | 20,550 |

-Arab American Institute and U.S. Census Bureau

95 percent of counties had emergency plans prior to Sept. 11

By TIFFANY RICCI
MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER

The events of Sept. 11 show that counties, through mutual aid agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, can marshal resources faster than state and federal deployments because of their proximity to events. New York City firefighters and police were the first responders to the attacks on the World Trade Center. At the Pentagon, Arlington County, Va. police, fire and search and rescue workers were the first at the scene, quickly joined by Fairfax County, Va. fire, search and rescue. Within a few hours, county fire, and search and rescue workers from as far away as New Mexico arrived at the scene.

Counties play a key role in every emergency, whether that emergency is a natural disaster or some other type such as the events that occurred on Sept. 11. Counties are first responders because they are often times responsible for everything from extinguishing fires to rescuing survivors to rerouting traffic and setting up roadblocks.

Across the country, counties have extensive plans to guide their response to crisis situations. A sample survey of 384 counties conducted this year by the National Association of Counties shows that prior to the events of Sept. 11, 95 percent of counties have a disaster plan and 62 percent have a plan to specifically deal with terrorist attacks.

For instance, in 1999, Orange County, Fla. established a Domestic Preparedness (DP) Program to assist emergency personnel in the event of a terrorist incident or mass-casualty event. A team of experienced professionals in areas such as hazardous materials, environmental issues, weapons of mass destruction and field sampling devised the program.

The DP Program provides a ready reserve of trained personnel, technical resources to Emergency Management and other agencies, improved communication between emergency personnel and training to county and external agencies. The team has concentrated its efforts on improving inter-agency coordination

and cooperation by planning joint team-exercises.

Some counties, such as King County, Wash. have a plan to assist residents and businesses after the initial crises pass. The county fashioned a county-to-county mutual aid agreement that covers all county services. The agreement covers the procedural, legal and reimbursement issues associated with mutual aid.

And it's because so many counties, on the frontline of most crises, already have plans in place that the NACo Task Force on Homeland Security (See *County News Oct. 1*) was created by NACo President Javier Gonzales. The Task Force was created to specifically link counties to the federal government and educate the federal government about the role counties play in securing the nation's communities.

The first meeting of the Task Force is scheduled to take place on Oct. 26 in Washington, D.C. (See sidebar for latest list of NACo Task Force member.)

NACo Task Force on Homeland Security Members (to date)

Steering Committees

Agriculture and Rural Affairs

• Bill Hansell
Commissioner
Umatilla County, Ore.

Community and Economic Development

• Peter McLaughlin
Commissioner
Hennepin County, Minn.

• Darrel Williams
Commissioner
Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Environment, Energy and Land Use

• Robert Eckels
County Judge
Harris County, Texas

• Jean Michaels
Commissioner
Olmsted County, Minn.

Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs

• Joe Murray Rivers
Commissioner
Chatham County, Ga.

• Alfred C. Anderson
Treasurer
Roanoke County, Va.

Health

• Carol Moehrle
North Central Health Department
Nez Perce County, Idaho

• Dewey Desler
Deputy County Administrator
Whatcom County, Wash.

Human Services and Education

• Patrice Bataglia
Commissioner
Dakota County, Minn.

• Charles L. Short
Dept. Health & Human Services
Montgomery County, Md.

Justice and Public Safety

• James E. Cadue
Commissioner
Monroe County, Pa.

• John Brackney
County Board Chair
Arapahoe County, Colo.

Labor and Employee Benefits

• Deborah Sims
Commissioner
Cook County, Ill.

Public Lands

• Ronald Christensen
County Board Chair
Gila County, Ariz.

• John Foard
County Board Chair
Boise County, Idaho

Telecommunications and Technology

• Alfonso Amaro
Supervisor
Yuba County, Calif.

• Marilyn J. Praisner
Council Member
Montgomery County, Md.

Transportation

• Chris Hart
Commissioner
Hillsborough County, Fla.

• Robert G. Greer
Vice Chairman County Board Vice Chair
New Hanover County, N.C.

Affiliated Organizations

Large Urban County Caucus

• Wayne K. Curry
County Executive
Prince George's County, Md.

Rural Action Caucus

• Janet S. Porter
Treasurer
Catron County, N.M.

State Executives

• Steve Szalay
Executive Director
California State Association of Counties

• Doug Hill
Executive Director
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

National Association of County and City Health Officials

• Pat Libbey
President
Thurston County, Wash.

National Association of County Administrators

• Donald Stilwell
Lee County, Fla.

National Association of County Engineers

• Tony Giancola
Executive Director

National Association of County Planners

• Angela Harper
Henrico County, Va.

National Association of County Intergovernmental Relation Officials

• Linda Robinson
Henrico County, Va.

Law Enforcement Officials

• Ralph Ogden
Sheriff
Yuma County, Ariz.

• David Huffman
Sheriff
Catawba County, N.C.

Public Safety Officers

• Charles Short
Montgomery County, Md.

Fire/EMS

• Hank Blackwell
Fire Chief
Santa Fe, N.M.

Other

• Patricia Rogers
Council Member
Los Alamos County, N.M.

• Barbara Sheen Todd
Commissioner
Pinellas County, Fla.

America's Counties'

"Honor Roll"

Keeping the United States Strong and Free!

Please send information to **County News** about the resolutions you passed or activities undertaken in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York City, Arlington County, Va. (the Pentagon) and in Somerset County, Pa.

County News will publish an "Honor Roll" of America's Counties showcasing their efforts to keep the United States strong and free.

Please either fax, e-mail or mail to:
County News
440 First St., NW - STE 800
Washington, DC 20001
Fax: (202) 393-2630
E-mail: cnews@naco.org

Please...
Let Us Know

County-run airports grapple with an uncertain future

By M. MINDY MORETTI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As the nation continues to struggle with the economic after effects of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, many of the nation's airports—of which about one-third are run by counties—are taking a wait and see approach.

Initially, the nation's airports and airline industry were hit the hardest by the attacks with the immediate shut down of air space above the United States. Even as the air space was reopened and people got back to flying, the number of daily flights at the nation's airports decreased anywhere from 20 to 70 percent from their normal capacity. Thousands of airline employees lost their jobs and pending projects were put on hold. Despite the immediate negative impact, county commissioners, executives and airport

managers are not overly pessimistic about the long-term.

"Business has definitely declined since Sept. 11, but we're still trying to determine what the loss of business is going to mean in the long run," explained Kathleen Falk, county executive for Dane County, Wis. The Dane County Regional Airport sees about 607,000 passengers a year. "We don't know yet how long-lasting those changes will be."

Because the long-lasting changes are uncertain, Falk said the county plans to proceed with the first phase of a long-term construction and expansion project, but that as the project advances they will evaluate the situation before proceeding with future phases of the expansion.

"We will certainly have to re-view things at the end of the year,"

Falk said. "And then we'll see how things are through the first of year."

At Miami International Airport (Miami-Dade County, Fla.) the major expansion of the terminal continues but several aspects of the project are in a holding pattern.

"The money the county earns from the airport is reinvested back into the airport," explained Gwen Margolis, chairperson of the county commission. "Where it's making a difference is in our building program. We'll go forward with the terminal expansion, but we're going to hold off adding and expanding the retail portion."

The airport, which sees about 17 million passengers a year, is currently about 30 percent behind in traffic, and Margolis said revenues are down by about 50 percent. Al-

though no decisions will be made until the county has a clearer picture, Margolis said there is always the possibility of raising landing fees.

While Miami-Dade is considering the possibility of raising landing fees, Norm Feck, airport manager for the Sheridan County (Wyo.) Airport isn't sure where the \$5,000 he's had to spend on new ID badges and signage since the attacks in September, is going to come from. The airport serves about 14,000 passengers a year, and the county reinvests the \$280,000 it receives directly back into the airport.

"We certainly didn't have dollars earmarked for this sort of thing," Feck said. "I'm \$5,000 out of my airport budget, which means something else will have to go."

And while decreased air traffic is

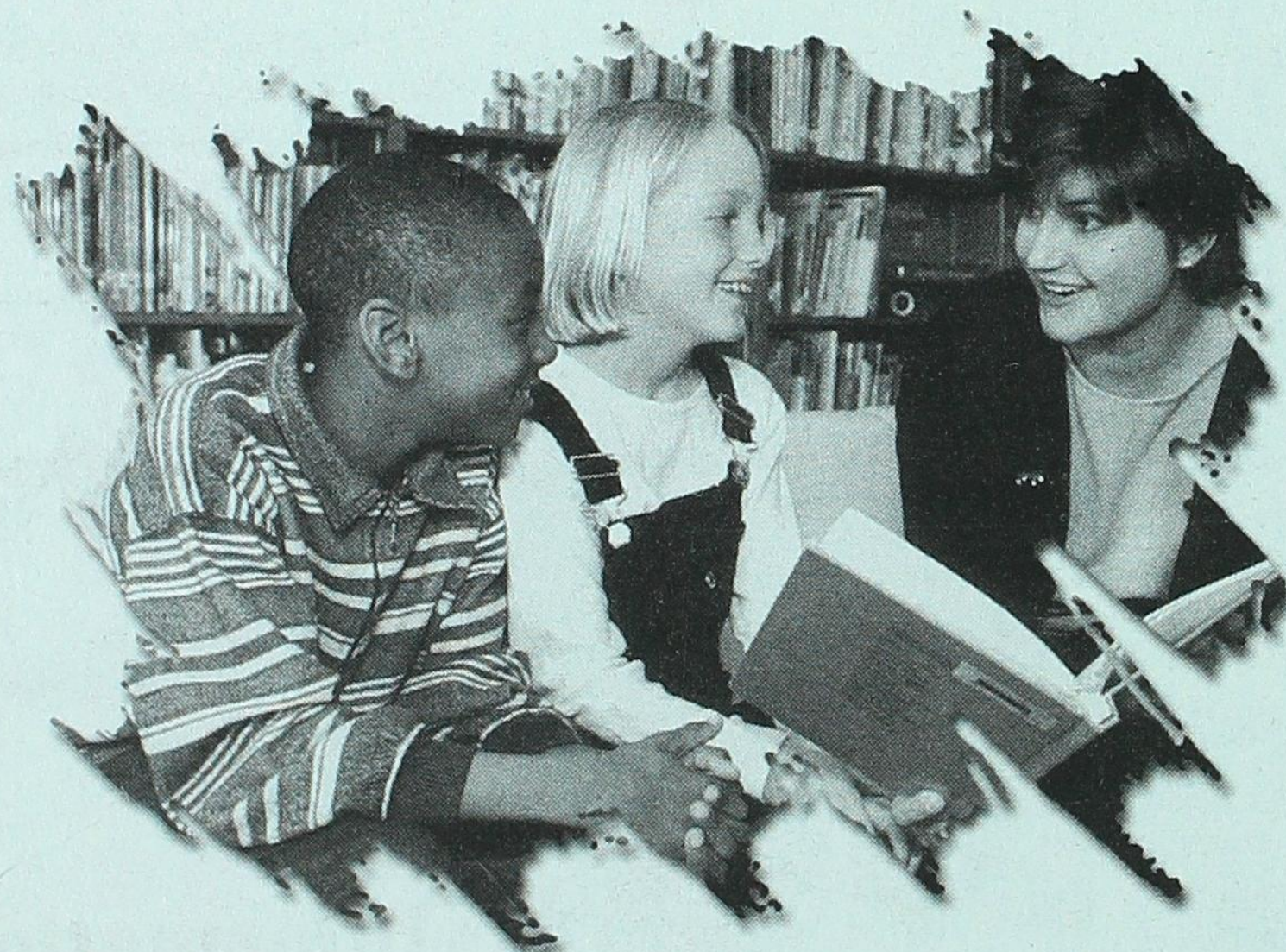
the bulk of the problem affecting the revenues for these county-run airports, some losses in revenue come directly from FAA-imposed changes at the nation's airports.

"We've lost 90 percent of our parking lot because we had to move it 300 feet from the terminal," Feck said. This means lost parking fees as well as the possible cost of building more parking to make up for the lost spaces.

Still, despite the lost revenue, the shelving of projects and the overall uncertainty of what the future holds, the prevailing attitude at county-run airports, from the passengers to those running the show, is one of resigned determination and cooperation.

"Certainly the future is uncertain," Feck said. "But in the end, what can we do, but go about our business the best we can?"

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NEWS FROM THE NATION'S COUNTIES

CALIFORNIA

There's an ill wind blowing in **ORANGE COUNTY** and it's coming from the uncollected residential trash that is beginning pile up because more than 700 sanitation workers went on strike on Oct. 1.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, trash company officials would speculate how long the strike may last, but issued a statement saying residential collection would be postponed indefinitely for most cities and county areas.

"We are only picking up critical accounts, like hospitals, health care services and food services," Bob Coyle, vice president of one of the four waste management companies that serves Orange County told *The Times*.

The contract between the teamsters and the four companies expired on Sept. 30, two days after members voted down a proposal that would have given them an additional \$1-an-hour raise for three consecutive years.

In the week leading up to the strike, union leaders encouraged workers to approve a federally mediated contract that provided a 33.5 percent raise over five years starting with \$1-an-hour the first year, but the workers, who want as much as \$4-an-hour the first year, turned it down.

If the strike drags on, the waste management companies said they will bring in replacement workers. In the meantime, county residents are being asked to either hold on to the trash or bring it to one of four disposal facilities in the county.

FLORIDA

The **BROWARD COUNTY** Board of Commissioners recently passed an ordinance regulating the merchandising and placement of tobacco products. The new ordinance prohibits the sale of tobacco products through any self-service display. The ordinance was passed in response to studies from the U.S. Surgeon General and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The new ordinance requires that the retailer, counter clerk or cashier assist consumers who purchase tobacco products. Consumers cannot have access to any tobacco products without the assistance of a store employee.

The ordinance does not apply to those premises that are limited to those 18 years of age and older.

LAKE COUNTY is asking its residents to leave their cars at home, at two new proposed park-and-ride facilities to help alleviate congestion on the already-clogged roads. The county is asking the state for \$10,000 to build two new park-and-ride facilities at the south end of the county. The lots would hold up

to 2,000 automobiles and from there commuters could share rides or use public transportation.

Along with the money for the parking lots, the county is also asking the state for \$7 million to build new stations for the Central Florida Commuter Rail System.

Lake County Public Works Engineer Noble Olasimbo told *The Orlando Sentinel* that building new roads in the county is not always the answer and Lake has to use as many transportation alternatives as possible.

• Next time you're cruising through the South Beach section of **MIAMI-DADE** county and you see a friend sitting at one of the areas trendy eateries, forget about calling the friend on your cell.

In late September, the County Commission voted 6-5 and became the first in Florida to ban the use of hand-held cell phones while driving. The law, expected to take effect in Oct. 2002 would impose a \$250 penalty for the first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses. Under the new law, drivers will still be able to use hands-free devices such as headsets or earphones.

Mayor Alex Penelas is expected to sign the ordinance.

• A last minute agreement between **OSCEOLA COUNTY** and the community of Deer Run will keep the firetrucks on call while the county dismantles its volunteer fire system.

In an effort to gain some control over volunteer firefighters and purchases made with taxpayer money, the county commissioners agreed to disband the volunteer fire system in the county. Last week, the county agreed to extend the contracts of the volunteer firefighters for 60 additional days, however the volunteers in Deer Run elected not to accept the offer and threatened to lock the doors to the fire station.

Osceola County Fire Chief Don Adams reached an agreement with the volunteers that allows county firefighters to use the station house and the county will lease the building, maintain the station and its grounds and insure the property.

MINNESOTA

To improve operational efficiencies and offer improved, effective services to the public, the University of Minnesota Extension Service-**WASHINGTON COUNTY** and the county's Department of Public Health and Environment embarked on an integration of administrative functions and improvement in program partnerships.

This change will maximize both departments' capabilities and resources, resulting in operating effi-

ciencies, improved programs and service partnerships.

"I am pleased with the goals and expectations for the partnership between the University of Minnesota Extension-Washington County and the Department of Public Health and Environment," said County Commissioner Bill Pulkrabek. "We anticipate many good outcomes, including a more closely aligned relationship between Extension and Public Health. Washington County is embarking on an innovative process that will result in streamlined administrative functions, as well as improved delivery of services, programs and linkage to University research."

According to staff members in both departments, the partnership between Extension and Public Health will accomplish several goals, including: improved communications, maximized resources, a consolidation of some administrative functions, the creation of new programs and a greater opportunity to access University research, particularly in the areas of youth development, family and health.

The transition will be essentially invisible to the general public. The majority of the transition process will be complete by Dec. 31. Throughout the process, staff members will conduct evaluations to ensure that goals and expectations of the transition are met.

NEVADA

With more twists and turns than an old West land grab, **WASHOE COUNTY** and the City of Reno are at it again. On Sept. 26, a county district judge issued a temporary restraining order against the city of Reno, preventing the city from publishing an ordinance to annex more than 3,000 acres in the Verdi area until a court ruling on the legality of the action could be heard.

On July 24, the city passed an ordinance to annex the acreage and the next day, the county District Attorney's Office filed a petition asking for a judgement voiding the city's ordinance stating the city exceeded its lawful authority by passing the ordinance. The county's petition seeks a court ruling supporting the position that, as a matter of law, the city may annex property only within its sphere of influence and as designated in its latest adopted and certified program annexation.

The anticipated court ruling was expected to happen prior to the city's Sept. 28 deadline to annex the property and when that didn't happen, the county filed for the restraining order. The district judge set an Oct. 10 hearing on the matter.

The county concerns about the

annexation include: none of the properties subject to annexation lie within the city's sphere of influence; the land lies with a suburban community says are not subject to annexation; there has been no comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts on service provision; and the proposal between the city and the property owners would allow development up to almost four times greater than the county's permitted zoning.

WASHINGTON

Nine Washington counties are suing the state over who should pay employee benefits for superior court judges. The legal action comes after the counties initially tried to address the problem through legislative redress and even withholding payments.

Traditionally, the cost of benefits for the judges was provided by the state, but in 1995, a state budget proviso shifted half this cost to the counties. While initially fought by most of the 39 counties in Washington, over the six-year battle, the number has dwindled to nine remaining counties.

According to *The Courthouse Journal*, the battle gained renewed strength earlier this year when the state legislature voted to withhold backfill money from the counties that were not paying 50 percent of the benefits for the judges.

Included in the lawsuit are **Thurston, Benton, Franklin, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Mason, Klickitat and Okanogan** counties. The counties are currently

paying the assessed 50 percent, but under protest.

The lawsuit was filed in Thurston County Superior Court on Sept. 17, but because of the subject matter, a pro tem judge may be brought in to hear the case. A superior court decision could be appealed to the state Supreme Court or the matter could be settled in arbitration.

WISCONSIN

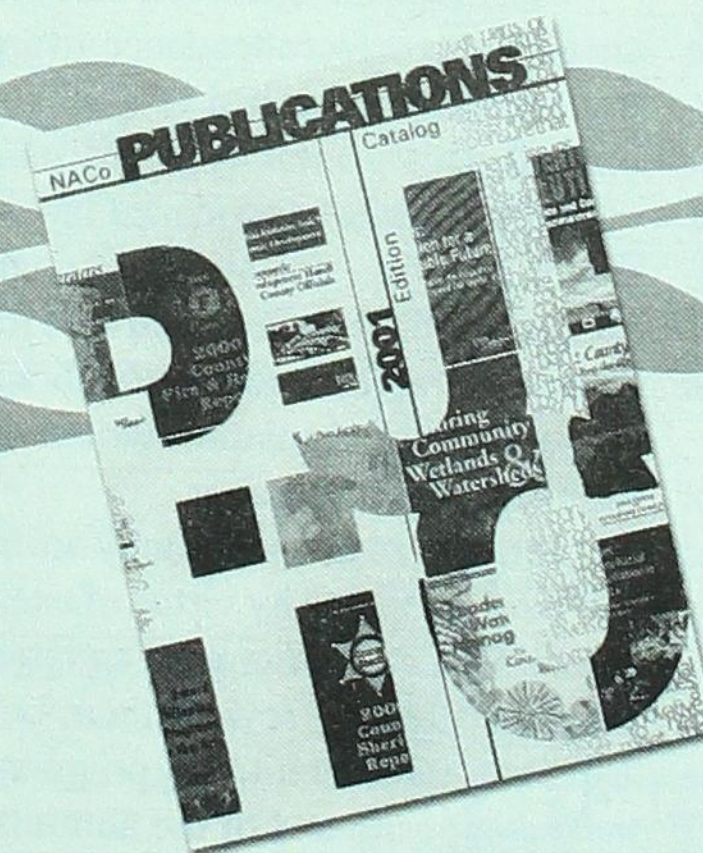
If one is paying lake-view property taxes but cannot see the lake through the trees, does that seem fair? Not according to some homeowners in **MILWAUKEE COUNTY** and apparently, some of them have taken matters into their own hands and started cutting down trees. In late September, someone cut down seven trees along the lakefront.

For years, residents in the Lake Park community have argued with the County Parks Department that the trees or shrubs along the lake bank needed to be cut down or pruned. The Parks Department argued that the vegetation was needed to keep the hill from eroding, and the department did not have the resources to prune the lakefront.

The sheriff's department is currently figuring out what type of fine or penalty they will impose when they find the guilty lumberjack.

(News from the Nation's Counties is compiled by M. Mindy Moretti, senior staff writer. Have news? Call (202) 942-4223, or e-mail mmoretti@naco.org.)

The 2001 Edition NACo Publications Catalog

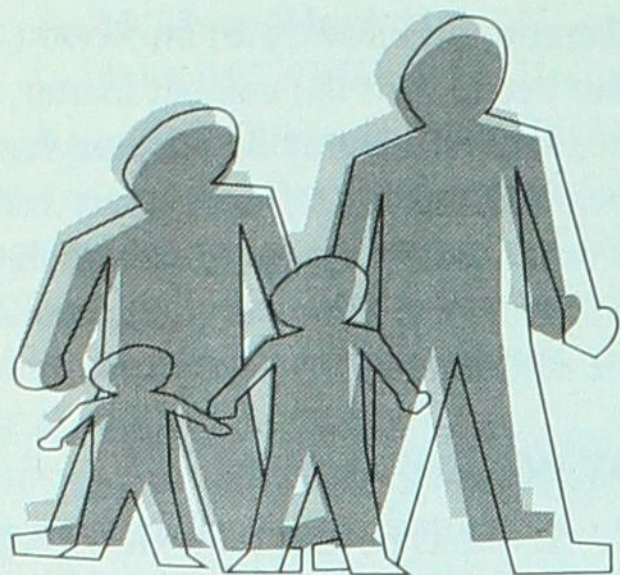


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THE H.R. DOCTOR IS IN

FMLA — Love It And 'Leave' It



The Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is now a well established member of the family of federal employment laws counties must manage. FMLA provides an entitlement for county employees to take unpaid or paid leave of 12 weeks in a 12 month period for "serious" medical conditions affecting the employee or members of the family. The employer is precluded from denying these rights or adversely affecting the employees because of the exercise of FMLA rights.

The HR Doctor has long supported family friendly workplace environments and policies. The basic concept behind FMLA fits exactly into this positive vision of a productive workplace.

Having said that, however, the regulations — the many regulations — associated with trying to administer FMLA have been brought to us by the Department of Labor — yes, the same group that has provided clear and unambiguous guidance in the management of that other lovely and talented workplace law — the Fair Labor Standards Act.

What that momentary lapse into sarcasm really means is that the rules of FMLA can place difficult burdens on counties, create uncertainty and stress. Out of uncertainty comes opportunity to take advantage of the law or to increase county management liabilities.

The HR Doctor offers the tips below in the hope of providing readers with a compass — or better yet — a GPS device and a map to make FMLA navigation easier:

► Any leave taken, which is not identified by the employer as part of an FMLA entitlement, generally won't count as part of the 12 weeks. In other words, an employee may take days or weeks off during the year and only then assert a right to 12 more weeks of time off under FMLA. A county should consider a basic policy under which all time off related to medical conditions is deemed to be counted as FMLA time, unless the employee requests otherwise and the employer agrees.

► The employer has the burden to define the 12-month period of entitlement. Will it be a calendar year,

for example? Or will it be a rolling 12-month period different for each individual and beginning with a particular instance of time off? Whatever the employer chooses, the choice must be made known to employees.

► Counties rely on supervisors to be their agents in the administration of human resource laws, rules and policies. It is a fundamental principle of the HR Doctor that all supervisors and managers must be knowledgeable HR professionals. This means that a county which doesn't offer FMLA training, guidance and support for managers is a county at considerable risk of inadvertently violating requirements of the law.

Therefore, build FMLA training for managers into an ongoing training program for county employees. In a similar manner, once policy decisions are made, such as those outlined in this article, they must be communicated clearly to employees and repeated periodically to "take excuses away" from the person who might argue that he or she didn't know what the county's policies were. Remember that the burden is not on the employee to ask specifically for FMLA time off. That burden rests with the county.

► Do you have a bonus or reward program for perfect attendance? If so, read FMLA and realize that the law, as currently written, is specific in saying that a person using FMLA entitlement leave may not be penalized by losing out on a bonus or incentive program related to attendance. The obvious outcome in this scenario is that you are not able to count FMLA time against an employee's eligibility for a bonus.

You may find, therefore, that you are giving a perfect attendance award to someone who has had 12 weeks of time off. This is certainly inconsistent with most perfect attendance incentive programs — not to mention common sense. This is clearly an area for legislative reform and possibly brain transplants for regulation writers at the Department of Labor.

► Since an employee may not be adversely affected by virtue of exercising FMLA entitlement, counties need to carefully review their sick leave control or monitoring programs — the opposite end of the administrative "food chain" from perfect attendance awards. That is, FMLA is sufficiently vague about the meaning of phrases, such as "serious medical condition," that monitoring efforts which attempt to deny or discipline employees for patterns of such time off may add to county liability.

County ability is made more complex as we try to deal with the rela-

tively small part of the employee population who is regularly using unscheduled time off and managers either suspect possible abuse of sick leave or, even if there is no abuse, the operation is harmed by frequent unplanned absences.

For example, one of the Department of Labor's defining elements in considering whether something is a serious medical condition or not, is whether the condition involves a regime of medical treatment. As all of us know, however, in this era of "defensive medicine," it is not rocket science to get a doctor's note or 10 days of penicillin or other prescription which may well constitute a regime of medical treatment.

► The employer may require that paid time off accrued by an employee, such as paid sick leave, be used first before unpaid leave will be approved. This is a legitimate exercise of discretion under FMLA, but employers need to understand and recognize that it is an option at their discretion.

► Another point involves resolution of a dispute about whether the situation is a serious medical condition. FMLA, in this case, may override local practice by calling for medical arbitration. In other words, if a claim for FMLA entitlement is made, the county has the right to require medical certification that a condition is a serious medical one. This can be done by accepting certification provided by an employee or paying for a county-mandated physician's examination.

Should there be a disagreement, for example, between an employee and the county physician's opinion, a second medical opinion may be sought to resolve the issue — paid for, of course, by the county. Should the two medical opinions clash, FMLA provides for the matter to be resolved by a third physician opinion paid for by — you got it — the county.

► Another point is that FMLA may very well overlap with other state or local laws. FMLA does not absolve the county from having to also comply with these other rules. State leave time acts exist in 25 states. Workers' compensation time off rules apply in all states, local collective bargaining contracts nearly always include time off, entitlements or policies. Civil service rules also are "at work" and there may be other court precedents or regulations present in the particular county.

Enough examples?

The HR Doctor apologizes for, perhaps, giving you a headache by describing the complexity of trying to live in

good faith with laws like the Fair Labor Standards Act or FMLA. However, look at the bright side. These complexities contribute to the job security of human resource professionals.

On a more serious note, these laws are complicated, but they can be effectively managed with proactive policies and deliberate steps to train and clarify issues for the managers throughout our organizations.

While the laws are complicated, our failure to provide guidance can lead to a very serious organizational medical condition — "decision pa-

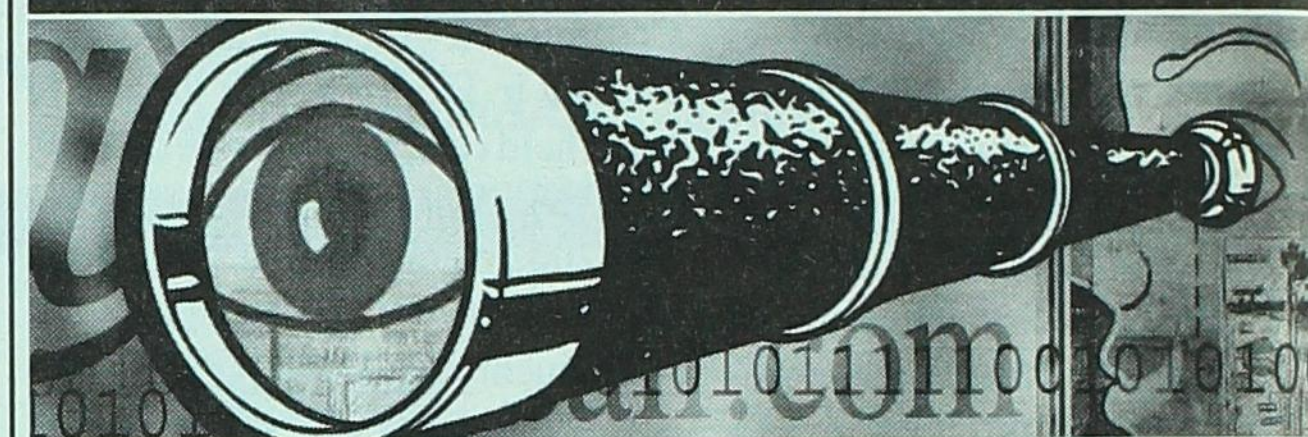
ralysis." Regrettably, that is not condition covered by the Americans With Disabilities Act or the FMLA. Finally, another bright spot, if trying to administer FMLA drives you crazy, you may well find that mental and emotional deterioration qualifies as a serious medical condition under the act. You may have to approve time off for yourself.

You are invited to visit the HR Doctor's office at www.hrd.net. Let me know if I can help. Best wishes,

Sincerely,

Phil Rosenberg, HR Doctor

WEB WATCH



Is the Latest E-mail Rumor True?

No doubt the infamous "Klingman Virus" e-mail has probably surfaced again as a byproduct of this unfortunate new era of bioterrorism. The bogus e-mail, first circulated more than a year ago, claims that someone is mailing, at random, large blue envelopes from an organization called the Klingman Foundation. The envelope contains, so the e-mail claims, a plastic bag encasing a sponge soaked in a viral strain never before encountered by public health officials.

The e-mail caused so much distress that last year the Centers for Disease Control released a statement labeling the e-mail as a hoax.

Even if the Klingman Virus hoax doesn't surface again (and there are indications that it has), there may be others. A good site to check for an e-mail's veracity is Urbanlegends.com. The site, online since 1991, devotes itself to debunking the many myths flying through cyberspace almost daily.

Miami-Dade Shines on Internet

Congratulations to Metro-Dade County's Web portal, www.miamidade.gov, for being named one of the country's top local government Web sites by The Center for Digital Government, a sister organization to *Government Technology* magazine.

The county's Building Department site also took home honors when *Computerworld ROI* magazine recognized the site as one of its Top 25 Wireless Innovators for 2001.

Julia King, executive editor of *Computerworld* said "the Wireless 25 represent the best and the brightest, not to mention the boldest business and technology strategies."

The Building Department was recognized for developing a process that employs the use of wireless handheld computers to record results of building inspections. As the data is entered, it is transferred in real time to the Internet. It is available via an automated voice response system.

And the fun doesn't stop there. Via a special permit number, contractors and other interested parties can view, via the site, a photo of the inspector assigned to their sites, as well as a map of the inspector's route for the day.

If you'd like to find out more about the Building Department, call Miriam Rossi or Nora Palomares, Communications and Public Information Section, Building Department, (305) 375-2827.

Mark Your Calendar

NACo's Fourth Annual Technology Summit is scheduled for April 4-6, 2002 in Raleigh (Wake County, N.C.). This year's summit is likely to focus on technology and security issues, says NACo Chief Information Officer Bert Jarreau. The number of invitees has been increased from 200 to 300, he reports.

(Web Watch is compiled by Schlatterbeck, executive editor. If you have a site that you'd like featured in Web Watch, e-mail cnews@nacounty.org or call (202) 942-4249.)

NACo ON THE MOVE

NACo OFFICERS / COUNTY OFFICIALS

• On Oct. 8, NACo President **Javier Gonzales**, Prince George's County (Md.) Executive **Wayne C. Curry**, former NACo President **C. Vernon Gray**, Prince William County (Va.) Board of Supervisors Chairperson **Sean Connaughton** and Montgomery County (Md.) Executive **Doug Duncan**, attended the White House swearing in ceremony of Gov. Tom Ridge as the new National Director of Homeland Security.

• On Oct. 3, NACo President **Javier Gonzales** hosted his first "Gateway Communities Forum" in Pima County, Arizona. Jeff Arnold, deputy legislative director; Sandy Markwood, deputy director of the County Services Department and Paul Beddoe, associate legislative director all participated in the forum as facilitators.

• **Lynn Feveryear**, manager of Housing and Community Development for Salt Lake County, Utah was honored recently by the National Association for County Community and Economic Development (NACCED). Feveryear received the Roy D. Hoover Memorial Award, the association's highest honor, Sept. 11 at its 26th annual conference in Shelby County (Memphis), Tenn.

NACo STAFF

• **Jeff Arnold**, deputy legislative director spoke on national issues and the importance of being a 100% State to the North Dakota Association of Counties annual meeting in Fargo, N.D., Oct. 8.

• The Western Interstate Region Board of Directors held its annual fall board meeting in Pima County, Arizona on Oct. 4-5. **Paul Beddoe**, associate legislative director staffed the meeting.

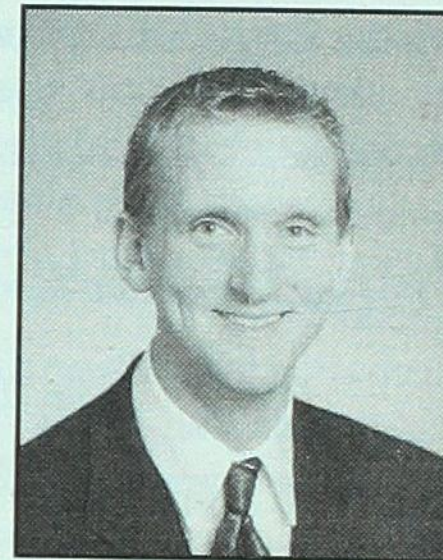
• **Bob Fogel** made a presentation at the annual meeting of the American Public Transportation Association in Philadelphia on Oct. 1. He was on a panel entitled, "TEA-21 Reauthorization—Understanding the Big Picture," along with representatives from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association.

• **Lois Kampinsky**, NACo telecommunications and education director, met with Georgia training directors and the director of the Carl Vincent Institute of Government in Atlanta on Sept. 30 to discuss NACo Internet University (NIU).

• **Martin Harris**, director, Joint Center for Sustainable Communities, addressed attendees of the 2001 Environmental Management Summit for Cities and Counties in Arlington County, Va. on Sept. 10. Speaking on the opening Leadership Panel on Leadership, he discussed some of lessons the Joint Center has learned in its five-year history of working with cities and counties on issues of sustainable development.

UP AND COMING VISITS

Andrew Goldshmidt, NACo's director of membership marketing will attend the Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association state conference in McLennan County, Texas Oct. 15-18.



Paul Beddoe



Lois Kapinsky



2001 Achievement Awards "Best of Category" Winners

Human Services

Rural Resort Region Child Care Project Eagle County, Colo.

The Rural Resort Region Child Care Project is a collaborative effort of five counties in Colorado to develop child care resources and assure affordable and quality child care. The project is organized under a five-county inter-governmental agreement adopted in September 1999. Project components include:

- recruitment, licensing and training of family day care homes
- development of county child care councils to assess child care needs and implement action plans to meet those needs
- development of a regional child care council to manage a consolidated child care

• pilot program vis-à-vis state departments of education, human services and private foundations, and revenue sharing of project costs based on population, assessed projections. The residents of the Rural Resort Region routinely move across of the borders of the region's five counties to live, work, obtain health care, child care and education, and access other needed community services. Issues of availability, access, affordability and quality impacts all these services.

A steering committee, including commissioners from the five counties, business leaders, educators and municipal representatives, was formed in July 1993. The Rural Resort Region approach is based on the principles of

- maximizing limited human and financial resources to create solutions
- developing coherent public policies that will result in consistent application of rules and regulations, and
- collaboration between public sector, non-profit and business communities to develop on-going shared strategies around priority issues.

The strategies employed to complement the Rural Resort Region Child Care project include:

- operating and managing the family day care home licensing program in the five counties
- engaging employers, parents, providers, and communities in ad-

ressing issues of funding, quality care, and availability of care, and

- coordinating access to state and federal funding sources and effectively leveraging local funding in combination with those other resources, increasing the number of licensed child care homes in the region.

Health Services

Block Buddies James City, Va.

Since its inception in August, 1998, *The Block Buddies: A Neighborhood Health Promoter Program* has trained 30 James City County citizens to become health ambassadors to their communities. Initially grant funded, the Block Buddies program developed by James City County's Office of Communications and Neighborhood Connections in partnership with Williamsburg Community Hospital, provides participants with 15 weeks of intensive health education. Their instructors are recognized health experts who have volunteered their time to teach classes on cardiovascular health, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, child development and much more.

In exchange for this wealth of information, the Block Buddies agree to share what they have learned with their neighbors, friends and family members. At the completion of the training period, the Block Buddies receive health education kits that include a blood pressure cuff and stethoscope, first aid kit, first aid book and other items that will assist them in their promotion of health.

The education does not stop at the end of the 15 weeks. The Block Buddies return for continuing education meetings held once a month where they learn about topics not covered in the initial training. The Block Buddies use these meetings to discuss new ways to help promote health in their neighborhoods. As a result of the Block Buddies program, residents report an increased level of neighbor-to-neighbor concern for one another's health and well being.

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

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| 7. Item 17 must be signed. | | | |
| Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization. | | | |
| PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse) | | | |

RESEARCH NEWS

So You're Having A Meeting?

Have you ever attended a meeting that seemed like it was out of control? Did the person presiding over the meeting appear not to know how to conduct the meeting? Were motions made, but nobody knew what to do? Was this a local government meeting?

Newly elected county officials are expected to know a lot of things. They are supposed to know something about the issues, a little about county processes and procedures and more about finance. Another thing elected officials should know about is *Robert's Rules of Order*.

What are these rules and why do county elected officials use them when conducting official meetings? Does your county have a meetings ordinance that sets out how meetings are to be run?

According to the *Robert's Rules of Order* Web site, Henry Martyn Robert was an engineering officer in the Army. One day, quite unexpectedly, he was asked to preside over a meeting, and he realized he did not know how. He tried to run the meeting anyway and suffered great embarrassment.

As a result of this experience, he decided he would learn all he could about parliamentary procedure so he would never be in that situation again. What he found as he studied the subject and traveled around the country was chaos.

Everywhere he went, he found people with differing ideas of how meetings should be conducted, based largely on what they had become accustomed to. In an attempt to establish one standard procedure and make order out of the procedural nightmare, Robert wrote what became his *Rules of Order*. The original version, published in 1915, is now free from copyright and therefore public domain and can be found on the Internet at www.constitution.org/rror/rror00.htm. The 10th revision is

available for purchase at most bookstores.

When county boards hold meetings, whether during the day or in the evening, each puts its own local stamp on the proceedings. Counties operate in a variety of ways. Some open with a prayer, a moment of silence or the pledge of allegiance. Most follow an agenda and have a presiding officer. Some require significant prior notice to have an item placed on the agenda. Some counties set a strict limit on the amount of time a person may speak.

All of these issues affect how a meeting is conducted. None, however, affect the process of voting and setting policy. *Robert's Rules of Order* does just that. Many counties, some required by state law, have incorporated Robert's Rules into their local ordinances.

Robert's Rules prescribe a parliamentary procedure that is a set of rules for meetings that allow everybody to be heard and allows decision making without confusion. These rules are important because they provide a universal means of conducting business at meetings and public gatherings and can be adapted to fit nearly every organization. Most clubs, committees, boards, organizations and other groups use Robert's Rules. Therefore, it is important for every county official to be familiar with the basic rules.

A frequent problem encountered at meetings is disruptive behavior. In many jurisdictions, there is no rule to address this activity, especially if it is a county official. In addition to Article VII of Robert's Rules, which describes the decorum of debate, a county may want to adopt a rule addressing decorum as part of its meetings ordinance or procedure. The rule could include language similar to the following:

The demand for accuracy and accountability are becoming more necessary as counties grow and tackle many more substantive issues than they have in the past.

Decorum. All commissioners shall conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner. All remarks shall be directed to the chairman and not to individual commissioners, staff, or citizens in attendance. Personal remarks are inappropriate and may be ruled out of order.

A commissioner may not speak at a meeting until he or she has been recognized by the chairman. All com-

ments made by a commissioner shall address the motion that is being discussed. The chairman shall enforce these rules of decorum.

If a commissioner believes that a rule has been broken, he or she may raise a point of order. A second is not required. The chairman may rule on the question or may allow the board to debate the issue and decide by majority vote.

Today, more and more counties are adopting meetings ordinances and incorporating Robert's Rules into the process. The demand for accuracy and accountability are becoming more necessary as counties grow and tackle many more substantive issues than they have in the past. As county

budgets have grown to resemble those of major industries, it has become more important for records of motions, votes and processes to be accurate. As always, please confer with your county attorney when considering adopting a new ordinance.

In the near future NACo will publish a pamphlet on Robert's Rules of Order and How to Conduct a Meeting. For additional information on this topic, go to www.accg.org/statelmodelopenordinance.asp#decorum or www.mrsc.org/localgov/councilfaqs.htm.

(Research News was written by Jacqueline Byers, director of research. Decorum essay excerpted from *Model Meeting Ordinance*, Association County Commissioners of Georgia Web site.)

NOTICES

CONFERENCES

■ The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), the Midwest Natural Resources Group (the federal agencies working the region) and many other private and state organizations are hosting *Working Landscapes in the Midwest: Creating Sustainable Futures for Agriculture, Forestry and Communities* Nov. 8-9, in Delavan, Wis. This conference will explore practices and policies that promote land-based economic activity to sustain families, urban and rural communities and ecosystems, while also providing multiple benefits to society. This conference will include dialogue, creative work and networking on this emerging concept. For more information, visit the conference Web site at www.workinglandscapes.org, e-mail wlinfo@iatp.org or contact Marin Byrne at (612) 870-3436.

■ The Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) will hold its *12th Annual Meeting and Exposition* April 29-May 2, 2002 at the Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach, Calif. Topics of the conference will include market developments, deployment initiatives, operations, infrastructure and public safety. For more information or to visit the ITS America virtual trade show entitled ExpoTour, visit its Web site at www.itsa.org.

PUBLICATIONS

■ The American Correctional Association released *Getting High and Doing Time: What is the Connection, 2nd Edition*. This publication offers solutions to the problem of offenders with substance abuse problems, specifically what happens when they are released back into the community. Treating the problem is seen as being vital to ensuring offenders are ready for life on the outside. To order copies of this publication, contact ACA's customer service department at (800) 222-5646, ext. 1860 and ask for item #764-F1. This book is available to ACA members for \$8 and to non-members for \$10. Please

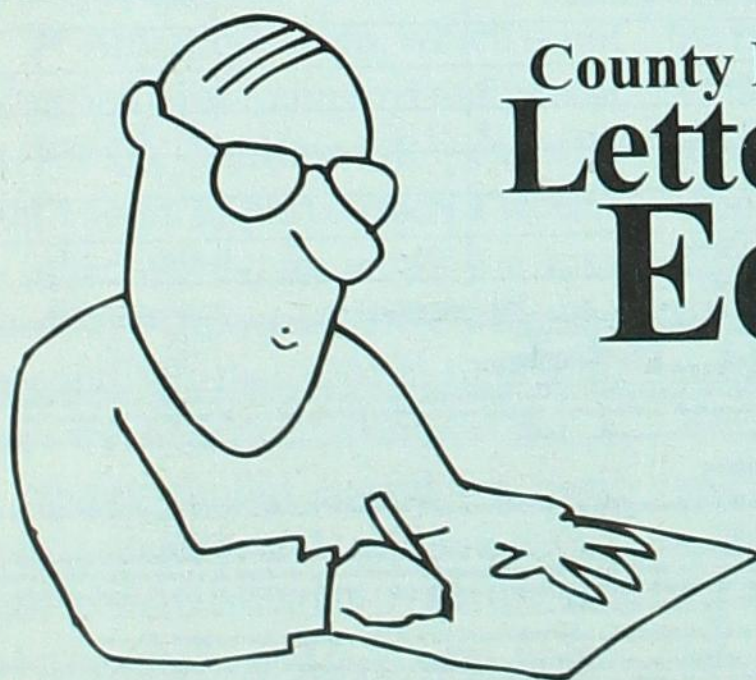
include \$6.25 for shipping and handling. More information on the ACA can be found at the Web site www.aca.org.

■ Energize has released its *2001-2002 Volunteer Energy Resource Catalog*. The catalog features more than 55 different books, training materials, audiotapes, software and other resources on volunteerism. Subjects include volunteer program development and management, recruitment, recordkeeping, recognition and evaluation. For a free copy call (800) 395-9800 or order by visiting the Web site at www.energizeinc.com.

■ The American Planning Association, (APA) has just released *SafeScape: Creating Safer, More Livable Communities Through Planning and Design*. SafeScape presents planning and design techniques that can prevent crime in communities. The publication shows planners can make the physical environment safer — and strengthen the community — by addressing conditions that create public safety concerns. For more information on this publication, contact APA at (312) 786-6344 or visit their Web site at www.planning.org.

■ Mathematica recently published, *Work, Welfare and Family Well-Being* a report that looks at the effect on family well-being of moving parents who were unemployed and on welfare in Iowa into jobs. The study found that when parents were employed, many reported improvements in family income, standard of living, parental self-esteem, parenting skills and family harmony. On the other hand, many parents who had difficulty retaining employment, reported having many difficult family issues. This report is available on Mathematica's Web site at www.mathematica-mpr.com/PDFs/redirect.asp?strSite=iowawork.pdf. For printed copies, call Mathematica publications at (609) 275-2350 or e-mail jallen@mathematica-mpr.com.

(Notices is compiled by Stacey Kennedy, editorial assistant)



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.

JOB MARKET/CLASSIFIEDS

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER— ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ONONDAGA COUNTY, N.Y.

Onondaga Community College invites applications for the position of Chief Financial Officer. The CFO reports to and is a key advisor to the President. As a member of the senior management team, the CFO participates with other senior managers in institutional strategic planning, policy development, and problem solving, and offers advice and counsel on the financial implications of institutional decisions. The CFO is Treasurer of the College and is responsible for managing a \$40 million annual operating budget and coordinating budget development and the development of financial policies and procedures that ensure the financial integrity of the college.

Onondaga Community College is a unit of the State University of New York (SUNY) and is also sponsored by Onondaga County.

Onondaga Community College is committed to academic opportunity and excellence, leadership in regional workforce and economic development, community revitalization, and the effective use of technology to increase efficiency and add value to academic and support functions. The CFO will be part of a team committed to these goals.

APPLICATION PROCESS: A Position and Candidate Profile is available on the College's Web site: www.sunyocc.edu

OCC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer. Women, people of color, individuals with a disability, veterans, and other who would enrich the diversity of the College are urged to apply.

COUNTY MANAGER — GASTON COUNTY, N.C.

(Population: 190,000). Salary range \$101,369–\$152,955.

Gaston County is located in the south central Piedmont section of

North Carolina. The County is governed by a 7-member Board of Commissioners and has a County-Manager form of government. The County has 1,200 employees and a \$171 million net budget. Prefer a relevant master's degree and several years of senior-level experience (e.g., as a Manager in a full service County or City). For more information, see www.dmgmaximus.com/recruit. Apply by 11/16/01 to **MAXIMUS**, Attn: Lou Fox or Shirl Thomas, 3330 Oakwell Court, Suite 200, San Antonio, TX 78218, FAX to (210) 301-0297, or e-mail to txsearch@maximus.com. AA/EEO/ADA. **Female, Minority and Disabled Candidates are Encouraged to Apply. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA OPEN RECORDS ACT, RESUMES MAY BE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.**

DIVISION DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES—ADAMS COUNTY, COLO.

Starting salary is \$5,389 to \$6,197 per month based on qualifications and experience.

Adams County Department of Social Services is seeking an experienced and motivated Director to direct, manage and implement the activities of the Children and Family Services Division. The Division Director has management responsibility for approximately 200 employees and a budget of approximately \$27 million, overseeing program areas including child protection, treatment and adoption.

A Bachelor's degree in human services, business, public administration or related field and six years of professional experience managing a human services program is required. A Master's Degree is preferred. Starting salary is \$5,389 to \$6,197 per month based on qualifications and experience.

Adams County, Colorado with a population of 350,000 is located at the base of the beautiful Rocky Mountain Front Range just north of Denver. If you

are interested in joining our energetic, professional team and receiving an excellent benefit package please submit an application by November 1, 2001. www.co.adams.co.us Phone (303) 227-2109 Fax (303) 227-2114

SSD-HR, 7190 Colorado Blvd., Commerce City, CO 80022

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — JEFFERSON COUNTY, N.Y.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson Co, Watertown, NY seeks a dynamic individual to provide leadership & mgmt for community edu organization focused on agriculture, human & youth development. MS & 5 yrs of exp. More info: www.cce.cornell.edu. Send letter of intent, resume & transcripts to: **PA#267, Box 26, Kennedy Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853**. Review of materials to begin Nov. 1, & continue until position is filled. Cornell University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator.

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Library Director COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY (Columbus, Ohio)

Are You Ready for the Challenge of Making One of
America's Best Public Libraries Even Better?

Ranked first nationally in 1999 by the Hennen Rating Index for the nation's largest public libraries (second in 2000, third in 1998), the Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) presents an opportunity to an exemplary leader to succeed its director of 17 years. The 7-member Board of Trustees is strongly committed to maintaining CML's current high standards of excellence and to achieving even greater levels of customer service, innovative children's programs and comprehensive collections. The Board appoints the Director, who is responsible to the Board for the exceptional management of the Library. The Board requires a visionary leader with a passion for libraries and a commitment to lifelong learning, and the ability to lead a library totally focused upon the future and exceptional service.

Through its main library and 21 branches, CML serves very diverse urban and suburban communities of more than 800,000 people. CML's 2001 circulation will be approximately 14 million items. Current annual budget is \$52 million. There are 943 dedicated staff members who work in modern, award-winning facilities. The Library is not a county or city agency, nor in fiscal competition with other service agencies. Funding comes via a state formula and a local property tax levy — recently renewed for 10 years by a 65% margin. CML is a pacesetter in the use of innovative technology, offering branch and web access to in-depth research tools and CML's collection of three million items.

Central Ohio is a great place to live. Columbus is the state capital. Central Ohio is home to The Ohio State University and six other colleges. It boasts a strong, stable economy. The population served is diverse, well-educated and growing rapidly.

Salary negotiable. To be considered, send a current resume to:

Robert E. Slavin, President
SLAVIN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
3040 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite B-1
Norcross, Georgia 30071
Phone: (770) 449-4656
Fax: (770) 416-0848
e-mail rslavin101@aol.com

Detailed salary, job requirement and recruitment information will be available after October 8, 2001 on CML's website (www.columbuslibrary.org).

CML IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

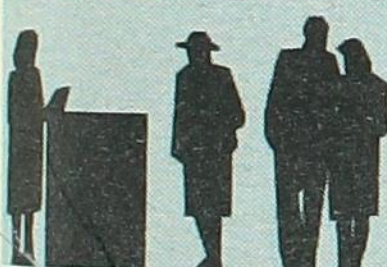


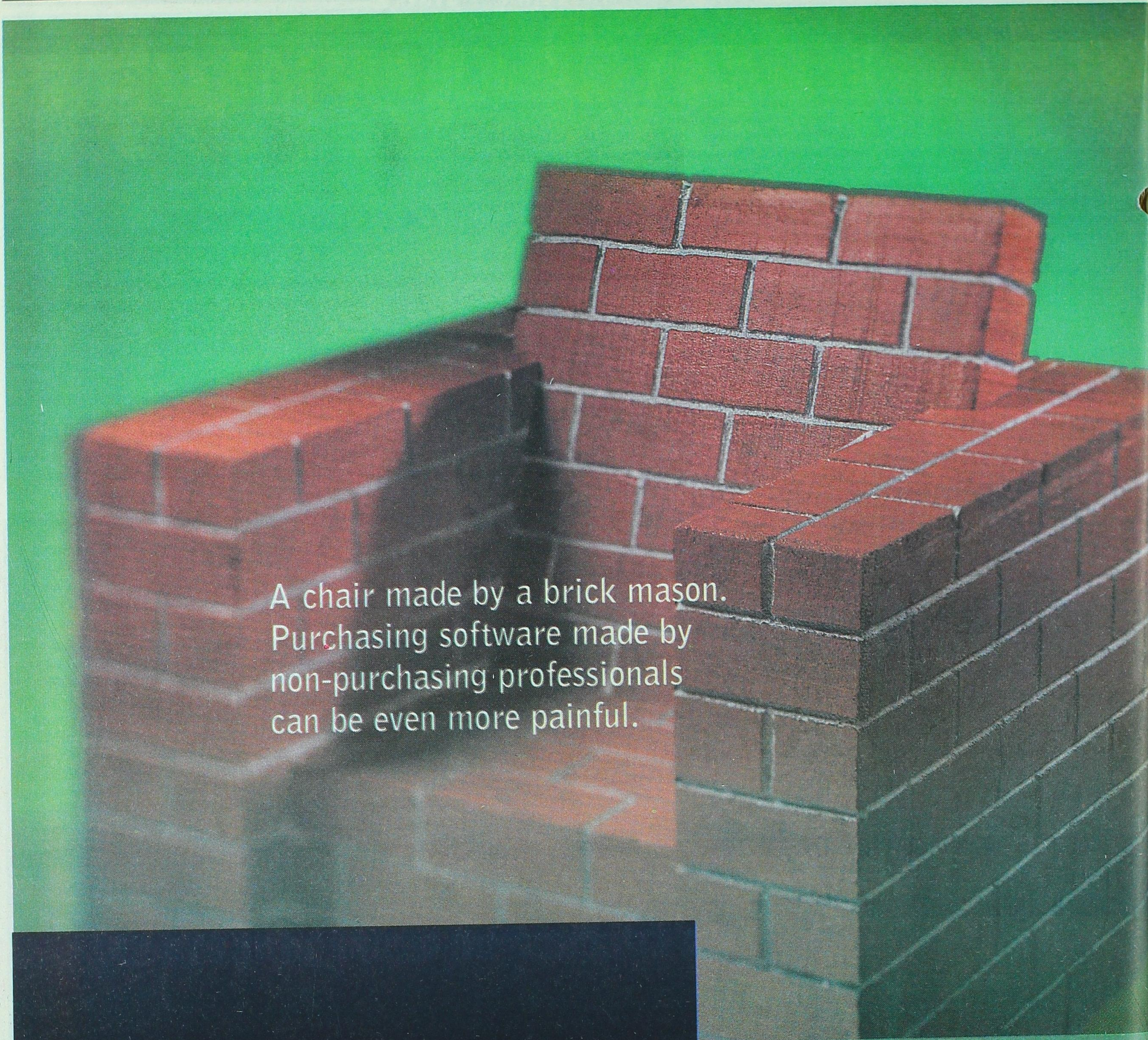
COLUMBUS
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Job Market - Classified Rate Schedule

- **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.





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