

NACO National Association of Counties

CountyNews

The Voice of America's Counties

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ■ WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Dallas County faces West Nile outbreak

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER



If mosquitoes weren't bad enough already, now they're killing people again.

The West Nile virus is making a comeback after its heyday in 2002 and 2003, resulting in 87 human deaths as of early September and almost 2,000 reported cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Texas leads the country in both

See **WEST NILE** page 11

QuickTakes

5 Richest Counties in U.S. (by average income)

Nantucket County, Mass.	\$137,811
Pitkin County, Colo.	\$134,267
Loudoun County Va.	\$134,098
Fairfax County, Va.	\$132,662
Hunterdon County, N.J.	\$139,723

Source: CNBC – American Community Survey



Photo by Jack Hernandez

Matthew D. Chase officially becomes NACO's new executive director on Sept. 17.

Matt Chase: Ready to lead NACO in a changing Washington, D.C.

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It should surprise almost no one that Matt Chase would find himself ensconced in political Washington. His master's degree in political management from George Washington University gave him the credential for it.

But his childhood experiences

in upstate New York also laid the foundation. His stepfather, Gordon Hemmett Jr. held two elective offices in Washington County, N.Y. — district attorney and later as a judge. His grandparents were also active in civic affairs.

"I spent a lot of days knocking on doors and going to chicken dinners and the county fair — engaged in politics — in junior high and high

school," Chase said recently. On Sept. 17, he will succeed Larry Naake as executive director of NACO.

Chase comes to NACO from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), which represents the nation's local government-based

See **CHASE** page 5

Jeff Arnold, 1955–2012



Jeff Arnold

Jeff Arnold, NACO deputy legislative affairs director, died Aug. 23 after a brief illness. He was 57.

Arnold joined NACO in 1994 as the associate legislative director for public lands and Western Interstate Region liaison. Later, he transitioned to an assignment as NACO's telecommunications and technology lobbyist, a position he also held at the time of his death. NACO Executive Director Larry Naake praised Arnold's "keen mind" and "great political

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For four Ohio counties, their RV's new job is new jobs » **Page 6**

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CountyNews Features

NACo signs onto SLLC Supreme Court amicus brief in logging roads case

By LISA SORONEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATE AND LOCAL LEGAL CENTER

NACo signed onto an *amicus curiae* brief filed by the State and Local Legal Center (SLLC) in a U.S. Supreme Court case involving the regulation of stormwater runoff from logging roads. The issue the SLLC focused on in its amicus brief in the consolidated case of *Decker v. Northwest Environmental Defense Center* and *Georgia-Pacific West, Inc. v. Northwest Environmental Defense Center* is whether the lower court should have deferred to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) longstanding position that channeled stormwater runoff from logging (silvicultural) roads doesn't require an EPA permit.

NACo joined the brief asking the court to review this case and Tillamook County in Oregon is a named party. The U.S. Supreme Court will decide at least two related questions in this case affecting counties. First, do counties that own logging roads have to obtain EPA permits for channeled stormwater runoff off on logging roads? Second, who should regulate stormwater runoff from logging roads: state and

local governments or the federal government?

The Clean Water Act (CWA) requires EPA permits for the "discharge of any pollutant" from a "point source," which includes ditches and channels, into "navigable waters of the United States." Since 1973, one year after the CWA was passed, the EPA has issued regulations exempting logging activity from federal permitting requirements. Yet, the Ninth Circuit held that state forest agencies and a county were required to obtain EPA permits for stormwater runoff flowing from logging roads into ditches, culverts, and channels. The Ninth Circuit reasoned that Congress didn't exclude silvicultural, or logging, activity from the definition of a "point source" and that the EPA could not exclude it through regulations.

The SLLC's brief argues that the Ninth Circuit erred in concluding that an EPA permit is required for channeled stormwater runoff from logging roads. First, the SLLC argues that under the CWA silvicultural stormwater runoff isn't a "point source" discharge requiring a permit. Second, the SLLC argues that assuming the CWA is ambiguous concerning whether silvicultural stormwater runoff is a "point source," the Su-

preme Court should defer to the EPA's longstanding position that it isn't because EPA's rule limits, rather than expands, federal authority to regulate land and water use, which state and local governments have traditionally regulated.

Finally, the SLLC's brief points out that obtaining EPA permits for every ditch and channel on every logging road in the United States would be extremely costly and burdensome for state and local governments that are already regulating such stormwater runoff.

Roderick E. Walston, Shawn Haggerty and Andre Monette of Best Best & Krieger LLP, in Walnut Creek, Calif. wrote the SLLC's brief.

The brief was also signed onto by the National Governors' Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the International City/County Management Association, and the Council of State Governments.

Visit the SLLC's website at www.statelocalc.org to download a copy of the brief.

Shelby County, Ala. pushes teen texting-while-driving pledge

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER



Commissioners in Shelby County, Ala. are hoping they can help reduce the number of young drivers in the county who send text messages at the wheel.

The commission passed a proclamation declaring Sept. 19 "No Text on Board Pledge Day."

The proclamation cites an AT&T study that showed 47 percent of teenagers text while driving, despite 97 percent reporting knowing it's dangerous.

It's part of a campaign to make No Text on Board Pledge Day a national movement. NACo Executive Director Larry Naake favors that effort.

"We've all seen drivers texting and how distracted that can make them," he said. "Add inexperience to that equation and you have a dangerous mix."

"Like Shelby County did, counties across the country can keep the pressure on about the danger of texting while driving by joining

the 'No Text on Board' campaign. I encourage our members to issue a proclamation like Shelby's and do a small bit to help save lives."

Shelby County's community services department teamed up with the county school system and the University of Montevallo's mass communications department to produce a series of public service announcements aimed at teenagers to highlight the dangers of distracted driving. That includes texting while driving, driving while drowsy and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, plus the dangers of other distractions while driving.

The Alabama Legislature's ban on texting while driving took effect Aug. 1.

**See this story online at www.naco.org/countrynews to access Shelby County's distracted driving public awareness campaign*

King County seeks input on project management practices

King County, Wash.'s Solid Waste Division is conducting a survey on standardized project management practices used by other local governments and invites your participation. The division will use the survey input to help standardize its project management manual. The seven-question survey should only take a few minutes.

If you'd like to participate, go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/YD7HYBJ.

CONTACT US

Ask questions and get information from NACo staff. Visit www.NACo.org and click in the upper right corner.

What's in a Seal?

» Alameda County, Calif.
www.acgov.org



Alameda County was formed on March 25, 1853 from a large portion of Contra Costa County and a smaller portion of Santa Clara County.

The Spanish word *alameda* means "a place where poplar trees grow," a name which originally was given to the Arroyo de la Alameda (Poplar Grove Creek). The willow and sycamore trees along the banks of the river reminded the early explorers of a road lined with trees, also known as an alameda.

Much of what is now considered an intensively urban region, with major cities such as Oakland, was developed as a trolley car suburb of San Francisco in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The seal shows a sword resting on a book denoting that knowledge has more influence than fighting.

(If you would like your county's seal featured, please contact Christopher Johnson at 202.942.4256 or cjohnson@naco.org.)

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The Voice of America's Counties

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A Message from NACo President Chris Rodgers

Help Keep Our Nation Safe: Participate in October's National Cyber Security Month



Chris Rodgers
NACo President

The Internet is a critical resource for today's local governments and the people they serve — and a primary channel for information sharing. NACo members can play an essential role in ensuring that this digital resource remains safe and secure for everyone.

A great place to start is by participating in National Cyber Security Awareness Month, held in

October. Even if you have just one hour to devote to this nationwide observance or decide to make a larger time commitment, you'll be sure to find at least one activity from the list below that can make a big difference!

What Local Governments Can Do

In less than One Hour

- Email the National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) poster to administrators at all government agencies and encourage them to display the posters in public places (e.g., government offices, community centers, libraries, public safety buildings) by Oct. 1 to help promote the month and cybersecurity. (Download the NCSAM poster at www.staysafeonline.org/ncsam/promote-ncsam.)

- Email all government leadership and key agency personnel about National Cyber Security



Awareness Month and encourage them to integrate messages about "our shared responsibility" in maintaining cybersecurity in their written communications, blogs and presentations during October. (For more resources, visit www.staysafeonline.org/ncsam/about/.)

In less than One Day

- Show your cybersecurity leadership by becoming an NCSAM Champion. (Sign up at www.staysafeonline.org/ncsam/champions/.)

- Include cybersecurity as an agenda item in an upcoming staff or board meeting. (Find resources at www.staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/.)

In less than One Week

- Launch a jurisdiction-wide awareness campaign, by 1) using your social media vehicles (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube accounts, and blogs) to promote National Cyber Security Awareness Month; 2) posting information and banners on your Web site; and 3) encouraging your entire community to "like" the STOP. THINK. CONNECT. campaign at www.facebook.com/stopthinkconnect to ensure that you get the latest cybersecurity announcements and news. (Resources can be found at www.staysafeonline.org/ncsam/get-involved/social-media.)

- Issue a formal proclamation in support of National Cyber Security

Awareness Month, observed nationwide in October. Hold a public event for the proclamation signing and invite the local media. (Go to www.naco.org/samplecyber to download a sample.)

In less than One Month

- Hold a cybersecurity in-service training for agency personnel during the month of October and have your IT personnel give presentations on smart computer practices and online security measures. Distribute tools and tips available from the National Cyber Security Alliance. (Find resources at www.staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/.)

- Develop a local task force to make your community more cyber secure. Check out the Cyber Community Coalition Building Guide (www.staysafeonline.org/teach-online-safety/in-the-community/cyber-community-guide) Washtenaw

See **SECURITY** page 6

Legal Notice

If You Purchased Municipal Derivative Transactions from January 1, 1992 to August 18, 2011 You Could Get a Payment for a Class Action Settlement.

A proposed Settlement has been reached with Wachovia Bank, now called Wells Fargo, defendants in a class action lawsuit that alleges price-fixing in the sale of municipal derivatives transactions by Wells Fargo and other companies. The case, *In re Municipal Derivatives Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1950, No. 08-02516, is pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Who Is Included in the Settlement?

This Settlement includes all state, local and municipal government entities, independent government agencies and private entities that purchased:

- (1) Municipal derivative transactions through negotiation, competitive bidding or auction, directly from any Alleged Provider Defendant or Co-Conspirator or brokered by any Alleged Broker Defendant or Co-Conspirator,
- (2) Any time from January 1, 1992 through August 18, 2011 in the United States and its territories or for delivery in the United States and its territories.

The Defendants and Co-Conspirators are listed in the detailed notice available on the Settlement website.

What Does the Settlement Provide?

Wells Fargo will pay \$37 million as follows: \$20 million has already been paid into an escrow account and the remaining \$17 million will be paid later. This Settlement is only a partial settlement of the lawsuit because it only affects the claims against Wells Fargo. The lawsuit is

continuing against other Defendants. Morgan Stanley has already settled. Wells Fargo will cooperate with the Class Representatives in the litigation that will continue against the other Defendants.

What Do I Do Now?

- **Remain in the Settlement.** To remain in the Settlement Class and participate in the Settlement, you do not have to do anything now. If the Court approves the Settlement, you give up the right to sue Wells Fargo for the claims in this lawsuit and you are eligible to receive a payment. Claim forms are not available now. Register on the Settlement website to receive a claim form when it becomes available. If you remain in the Settlement Class, you still have the right to exclude yourself from any other Settlements reached in this lawsuit.
- **Exclude yourself from the Settlement.** If you do not want to remain in the Settlement Class, you must exclude yourself. You must send a written request for exclusion by first-class mail, **postmarked no later than October 19, 2012** to the Settlement Administrator. If you exclude yourself, you cannot participate in the Settlement, but you retain your right to sue Wells Fargo on your own for the claims in this lawsuit.
- **Object or Comment on the Settlement.** If you remain in the Settlement Class and want to object to or comment on the Wells Fargo Settlement or any part of it, you must file an objection with the Court and deliver a copy to Class Counsel and Wells Fargo **no later than October 9, 2012**.

When Will the Court Decide Whether to Approve the Settlement?

The Court has scheduled a hearing on December 14, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007, to consider whether to finally approve the Wells Fargo Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, whether to approve Class Counsel's request for reimbursement of litigation expenses, and to consider any objections.

The Court has appointed the law firms of Hausfeld LLP; Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP; and Susman Godfrey L.L.P. to serve as Class Counsel and represent all Class Members. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense. You or your lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing but are not required to. If you want to be heard by the Court, you must file a written notice of your intention to appear with the Court and deliver a copy to the Class Counsel and Wells Fargo **no later than October 9, 2012**. The Court may change the time and date of the hearing. Any change will be posted on the Settlement website.

Get More Information

For more information on this lawsuit, your rights, or to obtain a list of defendants, call or visit the Settlement website listed below or write to Municipal Derivatives Settlement, c/o Rust Consulting, Inc., PO Box 2500, Faribault, MN 55021-9500.

For more information: 1-877-310-0512 www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com

Rural health assessments pave way for improved care

By ANITA CARDWELL
PROGRAM MANAGER

For many rural counties facing health care delivery challenges such as a limited number of health facilities or few health providers, conducting a community health needs assessment (CHNA) can help identify local health concerns and determine how health care services can be more effectively provided.

To help facilitate the CHNA process, NACo is currently working with rural county and local health representatives in Idaho and South Dakota. In partnership with the National Center for Rural Health Works, NACo coordinated one-day training sessions in June in both states that provided rural county officials, county staff and hospital administrators with a blueprint of how to conduct a CHNA.

Training session participants received a toolkit outlining specific steps involved with conducting these types of assessments to equip them to lead and implement efforts in their own counties. These steps

include bringing together a diverse local advisory committee and convening a series of community meetings. Through these meetings, the committee members would identify key health risk factors and conditions in the region, assess how health services are used and then design a plan to address local health problems and enhance health care service delivery coordination.

As a follow up to the trainings, this fall NACo and the National Center for Rural Health Works are providing additional technical assistance support via phone consultation. The purpose of this follow-up support is to help training participants move forward with the community health needs assessment process by addressing any challenges encountered during their initial efforts and as they begin to develop potential community health improvement strategies.

Sandy Viau-Williams, executive director of the Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center, indicated they plan to work with communities in southeast South

Dakota to help them involve a diverse group of local representatives in their assessment processes, including county officials and staff, and other local health stakeholders.

Results from a community health needs assessment can help counties outline options to better allocate local health resources to address issues such as high rates of diabetes. Also, the assessments can help determine whether other types of health providers and services are needed in the community.

Carol Moehrle, the public health district director for five Idaho counties—Nez Perce, Latah, Idaho, Lewis and Clearwater—said, “The training opportunity was a valuable experience because it brought our hospitals and the public health district directors together. As a result, the 10 hospitals in northern Idaho, along with two northern Idaho public health districts are joining efforts to work consistently on the CHNA process, share data and strategize on how to improve the health of our citizens.”

The trainings relate to a provision in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that requires nonprofit hospitals to conduct community health needs assessments and develop an implementation plan to address local health care needs identified through the assessment. These assessments must include input from persons who represent the broad interests of the community served by the hospital facility.

County officials and local public health representatives should be involved in the community health needs assessments and implementation strategy process. They will ensure that it does not duplicate similar assessment efforts and that the responsibility for providing health care safety net services is equitably shared among local providers.

Support for the training and follow-up technical assistance activities was provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP).

Counties can find resources from ORHP at www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/ as well as through the Rural Assistance Center, www.raconline.org/, which provides information about programs, funding opportunities and research for rural communities.

Jeff Arnold’s memorial in Oregon set for Oct. 27

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instincts.” In dozens of tributes, via social media, Arnold was praised by friends and co-workers as “an incredible mentor and advocate for the nation’s counties.”

Jeff was no stranger to Washington or Capitol Hill.

He moved from Oregon to D.C. in 1979 to take a spot as an intern for Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.). He spent nearly eight years on Capitol Hill, first as a senior staff member for Hatfield and later as a staff member for the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Under the George H.W. Bush administration, he served as the deputy director of the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs and Senate Liaison at the U.S. Department of the Interior and as chief of the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the Minerals Management Service, a

bureau of the Department of the Interior.

He also served as the congressional liaison for President George H.W. Bush’s Task Force on Oil and Gas activities on the Outer Continental Shelf of California.

At NACo, Jeff was famous for his “walk-about,” a daily conversational circumnavigation of the NACo office space. He was an avid NASCAR fan and a devoted University of Oregon “Ducks” supporter.

A memorial service was held at NACo offices on Aug. 29. Another is scheduled in Eugene, Ore. for Oct. 27 at the Oregon Electric Station, 27 East 5th Ave. after the University of Oregon’s football game.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions may be made to Phi Theta Kappa’s Foundation (www.ptkfoundation.org). Mail to: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, 1625 Eastover Dr., Jackson, MS 39211.

Word Search

Alameda County, Calif. Facts

Learn more about Alameda County in ‘What’s in a Seal?’


T E F O F P A C D I N X S M N J N Q M Q
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ATHLETICS (MLB team)
CALIFORNIA (university)
CONTRA COSTA (large portion went to form county)
COUNTY FAIR (annually held at county fairgrounds)
FARMS (located in county)
FIVE (districts county is split into)
HAYWARD FAULT (site of 1868 earthquake)
OAKLAND (major port city)

ORCHARDS (located in county)
POPLAR TREE (Spanish translation of Alameda)
RAIDERS (NFL team)
RANCHES (transitioned to farms in county’s history)
SANTA CLARA (small portion went to form county)
WARRIORS (NBA team)

Created by Christopher Johnson

Profiles in Service



» **Linda Jeanne Seifert**
Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee
President-elect, Women of NACo
Chair, Board of Supervisors
Solano County, Calif.

- Number of years active in NACo:** 4
- Years in public service:** 4
- Occupation:** supervisor; retired attorney; community advocate
- Education:** Bachelor of Arts in English; Juris Doctor
- The hardest thing I’ve ever done:** survive the death of a spouse
- Three people (living or dead) I’d invite to dinner:** Jack Welch, Barbara Kingsolver and Madeleine Albright
- A dream I have is to:** live in the South of France for a year and paint.
- You’d be surprised to learn that I:** think of myself as one of the luckiest people in the world.
- The most adventurous thing I’ve ever done is:** run for public office.
- My favorite way to relax is:** play bridge or read.
- I’m most proud of:** being my father’s daughter.
- Every morning I read:** *The San Francisco Chronicle* and two local papers.
- My favorite meal is:** fine dining with friends in the nearby Napa Valley.
- My pet peeve is:** people who intentionally misrepresent facts.
- My motto is:** “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has” — Margaret Mead.
- The last book I read was:** “South of the Border, West of the Sun” by Haruki Murakami.
- My favorite movie is:** *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.
- My favorite president is:** Thomas Jefferson.
- My favorite city is:** Hong Kong.

Strong research agenda will aid advocacy and county operations

CHASE from page 1

regional planning and development organizations. During his tenure, he served nine years as executive director, and as legislative affairs director and deputy executive director before that. He began his career in Washington with the Professional Managers Association (PMA) including stints as chief operating officer and membership services director.

He has been a regular speaker nationally on federal budget and policy issues related to regional community and economic development, including rural development, transportation and workforce development.

Chase serves on advisory committees for the Ford Foundation's Wealth Creation in Rural America initiative, the Rural Policy Research Institute and the University of Vermont's Transportation Research Center.

Asked how that background prepared him for his new post, Chase said, "NADO is structured almost like a Triple-A baseball team for NACo. We work on a lot of the same issues, especially community and economic development, transporta-

tion, emergency management and workforce preparedness. On many of these issues — NACo has taken the lead, and we've been a partner." NADO's members, CEOs of Councils of Governments and Regional Development Commissions, work for county commissioners, and city and town councils.

His three-and-a-half years at PMA taught this New York Yankees fan "about the inside baseball part of Washington." It was during the Clinton administration's Reinventing Government era, when more than 300,000 career federal manager positions were eliminated. PMA was at ground-zero during this intense process.

"I worked with the top-level career executives and managers across the federal government," he said, "so I had a front-row seat at a really young age of probably the most significant restructuring of the federal government since the 1960s."

He believes that experience will serve him well in the current era of change and fiscal uncertainty in Washington. "I think NACo is just essential to the nation's domestic policy agenda, and there's going to

be so much happening at the federal level with budgets, programs — re-orienting the federal government, and NACo and its members are going to be impacted."

"I'm very interested in making sure that counties' voices are heard, because counties really are the closest level of government to the people."

Chase said he will sharply focus on problem-solving and how NACo adds value to its member counties' day-to-day operations. This will encompass building strong partnerships with the state associations, affiliates, funders, corporate partners and members.

"I want to build on the foundation that Larry Naake has built," he said, "in that he's done a phenomenal job in that NACo has the foundation; it has the tools, the talent and membership engagement.

"What I want to do is really align some of the divisions and programming at NACo into a more targeted agenda and really look at where counties need to be in the future," Chase added. "I think a lot of it's going to be looking at cost efficiencies, looking at how counties can collaborate, looking at noteworthy practices and beefing up the research agenda to help with advocacy, but also with county operations."

A native of Glen Falls, N.Y. in Warren County, Chase also spent parts of his childhood in Lake George, and in Hudson Falls in neighboring Washington County, where his stepfather worked. Growing up in the foothills of the Adirondack Park, the largest state park in the Lower 48, helped to nurture his love of hiking and other outdoor activities.

This summer, he and his wife of 12 years, Shana, spent two weeks hiking across the Canadian Rockies, around Jasper, Banff and Lake Louise. They met more than 20 years ago at Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y. and have been together ever since. Shana Chase was formerly government relations director for the National Endow-

ment for the Arts but is now raising their young sons: Nicholas, who says he's "three-and-half," and 5-month-old William.

"When you see me, I'll have bags under my eyes," Chase joked. Maybe it will make him look older. He said most people are surprised to learn that he is 41 years old. Because of his youthful appearance, "They think I'm about 12," he said with a laugh. "But I have plenty of gray hairs."

If leading NACo were an uphill climb, Chase would be up to the challenge. He has no fear of heights. Prominent on his personal bucket list is climbing Mt. Everest. If he doesn't make it to the top, he said, "at least I'll get to base camp." No small feat, that. Everest's two staging camps are at about 18,000 and 17,000 feet, respectively.

Mountains aside, he's excited about the opportunities at NACo that lie ahead. "I sincerely want to thank the executive committee and the board for their confidence in me and for this opportunity," he said.

"I'm very interested in making sure that counties' voices are heard, because counties really are the closest level of government to the people."

Legal Notice

If You Purchased Municipal Derivative Transactions from January 1, 1992 to August 18, 2011 You Could Get a Payment for a Class Action Settlement.

A proposed Settlement has been reached with JPMorgan Chase & Co., J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc. (n/k/a J.P. Morgan Securities LLC) and Bear Stearns & Co. (n/k/a J.P. Morgan Securities LLC) (collectively, "JPMorgan"), defendants in a class action lawsuit that alleges price-fixing in the sale of municipal derivatives transactions by JPMorgan and other companies. The case, *In re Municipal Derivatives Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1950, No. 08-02516, is pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Who Is Included in the Settlement?

This Settlement includes all state, local and municipal government entities, independent government agencies, quasi-government, non-profit and private entities that purchased:

- (1) Municipal derivative transactions through negotiation, competitive bidding or auction, from any Alleged Provider Defendant or Co-Conspirator or brokered by any Alleged Broker Defendant or Co-Conspirator,
- (2) Any time from January 1, 1992 through August 18, 2011 in the United States and its territories or for delivery in the United States and its territories.

The Defendants and Co-Conspirators are listed in the detailed notice available on the Settlement website.

What Does the Settlement Provide?

JPMorgan agreed to a settlement amount of \$44.575 million to be paid as follows: \$24 million has already been paid into an escrow account and up to \$20.575 million will be paid later. This Settlement is only a partial settlement of the lawsuit because it only affects the claims against JPMorgan. The lawsuit is continuing

against other Defendants. Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo have already settled. JPMorgan will provide reasonable cooperation, including discovery cooperation, to Class Plaintiffs' Counsel in the litigation that will continue against the other Defendants.

What Do I Do Now?

- **Remain in the Settlement.** To remain in the Settlement Class and participate in the Settlement, you do not have to do anything now. If the Court approves the Settlement, you give up the right to sue JPMorgan for the claims and issues in this case. The Settlement Agreement, specifically Paragraph 1(ee), which is available at www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com, describes in more detail the legal claims that you give up if you stay in the Class. Claim forms are not available now. Register on the Settlement website to receive a claim form when it becomes available. If you remain in the Settlement Class, you still have the right to exclude yourself from any other settlements with other defendants reached in this lawsuit.
- **Exclude yourself from the Settlement.** If you do not want to remain in the Settlement Class, you must exclude yourself. You must send a written request for exclusion by first-class mail, postmarked no later than October 19, 2012 to the Settlement Administrator. The detailed notice available on the Settlement website describes the information you are required to include in your request for exclusion. If you exclude yourself, you cannot participate in the Settlement, but you retain your right to sue JPMorgan on your own for the claims in this lawsuit.
- **Object or Comment on the Settlement.** If you remain in the Settlement Class and want to object to or comment on

the JPMorgan Settlement or any part of it, you must file an objection with the Court and deliver a copy to Class Counsel and JPMorgan no later than October 9, 2012.

When Will the Court Decide Whether to Approve the Settlement?

The Court has scheduled a hearing on December 14, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007, to consider whether to finally approve the JPMorgan Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, whether to approve Class Counsel's request for reimbursement of litigation expenses, and to consider any objections.

The Court has appointed the law firms of Hausfeld LLP; Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP; and Susman Godfrey L.L.P. to serve as Class Counsel and represent all Class Members. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense. You or your lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing but are not required to. If you want to be heard by the Court, you must file a written notice of your intention to appear with the Court and deliver a copy to the Class Counsel and JPMorgan no later than October 9, 2012. The Court may change the time and date of the hearing. Any change will be posted on the Settlement website.

Get More Information

For more information on this lawsuit, your rights, or to obtain a list of defendants, call or visit the Settlement website listed below or write to Municipal Derivatives Settlement, c/o Rust Consulting, Inc., PO Box 2500, Faribault, MN 55021-9500.

For more information: 1-877-310-0512 www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com

Ohio counties turn RV into mobile career center

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Four central Ohio counties have a rolling solution that's helping to lower the region's unemployment rate. Ohio Job and Family Services departments in Delaware, Knox, Marion and Morrow counties used surplus state funding to convert a used recreational vehicle into a mobile one-stop career center resource room.

Knox County came up with the idea. It had tried unsuccessfully several years ago to obtain federal funding for the project. But the second time proved the charm, when unspent state funding became available to counties about two years ago to upgrade their one-stop resource rooms.

The Knox facility was already up-do-date, according to Matthew Kurtz, the county's Ohio Job and Family Services (OJFS) director. He and Diana Williams, his work-

force development administrator came up with the shared-service, mobile center concept in a planning meeting.

Since it debuted in late February, the 32-foot, Class-A RV — dubbed the Job-A-Bego — has seen about 1,300 people in the region

resulting in “at least 400” people finding jobs, Kurtz said.

“We’ve done job fairs,” Williams added, “and we’ve taken it

down to our public square so that people who can’t get out to the one-stop can come in and use it.”

The four counties pooled their state funding to refurbish and outfit the RV — work that Kurtz had estimated would cost \$80,000. However, it ended up costing about \$20,000 less, thanks to a good deal on a vehicle with about 35,000 miles on it. And by using welfare recipients with a work requirement to do much of the retrofitting, the project came in at \$61,289.

“They made it a welfare reform project,” said Joel Potts, executive director of the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors’ Association. “That to me is the most impressive piece.

“It’s not just that they did it, but

See JOBS RV page 7



Photo courtesy of Knox County, Ohio

Four Ohio counties' shared Job-A-Bego — a play on Winnebago — travels the region as a mobile job resource center. Equipped with computers, Wi-Fi and other amenities, it's been a boon to jobseekers and companies with positions to fill.

County chaplain corps focuses on faith not religion

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



When the Huntington area of southern Fairfax County, Va. flooded in September 2011, residents had a sense of déjà vu. The neighborhood had flooded severely in 2006.

Tropical Storm Lee waterlogged hundreds of homes last year. But unlike five years earlier, this time residents had a new group of first responders to minister to their needs: The Fairfax Community Chaplain Corps (FCCC).

Created five years ago, the volunteer corps is a part of the county's Office of Emergency Management and is one of the few cadres of clergy of its kind in the country, according to Michael Shochet, an ordained Jewish cantor who is one of its original members. New York City has a large corps of community chaplains, he said, but the FCCC is the only such group in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area.

“Technically, we know incident command,” said Dave McKernan, the county's director of emergency management. “We can go out and mitigate incidents; we do that extremely well. But it's that personal contact and spiritual support for our residents.

“This is not a religious thing; it's more the human spirit,” he said.

Fairfax has about 30 volunteer clergy members from different faiths



Photo courtesy of Fairfax County, Va.

A member of Fairfax County, Va.'s Community Chaplain Corps chats with a resident near a neighborhood affected by flooding.

and from throughout this county of 1 million residents. Two of them are on-call 24 hours a day. A new class will begin this fall. Members must reside in the county and be ordained in their faiths. They receive about 50 hours of training and must undergo criminal background checks and child protective services reviews. Faiths represented include Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist denominations.

Shochet said the county's Department of Family Services first approached the police department about having a “spiritual component” deployed to shelters when there are disaster evacuations in the county. As police chaplain, he became involved and helped convene a committee including his

fire department counterpart, clergy from the community, and other Fairfax health and human services department leaders.

They immediately recognized that existing police and fire chaplains could not fill this role, because their primary duty is to address the needs of their fellow first responders. Soon, the idea morphed into something bigger.

“The county said, we don't need you just in the shelters; let's enlarge that a little bit, and let's create this corps that will be there for volunteer reception centers, evacuation sites, anything involving a disaster,” Shochet said.

When the idea was first publicized, approximately 20 clergy members responded and became the first class. Fire and police chaplains created

the curriculum: five days of training including critical incident stress management techniques, pastoral care crisis response and psychological first aid. The volunteers also learned the basics of incident management, and how Fairfax police and fire respond to a disaster or a traumatic site.

Shochet said during last year's flooding, chaplains took to the streets of the Huntington area to comfort and counsel those in need, not to proselytize.

“My job as the Jewish chaplain, for example, is not to go out and make Jews, or to tell someone how to be a better Jew or how to be a better religious person by trying to follow the Jewish way,” he explained. “I would be kicked out of the chaplaincy for that. But rather, my role is to go in and say, ‘How does your faith help you get through this?’ and just be able to talk to someone person-to-person.”

The Department of Emergency Management certifies the chaplains and has borne the costs of developing the program — McKernan estimated it at about \$30,000 — including training and purchasing the special vests the chaplains wear.

Shochet said unlike police, fire and EMS, the chaplains aren't there to investigate anything — not there to clean up anything. “I'm simply there to bring the human touch to someone who's in a terrible situation,” he said.

*View this story online at www.naco.org/countynews to see a YouTube video about the program.

Cyber security deserves attention

SECURITY from page 3

County Cyber Citizenship Coalition (<http://washtenawcybercoalition.org>) and Securing Our eCity (<http://securingoureconomy.org>) for inspiration.

All Year Round

- Work with the local school board, department of education, and parents to ensure that the school curriculum is teaching young people to use technology safely, securely, ethically, and productively. (Learn more at www.staysafeonline.org/in-the-classroom/ncsa's-national-k-12-studies.)

- Hold a discussion with the employers in your community about their needs for a well-trained workforce and cybersecurity professionals.

- Work with your IT department to make sure your agency's cybersecurity is in top shape.

- Have a plan in place in case of a data loss or breach.

- Have all network users change their password during the month.

- Conduct annual cybersecurity training and presentations for all online employees.

- Review and update the acceptable use policy for all technology (computers, mobile devices, networks, and personal devices) being used by employees on the job.

Counties' Job-A-Bego takes employment services to the people

JOBS RV from page 6

they used it to provide meaningful worksites for people who were on public assistance, and many of those people were able to find jobs based on the skills they were developing while they were working on it."

Work Experience Program participants spent 18 months and 3,268 man-hours to remodel the unit giving it all the accommodations of an agency resource room. Williams said, "A lot of the guys had never done any work like that; they learned some carpentry; they learned some mechanics; they learned some electronics. It was a win-win for everybody that was involved with it."

The RV now has eight laptop computer stations and two multi-function printer-scanner-fax machines that are connected wirelessly to mobile Internet access. The unit is self-contained with a generator to provide electricity for heat, air conditioning and resource room equipment allowing it to be deployed in almost any situation.

Don Wake heads the OJFS office in rural Morrow County. The Job-A-Bego has been a boon for residents and businesses there.

"Several of the factories in our county are away from our metro areas," he said. "What this has allowed us to do is provide an array of services. We can do job fairs right on the spot. We can feature outreach for the unemployed at street fairs, county fairs, that type of thing."

Wake said in addition to providing services for jobseekers, the Job-A-Bego has helped employers meet their staffing needs, whether they are hiring or downsizing. When an employer is laying off workers, for example, the mobile unit can travel to the work site to assist with outplacement, resume writing and job search.

It can also help to prescreen employees, as it did a few months ago for Cardington Yutaka Technologies, Inc., an automotive parts supplier for a Honda plant in Marysville, Ohio.

"They went forward with the hiring, but we went through the initial screening process for them," Wake said, "and as a result, I think 30 to 35 people got jobs that very day as a result of us being there and helping to expedite the process for the company." The Job-A-Bego was also used for a job fair in a Wal-Mart parking lot.

Potts said the Job-A-Bego — though he prefers the name Mobile Resource Unit — was showcased

at a recent Ohio Job And Family Services Directors' Association summer workshop, and the response and interest from other counties from across the state was "absolutely overwhelming."

"What these four counties

have done is developed a project that is easy to replicate," he said. And it's an example of the kind of innovation that's needed in tough economic times.

"We see the budget cuts, the different challenges and things

that are happening; our caseloads have doubled during the recession, and we knew we needed to do something different. So we've been trying to find ways to make government more accessible," Potts said.

"This is one way of showcas-

ing the progress that we've made. Instead of requiring people to come to government for help, this is a way that government can get to the people. I'm very impressed with this project. These folks did an amazing job."



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October 2012



National Cyber Security Awareness Month

In support of NACo President Chris Rodgers' cybersecurity initiative, NACo has teamed with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, National Cyber Security Alliance, and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) to present a full month of webinar sessions highlighting county government's role in protecting the nation's cyber infrastructure.

Topics and Dates include:

**Stop.Think.Connect.
Cybersecurity Is Our Shared Responsibility**
October 3 • 2 p.m.–3 p.m. EDT

**Cyber Ethics and the Criminal
Justice System**
October 10 • 2 p.m.–3 p.m. EDT

**Cloud Computing and Implications
for County Governments**
October 17 • 2 p.m.–3 p.m. EDT

**Recruiting, Hiring and Retaining
IT/Cybersecurity Talent**
October 24 • 2 p.m.–3 p.m. EDT

**Federal Cybersecurity Legislation and Its
Potential Impact on County Government**
October 31 • 2 p.m.–3 p.m. EDT

For more information and to register, go to
www.naco.org/cyberwebinars.



FEMA seeks counties for flood-risk awareness pilot



The storm surge from Hurricane Isaac drove home once again that flooding can pose as great a problem as driving winds. A new FEMA pilot program is designed to raise awareness of flooding threats, and the agency is seeking county participants.

Floods are the most common and costly natural disaster in the country, and significant opportunities exist for individuals to prevent flood damage. FEMA and seven other federal agencies concerned about flood risk are working with local officials to help their residents do just that. Together, this federal working group is developing a turnkey outreach initiative to assist local officials in elevating the issue of flood risk within their communities. The initiative, "Know Your Line: Be Flood Aware," will help communities showcase their local history of flooding and motivate residents to take action.

Know Your Line encourages local officials to post high-water-mark signs in prominent places throughout their community, for example on county courthouses, city halls, libraries or tourist at-

tractions, to identify how high flood waters have risen in the past. Communities will then be encouraged to hold a high-profile event to announce the initiative, followed by supporting activities to continue

will provide insight into the campaign prior to the national roll-out.

Members of the federal working group will work with the pilot communities to tailor a strategy and materials to suit the community's needs, provide recommendations and consultation on implementation activities, and provide recognition to pilot participants online and at conference and trade association meetings.

Following the pilots, the working group will further refine the approach and then offer the Know Your Line initiative's strategy, tools, and relationships to communities nationwide.

Over 30 years (the length of a typical mortgage), there is a 26 percent chance of a 100-year or greater flood occurring. But residents and businesses often take few, if any, steps to protect themselves from these potentially life-changing events, opting instead to trust that, "It won't happen here."

The majority of local officials understand that flooding not only can "happen here," it likely has happened. Whether a community experienced severe flooding a century ago or just last spring, showcasing the dramatic outcome of a

community's most severe flood can offer a powerful testimony and daily reminder to residents and businesses — empowering them to understand the consequences of flooding and reduce their risks before the next one.

A Unique Opportunity

FEMA found through its nationwide survey of homeowners that citizens expect to hear about flooding from their local officials. As a result, local officials have a unique opportunity to raise awareness of flooding risk in their community. Communities that reach out to the public to help prevent the effects of flooding:

- underscore their commitment

to the well-being of residents and the local business community

- galvanize their community to take steps now to reduce the often devastating impact of floods

- can receive Community Rating System Rating (CRS) points to reduce the cost of flood insurance, and
- can put Federal and state mitigation assistance funds to work.

To learn how your county can participate, contact Vincent Brown at FEMA, at vincent.brown@fema.dhs.gov or 202.646.2725.

**To learn more about flood risk, see the online version of this story at www.naco.org/countynews*

Floods are the most common and costly natural disaster in the country, and significant opportunities exist for individuals to prevent flood damage.

to remind residents of their flood risk and prompt them to take steps to reduce it.

A Call to Action

To gain local officials' perspectives on the elements of the Know Your Line initiative, FEMA and its partners are preparing to launch up to six pilots this fall. Pilot communities will be the first to review the initiative's tools and materials and

Federal Agencies Supporting the High Water Mark Initiative

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Park Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Small Business Administration

The NACo Prescription Discount Card Program representatives extend congratulations to the newly appointed NACo executive committee:

President: Chris Rodgers, Commissioner, Douglas County, NE

First Vice President: Linda Langston, Supervisor, Linn County, IA

Second Vice President: Riki Hokama, Council Member, Maui County, HI

Immediate Past President: Lenny Eliason, Commissioner, Athens County, OH

West Region: Robert Cope, Commissioner, Lemhi County, ID

Central Region: Ron Houseman, Presiding Commissioner, Taney County, MO

South Region: Joe Bryan, Commissioner, Wake County, NC

Northeast Region: Joe Giles, Council Member, Erie County, PA

As you lead NACo in 2012-2013, we look forward to partnering with you on the continued growth of the NACo Prescription Discount Card Program.

Andrew Goldschmidt, CAE, MBA
Director, Membership Marketing
NACo - National Association of Counties

Kirby Bessant
Vice President, Consumer Programs
CVS Caremark

Aaron King
Director, Consumer Programs
CVS Caremark

Brad Stone
Regional VP, Sales, Consumer Programs
CVS Caremark

Jennifer Johnston
Account Executive,
Consumer Programs
CVS Caremark



To learn more about the program, go to www.naco.org/drugcard or scan the QR code.

Operated by CVS Caremark.
This is NOT insurance. Discounts are only available at participating pharmacies.

Rev 08.12

NACo National Association of Counties
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COUNTY INTELLIGENCE CONNECTION

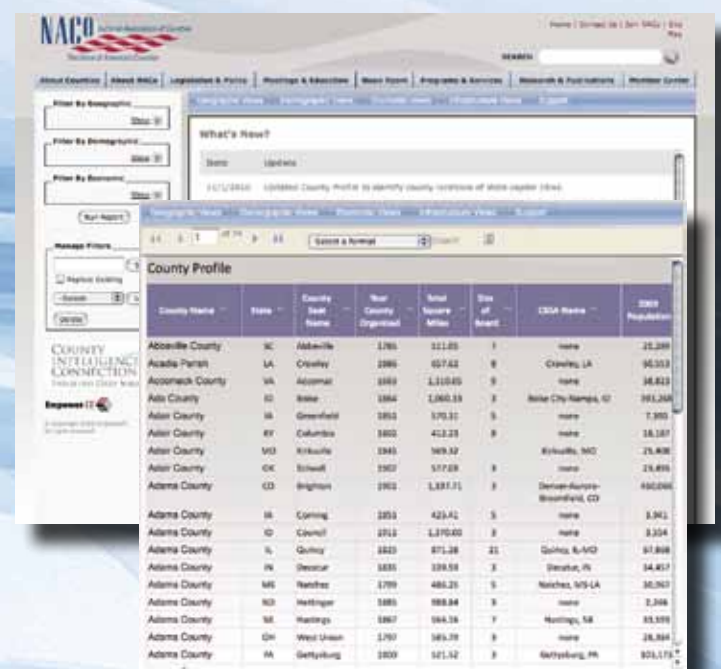
TARGETED DATA SOLUTIONS

NACo's County Intelligence Connection (CIC) online service makes analysis easy, providing a range of geographic, demographic, economic and infrastructure related data at the county level.

Access updated data on county revenues and expenditures, jails, libraries and full-time employees. Coming soon ... information on law enforcement services and justice systems.

To see the full range of information, visit www.NACo.org. Click on "County Intelligence Connection (CIC)" under the Research & Publications tab.*

*Subscriptions are available for non-members.



The screenshot displays the NACo County Intelligence Connection (CIC) online service interface. It features a navigation menu at the top with links such as "About Counties", "About NACo", "Legislation & Policy", "Revenue & Expenditure", "More News", "Programs & Services", "Research & Publications", and "Member Center". Below the menu, there are search filters for "Filter By Geography", "Filter By Demographics", and "Filter By Revenue". The main content area shows a "County Profile" table with columns for County Name, State, County Seat, Total County Population, Total County Revenue, Size of County, CSA Name, and 2010 Population. The table lists various counties and their corresponding data.

County Name	State	County Seat	Total County Population	Total County Revenue	Size of County	CSA Name	2010 Population
Abbeville County	SC	Abbeville	1,786	121.85	1	none	21,289
Acadia Parish	LA	Crofton	2,986	657.62	9	Crofton, LA	95,553
Accomack County	VA	Accomack	1,889	1,318.85	9	none	36,823
Ada County	ID	Boise	1,884	1,060.19	3	Boise City-Nampa, ID	361,268
Adair County	IA	Greenfield	1,852	375.31	5	none	7,903
Adair County	NY	Columbia	1,802	412.23	9	none	18,187
Adair County	MO	Warrensburg	1,941	369.32	9	Warrensburg, MO	21,908
Adair County	OK	Stilwell	1,907	517.28	9	none	21,891
Adams County	CO	Brighton	2,952	1,137.71	3	Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO	460,086
Adams County	IL	Corning	1,851	429.41	5	none	8,941
Adams County	SD	Council	1,712	1,375.65	9	none	8,354
Adams County	TX	Galveston	1,823	871.28	21	Galveston, TX	57,898
Adams County	PA	Gettysburg	1,831	339.58	3	Gettysburg, PA	34,417
Adams County	MS	Natchez	1,799	486.25	5	Natchez, MS	30,267
Adams County	ND	Hettinger	1,885	888.84	9	none	2,348
Adams County	NE	Hastings	1,867	944.18	7	Hastings, NE	35,599
Adams County	OH	West Union	1,789	185.78	9	none	26,884
Adams County	PA	Gettysburg	1,809	121.32	9	Gettysburg, PA	30,178

Innovation honored at Achievement Awards reception

By KATHRYN MURPHY
SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

More than 400 county programs in 21 categories were recognized at the annual Achievement Award reception during NACo's Annual Conference in Allegheny County, Pa. The winners represent 30 states and 99 counties.

"This year's applications show that counties are settling into the new fiscal realities with innovative programs that address the continuing demands for public services and programs," said Jacqueline Byers, NACo director of research.

The Achievement Award program recognizes the hard work of county staff on new and effective county programs. In addition to each program's receiving an Achievement Award certificate, each reception attendee also received an Achievement Award Winner backpack filled with giveaways to promote the county staff as award winners.



Photo by Jack Hernandez

James City County, Va. won the honor of the Best Rural Program for the most innovative program from a county with a population of fewer than 75,000. County planner Leanne Reidenbach is pictured with NACo Immediate Past President Lenny Eliason (r) and Dennis Epps, deputy director of the Carl Vinson Institute at the University of Georgia.

This year's ceremony featured keynote speaker Dennis Epps, deputy director at Carl Vision Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. He noted how the winning programs have demonstrated the type of innovation that is becoming necessary to meet the public's rising expectations of local government.

The reception recognized the most innovative programs in each category. The 2012 Best of Category award winners include: Maricopa County, Ariz.; Orange County, Calif.; Clay County, Fla.; Clayton County and DeKalb County, Ga.; and Winnebago County, Ill.

Also, Howard County and Montgomery County, Md.; Oakland County, Mich.; Hennepin County and Washington County, Minn.; Mecklenburg County, N.C.; Delaware County, Hancock County, Knox County, Marion County, Montgomery County, Morrow County, Sandusky Coun-

ty and Wood County, Ohio. In addition, Clackamas County, Ore.; Richland County, S.C.; Fairfax County and Henrico County, Va.

James City County, Va. won the honor of the Best Rural Program, which recognizes the most innovative program from a county with a population of fewer than 75,000.

Abstracts from the award winning programs can be found on the NACo website at www.naco.org/achievementawards.

For more than four decades, NACo's Annual Achievement Award program has given national recognition to new and innovative county programs. To qualify, county programs must have been implemented in the last five years, have measurable results, and have innovative methods to modernize and streamline county government.

Applications for next year's awards will be available online in December.

West Nile cases also high in Mississippi, South Dakota, Louisiana, Oklahoma

WEST NILE from page 1

measures, with 888 cases recorded and 35 deaths as of Sept. 4. In 2002 and 2003, it claimed 284 and 264 lives, respectively.

Of the 1,993 cases reported nationwide as of Sept. 4, 54 percent were severe cases that affected the nervous system.

and South Dakota, but without a doubt the Dallas area has been the most seriously hit, with 537 cases in Dallas, Tarrant and Denton counties.

Judge Clay Jenkins has been handling Dallas County's response as the virus claimed 13 lives and infected 313 others. The severity of the situation landed it on

President Obama's emergency briefing, Jenkins said. Jenkins declared a public health emergency Aug. 9 and began eight days of aerial spraying with the help of state and federal officials, who paid the \$3 million for the flights.

"It escalated very quickly," he said.

"Our ground spraying couldn't keep up with rapid expansion of infected mosquitoes."

Each municipality in the county decided whether to be sprayed. Municipalities totaling nearly 18 percent of the county's population opted out of aerial spraying. The CDC found that areas that were sprayed on consecutive days were "substantially successful" in reducing the number of mosquitoes carrying West Nile, but areas that were not sprayed saw increases.

In addition to spraying, the county has been distributing out

Threats from West Nile and mosquito spray

Approximately 80 percent of people infected with West Nile virus show no symptoms, while one in 150 people infected develop a severe illness.

Those who develop a serious illness, however, are in for a rough time. More than half of confirmed West Nile infections affect the nervous system, causing meningitis and encephalitis.

Meanwhile, some environmental groups have opposed plans to combat mosquito populations via aerial spraying.

The choice to combat mosquitoes with aerial spraying in Dallas County was not without controversy, Judge Clay Jenkins said. There was some resistance to the spraying plan, particularly from bee keepers and organic farmers.

"Public safety is the most important part of this job, and our citizens were in danger," he said. "If a gang was out in the streets killing a dozen people and hospitalizing hundreds more, sometimes with grievous injuries, people would be calling for us to take action with every tool at our disposal."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention argued that not only was the amount of pesticide small — approximately one teaspoon for the size of a football field — it was sprayed mainly at the treetop level, where mosquitoes were more likely to be, tailored to mosquitoes and sprayed at night, when mosquitoes were active but other insects were dormant. It was also safe, the CDC said, because it was the same pesticide that is sprayed at ground level from trucks.

20,000 donated cans of bug repellent to low-income residents and launching an aggressive public communication campaign to wear bug repellent and long clothes, drain standing water and limit outdoor activity at dawn and dusk.

"This is going to be an ongoing and persistent threat until the first freeze," Jenkins said. "In the meantime, by taking appropriate steps, people can substantially mitigate or almost eliminate their risks of exposure."

Dallas County had no indication West Nile would be such a problem, but in retrospect, the mild winter and hot summer may have, as the CDC believes, made the virus more active in the mosquitoes that were infected and extended those mosquitoes' lives.

The additional water caused by the rains from Hurricane Isaac may not be to blame, and in fact the rains and floods likely wash away mosquito breeding grounds. Peterson said CDC analysis showed hurricanes and floods have not been found to contribute to higher incidence of West Nile, and increased numbers of mosquito bites in those affected areas are typically due to people spending more time outside.

Conversely, the extended drought that has plagued much of the Midwest has dried up a lot of water.

"A variety of environmental factors, temperature, rainfall and early onsets of spring or late onsets of fall, et cetera, can affect all of these parameters that affect transmission of West Nile virus in nature," Peterson said. "So, it's complicated."

**To access the CDC's resources on West Nile and see a county-by-county map of reported cases, see this story online at www.naco.org/countynews.*



"Based on past epidemics of West Nile disease, we expect the numbers will eventually show that this year's epidemic peaked in mid-to-late August," said Lyle Peterson, director of the CDC's vector-borne infectious diseases division. "Although we may be past the historical peak, we expect that a great many cases have not yet been reported largely because of the lag between when a person gets sick and when the illness is reported."

Cases have been high in Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma

Green Purchasing Toolkit

Counties across the country are evaluating their purchasing strategies to find opportunities to save taxpayer money, reduce negative impacts on the environment, and find better performing products to provide vital services to communities.

NACo and its partners, U.S. Communities, the Responsible Purchasing Network, and Green Seal developed an online toolkit to help America's counties reduce negative impacts on the environment without compromising on cost or performance.

The Green Purchasing Toolkit contains resources and case studies which illustrate how counties are already purchasing green products and actually saving money through lower upfront costs, reduced operating costs, and avoiding substantial costs associated with hazardous material disposal.

www.naco.org/greenkit



News From the Nation's Counties

► CALIFORNIA

Just months after **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY** passed a scaled-down version of a **ban on plastic to-go bags**, officials may try to add more teeth to the law.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on reinstating a ban on plastic bags for takeout food. The original law, which went into effect in March, included restaurant bags, but they were omitted during settlement negotiations to help resolve a lawsuit with the San Francisco-based Save the Plastic Bag Coalition.

If passed this fall, the restaurant bag ban could be in place as early as November, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* reported, because officials said there's no need for a delay to prepare customers and businesses as there was for the original ban.

► FLORIDA

- Building industry insiders and volunteers got a sneak peak at **COLLIER COUNTY**'s new **electronic permitting system** to help give feedback before its launch.

Tatiana Gust, the county's plan review and inspections manager, said the idea was to make the system like Turbo Tax, the popular income tax preparation software.

"You fill out the form and if something is wrong or missing, it lets you know," she said.

The goal, county officials said, is to make it easy enough for novices, and fast enough so professionals won't get frustrated. The new program will allow those submitting plans to either compare what's been altered side-by-side or with the plans overlaid on each other. When the plans are complete, filing electronically will require two copies be submitted for commercial buildings, down from five. For residential permits, the county will require one copy down from three.

The system is planned to debut in early 2013, the *Naples News* reported.

- The **LEE COUNTY** Commission has agreed to pay the state \$955,774 to settle a **dispute over Medicaid** charges, rather than wage a legal battle and risk paying 15 percent more.

State officials initially estimated the county owed \$4.5 million for its share of Medicaid charges that were never paid. Earlier this year, Gov. Rick Scott (R) signed legislation that authorized the state to withhold revenue sharing from counties which had failed to pay their share of Medicaid bills.

Federal, state and county

► PENNSYLVANIA

Jynx, the K-9 partner of fallen **BERKS COUNTY** Sheriff's Deputy Kyle Pagerly, was voted top-dog in his category and is now one of eight finalists to be named **American Hero Dog** for 2012 by the American Humane Association.

Each finalist wins \$5,000 for a designated charity. Jynx's charity is K9s4Cops whose mission is "to ensure that every law enforcement officer in need of a K-9 has one at their side, well trained and ready for action." If Jynx is named Hero Dog of the year, the charity will receive an additional \$10,000.

On June 29, 2011, during a routine warrant delivery, Jynx alerted Pagerly to a hill where an assailant lay, armed and waiting to ambush. That alert is credited with saving the lives of other deputy sheriffs on their way to assist.

Pagerly was fatally wounded, but Jynx tried to drag him and another officer out of harm's way during ensuing gunfire that ended when the assailant was killed.

To vote for Jynx to become American Hero Dog for 2012, log on to www.herodogawards.org and cast your vote. One vote per email address per day is permitted.



Vote for Jynx

government funds the health care coverage, but a number of counties have withheld money from the state over the past several years, asserting its billing system is flawed, the *News-Press* reported.

A payment of about \$318,000 needs to be made to the state in the coming fiscal year. At the same time, the county also needs to cut \$1 million in spending from its budget, under a plan to bring revenue and spending in line by Sept. 30 2017.

► ILLINOIS

- **LAKE COUNTY** Forest Preserve will serve as the new home for 18 smooth green snakes hatched and reared at Lincoln Park Zoo.

The tiny, **jewel-colored snakes** are listed as an Illinois Species in Greatest Need of Conservation, and their numbers have dwindled drastically over the past few decades as their prairie habitat disappears, according to zoo and forest preserve officials.

The snakes heading to the prairie will be part of a "soft release," spending some time getting accustomed to the wild while still being contained in a controlled, managed environment designed to limit predators, according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

- A **MCHENRY COUNTY** committee may recommend a

moratorium on issuing **permits for electronic billboards** after a growing chorus of requests from municipalities.

In the last couple of weeks, two municipalities approved resolutions asking the county to stop issuing permits for such signs until the county's new rules—expected to be more restrictive under a unified development ordinance—are put in place. Others are planning to pursue similar resolutions.

The opposition links electronic billboards to decreased property values, sideswipe accidents from distracted drivers and interference with the quality of sleep for people who live nearby. One city recently annexed a property to prevent such a sign to be placed there. The county has received five applications for electronic signs since late last year, the *Daily Herald* reported.

► IOWA

A judge has dismissed a lawsuit brought by Iowa counties claiming banks failed to pay **millions in recording fees** when they transferred the ownership of mortgages to create profitable but risky financial instruments.

U.S. District Judge Mark Bennett dismissed the lawsuit brought by **PLYMOUTH COUNTY** against companies that own a national registry tracking ownership interests for home loans.

The lawsuit claimed the registry allowed mortgage companies to transfer loans to other banks to be pooled into mortgage-backed securities for sale to investors. It claimed the system violated Iowa law because mortgage companies did not record each transfer of ownership and pay required fees.

Bennett ruled that Iowa law does not contain such a recording requirement and dismissed the lawsuit, which was seeking class-action status on behalf of 99 counties, the Associated Press reported.

► NEW JERSEY

The city of Camden will be **losing its police force** but gaining law enforcement protection from **CAMDEN COUNTY**.

City officials plan to lay off 270 police officers by early next year in an effort to save millions of dollars and relieve the strain on its budget, Reuters reported. A new metropolitan county police department would dedicate about 400 officers to police the city, according to a city spokesman.

The city would pay the county for its future police service, and about 49 percent of the city's officers would be eligible for hire by the new metro county police department, according to *Courier-PostOnline.com*.

County officials estimate the metro department's costs at \$65 million in annual salary and operating expenses and \$7 million in startup costs.

The city, about five miles from Philadelphia, has one of the highest homicide rates in the state, and 36 percent of its residents live below the poverty line.

► NEW YORK

- Police in **SUFFOLK COUNTY** have joined a statewide pilot program that trains officers to administer a drug that can save the lives of **drug-overdose victims**.

Officers administer a nasal spray called Narcan. It reduces the effects of an overdose of opioid drugs such as heroin by blocking the effects for at least 30 minutes. The program has already saved several lives, according to New York's NBC 4.

"We are typically first on the scene of any emergency," said Dr. Scott Coyne, chief surgeon of Suffolk County Police. "It's during those first few minutes that can make a difference between life and death."

- Counties that are already fiscally strapped are facing an increase of about 10 percent in payments into the **state's pension system**.

For example, **ST. LAWRENCE** and **JEFFERSON counties** would each have to send about \$1 million more to Albany, the *Watertown Daily Times* reported.

The state's pension fund has two main sources of revenue: investments and payments from local governments. After the stock market tanked in 2008, the local share increased.

"Faced with a multi-year, multi-billion-dollar fiscal gap and a state-imposed cap on property taxes, county governments across the state will have great difficulty making this payment," said Stephen Acquario, executive director, **NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**. "Our counties are already having difficulty putting together balanced budgets for 2013."

► SOUTH DAKOTA

Fourteen counties in the Black Hills region have agreed to back legislation to give certain counties with forest and grasslands the ability to **impose bans on fireworks**.

The Black Hills Association of County Commissioners passed a resolution seeking the right for counties with property in a national forest, national grassland or within the Black Hills Fire District to unconditionally ban fireworks.

Currently municipalities, such as Rapid City, can ban the use and sale of fireworks at will, but county governments can only ban fireworks if the fire index reaches "extreme," the *Rapid City Journal* reported.

The **SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** will consider the whether to support the resolution this month. But that too would be a beginning said Ron Buskerud, Pennington County commissioner. "It's got a long, long way to go before it will ever become a law. The fireworks has a very strong lobby, and it will be a fight if it gets to Pierre," he said.

► UTAH

A new state law took effect Sept. 1 establishing a seven-member commission and a process to **review ethics allegations** against elected and appointed city and county officials statewide.

The legislature passed S.B. 180 earlier this year, and its chief patron said the law is intended to be more "permissive than prescriptive." To that end, municipalities can create their own panels and procedures to handle such complaints, the *Salt Lake Tribune* reported.

"We wanted to provide an alter-

Research News

Counties Face Challenge of Overcrowded Schools

With school doors finally open, many counties have to find solutions to overcrowded classrooms and schools. Temporary solutions such as modular or portable classrooms that take away from the use of school athletic fields have been the most common fixes. Even though baby boomers 65 years and older are the fastest growing age group, this problem continues because of increases in population growth in the 18-years-and-under age group.

According to the Center for Public Education, children under age 18 represent 25.7 percent of the population, but Hispanic children (35 percent) and African American children (31 percent) represent larger portions of school-age children when compared to the white population (22 percent). Minority children are also the most likely to attend public schools.

Eight states, largely in the South and West, saw the largest growth in school-age children. Although the national average growth rate in this age group between 2000 and 2010 was 2.6 percent, Southern states grew 13.8 percent and Western states grew 14.3 percent. Although overcrowding is a problem in these high-growth areas, it is not confined there. Many counties all over the country have found that they have a shortage of classroom space. How are counties in these states addressing this rapid growth that resulted in inevitable overcrowding in their schools?

Putnam County, Tenn. had to condemn one of its major high schools in early 2012 because it contained outdated materials that were considered hazardous. Students attending that school have been forced to attend classes in an elementary school, resulting in severe overcrowding where teachers sometimes had three or more classes in one room. The county's solution was to increase property tax by 2.5 cents to bring \$53.5 million to the school building program. The increase in property taxes for the average homeowner will be nearly \$46 a year.

Elementary-age students in Jefferson County, Tenn. are now attending a new elementary school built to relieve severe overcrowding at two elementary schools where students had been housed in 26 modular classrooms or portables. The county used school district rezoning as a means of redirecting students to the new school. Nearby Hamilton County, which opened a new high school in 2009 to relieve overcrowding, saw this school exceed its capacity in less than three years.

To relieve overcrowding at the new school, the county made the highly controversial decision to rezone some students back to the schools whose populations were reduced by opening the new school. After the new school opened, those two high schools were under capacity.

Albemarle County, Va. is seeing

some of its elementary students attending school in trailers and having classes in the cafeteria, as well as classes filled beyond capacity, so the county has established a school redistricting committee to look at reassigning students to existing schools that have space. Redistricting is a difficult decision, especially for elementary-age children since it frequently involves busing them out of their neighborhood schools, a proposition not popular with parents. Most counties hold hearings and special meetings with parents of affected students to explain the need for the move and the advantages the students gain by changing schools.

Frederick County, Md. commissioners have come up with a different strategy to address school overcrowding. They have established a fee for developers who want to build in the rapidly growing parts of the county. These desirable areas are the same ones that are faced with overcrowding in the schools because construction of new schools cannot keep pace with growth. The mitigation fee, initiated in mid-2011, has already brought in nearly \$225,000 and is forecast to bring in \$3.8 million over the life of nine current construction projects. This money will help the county cope with the additional students.

The county had to work with the parents and educators in the schools in fast-growing parts of the county who did not want to see additional growth that would further crowd the existing schools. The county was also faced with the challenge of freeing some long held up building projects. The solution of paying for the privilege to build was the result.

An overcrowded public charter school in Harris County, Texas has found its own solution to overcrowding. Cornerstone Academy is having two teachers certified in three or more subject areas, in each classroom of 34 students. This "double teaming" helps provide the individual instruction many students require to succeed and relieves some of the problems experienced with overcrowding. The principal of the school says it works, evidenced by the number of times the school has been cited as exemplary.

(Research News was written by Jacqueline Byers, director of research and outreach.)

Church sues to block county sign ordinance

NEWS FROM *from page 13*

native, should a municipality want to avail itself of it," said state Sen. Curt Bramble, the bill's sponsor.

DAVIS COUNTY is considering the local option, according to Commissioner Bret Millburn.

► VIRGINIA

FAIRFAX COUNTY is revisiting its **sign ordinance** after a local church filed suit in federal court alleging that the regulation is a violation of free speech rights, *The Washington Post* reported.

Church of the Good Shepherd was issued a code violation because its digital roadside sign broadcast more than two messages

per day. Last month, a zoning investigator sent the congregation a letter saying he had observed three messages on the sign within a 24-hour period.

County officials reportedly have asked the church to change the sign at a "reasonable interval," which had not been defined, according to the Post, and the violation has been dismissed.

"We need to find a consensus on what's reasonable," Supervisor Michael R. Frey said.

(News From the Nation's Counties is compiled by Charles Taylor and Charlie Ban, staff writers. If you have an item for News From, please email ctaylor@naco.org or cbam@naco.org.)

Financial Services News

Helping County Workers Take 10 for Retirement Planning

In a world of LOL, OMG and IMHO, you may be wondering if there's an easier way to understand what's going on. Many county employees feel the same way about planning for retirement-income needs.

Fortunately, they can find answers in just 10 minutes — in plain English — without leaving their PC.

With just a couple clicks on Nationwide's website, www.nrsforu.com, county workers can find the "On Your Side Interactive Retirement Planner." This software asks a few questions about goals for retirement and expected retirement income. Using answers provided by the user, the online retirement planner can help them decide whether they're on track to meet their goals.

As the name suggests, the planner is interactive. County employees can change some of the answers or assumptions they've entered as they:

- set a retirement goal
- track progress
- find ideas to help improve the outlook, or
- save a PDF file of the information for use later

Personal records such as retirement plans, investment accounts, Social Security or pension statements can be used with the On Your Side retirement planner, but aren't necessary. In a few short minutes, the planner provides a quick snapshot of the prospects for helping to achieve the retirement income county employees have set as their goal.

The retirement planner is one of the many resources and services Nationwide Retirement Solutions provides as added value for participation in the NACo Deferred Compensation Program. Many others are available online.

Promoting NACo's Deferred Comp Program

Nationwide provides promotional tools for county employers trying to help their employees become more aware of the benefits of deferred compensation

participation. Nationwide knows public sector employees and has been working with them for more than 30 years.

With National Save for Retirement Week coming up in October, this could be a good time to find out more about the Nationwide-administered NACo Deferred Compensation Program. To find out more about the program and how promoting deferred compensation can benefit county employees, contact Lisa Cole by email at lc@naco.org or at 202.942.4270, or contact a Nationwide representative by calling 877.677.3678.

(Financial Services News was written by Lisa Cole, director, NACo Financial Services Corporation.)

The On Your Side Interactive Retirement Planner is a hypothetical illustration tool and is not intended to predict or project investment results of any specific investment. Investment return is not guaranteed and will vary depending upon investments and market experience. Assumptions do not include fees and expenses. If fees were reflected, the return would be less. Nationwide representatives are Registered Representatives of Nationwide Investment Services Corporation, member FINRA. In Michigan only: Nationwide Investment Svcs. Corporation.

Neither Nationwide nor its representatives may offer investment, tax or legal advice. Participants should consult their own counsel before making any decisions.

Nationwide Retirement Solutions (Nationwide) makes payments to the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the NACo Financial Services Center Partnership (FSC) for services and endorsements that NACo provides for all its members generally related to Nationwide's products and services sold exclusively in public sector retirement markets. More detail about these payments is available at www.nrsforu.com.

Financial Service News was written by Bob Beasley, communications manager, Nationwide Retirement Solutions.

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The H.R. Doctor Is In

The Paralysis of Choice

Several times over the years the HR Doctor has discussed with police friends the difficulty that might befall a poor officer at the moment of early morning “Code 7” break time if the officer found herself at an intersection with a Dunkin Donuts on one side and a Krispy Kreme on the other. This is not only a dilemma that affects police officers bravely protecting the glazed donuts of America from insurgent attacks, but it also affects every one of us as consumers and as public policy decision makers.

In a recent trip to several electronics stores to drool over a possible high-definition TV purchase, the HR Doctor was confronted by a dozen beautiful large-screen TV sets with amazing picture quality and an array of different features that would make NASA engineers question their own knowledge of electronics.

The choices of what brand and type of television to buy, or what donut shop to visit represent simple metaphors for the much more important choices that we make. Choice is a concept to be treasured. It is a concept to be fine tuned by gathering the best available information and by creating a staff culture in our government agencies where innovation and process improvements are recognized and rewarded staff behaviors.

All too often department heads, city and county managers and elected officials don't want to “rock the boat.” It's sometimes easier, though not necessarily the right

thing to do, to put off considering a new innovation until after retirement vesting or after the next election. We do the same thing too often in our relationships with our kids, spouses and neighbors. If this paralysis is a chronic problem in the way you make decisions personally, then you might as well substitute the phrase “after I die” for some of those phrases mentioned above.

Chronic “putting off” behavior leads us down a path of linear thinking which does not serve our own interest or the interests of society. Linear thinking means making an assumption that tomorrow will be much like today or yesterday. Planning for the future is then based on the past. This is a fundamental model we use in incremental budgeting. We also use it in the design of next year's “totally redesigned” new car models. We use it in decision-making on how we want to fight wars and how we will educate our children.

On the last point, if you don't believe the HR Doctor, ask yourself how many of us need to have our children at home in the summer to help harvest our crops. If you answer that question with words like “hardly anybody” at all anymore, then go on to ask why the summer “vacation” is a hallowed and almost untouchable concept in teacher union contracts and school board policy making. There really should never be a vacation from learning. Linear decision-making can become the default when we overdose on choice.

**All too often
department heads,
city and county
managers, and elected
officials don't want to
“rock the boat.”**

The opposite model of decision flexibility with a default to innovation and exploring the unknown of policy options can lead us to the opposite outcome of linear thinking. It can lead us to flexibility and resilience in how our agencies respond to problems and challenges. Personally it can lead to career growth and

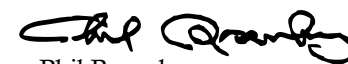
professional development.

The cure to the “deer in the headlights” decision paralysis is to respond to policy-making opportunities by asking, “why we are continuing to do something in a certain way, and what if we did it differently?” How can we bring about a spectacular improvement, not just a marginal improvement in productivity or satisfaction? If you remain satisfied with the 1.65 percent growth in the number of paperclips counted per employee per month then you might as well pay the auditor's salary and crawl into a hole while you complete your retirement papers. Your decision-making has become what you hope your children's will not turn out to be.

An excessive reliance on the incremental and on counting beans

represents an assault on and a stifling of the spirit of innovation. As an observer of society and behavior for several decades, the HR Doctor's fear is that as a nation, and as individuals, we are sacrificing innovation for comfort and for what we regard as safety. That represents a trend which must be fiercely resisted by every means available as long as those means are not illegal, immoral or fattening.

So the HR Doctor wishes you an enjoyable shopping experience in the land of choice and spectacular results when you next consider an innovative public policy decision. I hope to also see each of you voting in November.



Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor • www.hrdr.net

Job Market & Classifieds

► EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Salary: DOQ.

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is one of the premier public sector policy and advocacy associations in the State of California. Located in the most challenging and dynamic state in the nation, CSAC is seeking a new Executive Director to continue strong leadership on behalf of California counties.

This position, headquartered in Sacramento, is an outstanding professional opportunity for an individual who wants to actively work on some of the most pressing issues of our time and help shape the future in support of the elected leadership of county government in California. CSAC provides a competitive salary along with an excellent and flexible benefits package.

For a detailed recruitment brochure, visit the CSAC website at www.csac.counties.org, or contact Roberts Consulting Group at robertsrcg@msn.com. How to Apply: If you are interested in this outstanding opportunity, submit your resume (email preferred) to Roberts Consulting Group, PO Box 16692, Beverly Hills, CA 90209; Email: robertsrcg@msn.com; Phone: 818.783.7752. Deadline: Friday, Sept. 28.

► DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZ.

Salary: \$100,000 or more annually; DOQ.

Cochise County is currently accepting applications for a position with the Community Development Department for Director of Community Development. Cochise County is located in

southeastern Arizona and is home to Fort Huachuca and Kartchner Caverns as well as considered the gateway to Mexico. Cochise County fosters some of the best quality of life found in the Southwestern United States. There is something for everyone in Cochise County, from outdoor activities to arts and culture. The position is located in Bisbee, an artistic small community and a great place to work, live and play.

The minimum qualifications for the position is a Master's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Engineering, Urban Planning or a field related to the work of the department; eight (8) years of progressively responsible managerial, administrative or supervisory experience. Preference may be given to applicants who have five (5) years of experience in a public sector environment and who are registered in the State of Arizona as a Professional Engineer with proficiency in civil engineering or have the ability to become registered within one year of employment. For more information and application materials contact the Cochise County Human Resources Department at 520.432.9700 or visit our website at www.co.cochise.az.us/ccwebsite/Jobs.asp. A completed Cochise County Employment Application must be submitted to be considered for the position.

► ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – SONOMA COUNTY, CALIF.

Salary: \$162,294 – \$197,275 annually; DOQ.

The County of Sonoma seeks a collaborative and progressive leader to become the next Assistant County Administrator (ACAO). The ACAO

plays a critical role on the County management team by serving as the Chief Operating Officer for the organization and overseeing the County's fiscal and budget activities. The ACAO also serves as the point person in addressing the major budget/fiscal and/or programmatic issues that are complex, highly visible, and politically sensitive and/or those that require cross-organizational collaboration.

The successful candidate will have significant experience with government finance, including complex budget analysis and oversight, and a strong inclination for results, yet relies on a positive and diplomatic interpersonal style. Candidates should have extensive knowledge of public administration and management, county government organization and functions and their relationship to federal, state and municipal governments, as well as excellent skill in facilitating group dynamics, a strong and positive presence, and precise and insightful communication skills, both in person and in writing.

The minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in business/public administration, management, finance, economics, or accounting, and five years of increasingly responsible experience in a private or governmental agency with responsibility in administration or financial analysis, including systems, procedures and program evaluation. At least two years of experience in a responsible administrative or management capacity with a governmental/public sector agency including the supervision of professional level staff is required. To apply, and for detailed information, visit www.yourpath2sonomacounty.org—“Job Opportunities.” Apply by Wed. Oct. 3. EOE.

NACo on the Move

► NACo Officers and Officials

• NACo Immediate Past President **Lenny Eliason** spoke about NACo at the Maine Association of Counties annual conference in Lincoln County Sept. 5.

• **Paul Fitzgerald**, sheriff, Story County, Iowa, has been appointed to serve on the board of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). FirstNet is congressionally mandated to establish a nationwide wireless broadband network that enables police, firefighters, emergency services personnel, and others in public safety to better communicate with one another during emergencies.

• Parish President **Charlotte Randolph** of Lafourche Parish, La. and Deputy Executive Director **Ed Ferguson** represented NACo at the summer meeting of the board of directors of IBTS, the Institute for Building Technology and Safety, held in Monterey, Calif. Aug. 10–11. Randolph is the IBTS board member appointed by NACo.

► Coming Up

• **Tony Jamison**, membership assistant, will be exhibiting on behalf of NACo membership recruitment and retention at the Wyoming Association of County Officers Annual Conference Sept. 18–20.

Model Programs From the Nation's Counties

Sacramento County, Calif.

Mounted Cameras Spot Stolen Cars on the Road

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER



“Hot cars” in Sacramento County, Calif. aren’t necessarily the ones teenage boys covet — the Ferraris or Porsches.

The typical stolen car, of which there were more than 9,500 in 2010, tend to be from lower-income neighborhoods. They are more likely Hondas, Subarus and other cars that are unlikely to rouse suspicion if a sheriff’s deputy sees them on the road.

The Sacramento area was the sixth-ranked region in the country for stolen cars in 2010, and owners’ losses were more of a problem than the thieves’ gain.

“My suspicion is that they were largely vehicles that didn’t have theft insurance,” said Don Meyer, the county’s chief probation officer. “The victims were forced to buy new cars or adapt to life using the bus system. It impacts their



Two cameras on the front and back of Sacramento County, Calif.’s probation department cars can read license plates on cars traveling up to 100 miles per hour and compare them to a statewide list of stolen cars. Matches show up on a laptop in the front seat.

independence and mobility to lose their cars like that.”

In 2010, the probation department purchased automated license plate reader systems for two of its cars to help identify those stolen cars and return them to their owners. Each can scan up to 3,000 license plates per hour, checking the digital image against a statewide list of stolen vehicles, a process that takes less than

a second and involves no distraction to the officer driving the car.

Two cameras face each direction on the car upon which it is mounted and can read plates heading toward and away from them. The probation department also bought a unit for its field office’s parking lot.

“We’ve even caught people on probation driving stolen cars into our parking lot when they check

in,” Meyer said. “We sometimes don’t have to do anything to find these cars, they just drive right up.”

The day before Meyer spoke to *County News*, the system had brought in its 241st stolen car, a 1995 Honda, recovered in an apartment complex’s parking lot. It had been stolen four months prior.

“It doesn’t solve the auto theft problem, but it gets the vehicles back

to the owners,” Meyer said. “In the end, that’s helpful too, and makes a difference in victim restoration. People who get their cars back can return to their routines and not have to worry about losing their jobs because they can’t get to work reliably.”

The county’s general fund paid for the cameras, which totaled \$58,000.

Trade magazine *Parking Trend International* estimates automated license plate reader technology to be 90–94 percent accurate and standardization of license plate styles has aided their readability. Also, the A&E television network show “Parking Wars” featured the technology.

Model Programs from the Nation's Counties highlights award-winning programs.

**For more details on how this technology works, read this story at www.naco.org/countrynews.*

Photos courtesy of Sacramento County, Calif. Probation Department



When population
growth strains
service delivery,
you've got a problem.

Between 2000 and 2010, Loudoun County's population grew by roughly 84%, making it one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S. At the same time, recession-era budget cuts prevented the county from bringing on staff to maintain pace with this growth.

“Laserfiche has allowed us to simplify case management and ease the burden on our overworked staff. In addition, we’re **saving approximately \$51,000 a year** on office supplies alone,” says Susan Pratt, Fiscal Manager for the Department of Family Services.

Additional departments within Loudoun County using Laserfiche to increase efficiency include the Assessor's Office, Building & Development, Environmental Health and the Controller's Office, among others.



Visit laserfiche.com/loudouncounty to download the Loudoun County white paper.