



“Don’t be part of the problem, be part of the solution” is the motto Robert Steele, Cook County Commissioner, lives by.

Commissioner Robert Steele receives 2015 NASP Pacesetter Award

The National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP) has awarded Cook County Commissioner Robert Steele its 2015 Pacesetter Award. The Pacesetter Award is given by the NASP to recognize asset fund trustees or individual funds that have consistently ensured or promoted the full involvement of minority and women managers in the securities industry.

A life-long Chicagoan and community activist, Commissioner Steele strives to provide better solutions in the face of adversity. He has been a consistent supporter of greater participation by minorities and women asset managers, brokers/dealers and other members of the securities industry in the management of public assets and funds. His efforts at greater inclusion have been part of an increased focus on the issue across Illinois, as public officials such as Steele have begun to explore ways to diversify the pool of professional talent available to them to use in the management of public funds.

Public service has long been a part of the Steele family legacy. In addition to his own service, Commissioner Steele is the son of Bobbie L. Steele, the first female Cook County President and former Commissioner for the 2nd District of Cook County.

The NASP is the leading professional association advocating for the interests of minorities and women in the securities industry across the nation. It also hosts the NASP Institute, a regular educational forum that provides public officials with responsibility over public funds with a robust educational experience that helps prepare participants for the many complex issues they will face.

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Renovation of Macoupin County courthouse being celebrated

When the Macoupin County courthouse was constructed in the late 1860s it was, according to the National Register nomination, “the most scandalous incident of overspending in the history of the state.” The state legislature had approved \$50,000 to construct a new courthouse, but by 1870 the total cost had amounted to \$1,342,302. When the final debt payment was made in 1910, the town celebrated with a jubilee that consisted of “fireworks, a public bond-burning, and a speech by the Governor of Illinois.”

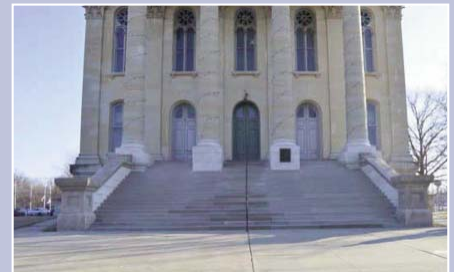
Almost 150 years later, the building is still the most iconic structure in the county, but it has deteriorated significantly.

In 2013, Macoupin County was awarded \$100,000 from Landmarks Illinois’ Richard H. Driehaus Courthouse Initiative (the largest grant available through the program) to proceed with an agreed-upon project renovating the historic courthouse.

Until recently, three of the four building entrance staircases were too deteriorated to be used safely and the two primary entrances were blocked off due to crumbling stonework. As the most visible and necessary elements of the building, it made sense to focus the grant funds, coupled with \$100,000 from Macoupin County’s reserve fund, on the restoration of the grand north entryway. This included the replacement of several steps, piers at the base of the rails, and stairway caps, as well as cleaning the stonework. Now the steps are well used by the public.

“It’s the most well known building in the county,” said Macoupin County Circuit Clerk Mike Mathis. “There’s a sense of pride now when you see that entrance – even the employees were amazed and everyone comments on it and stops on the stairs.”

The Macoupin County Board is budgeting for repairs to the courthouse roof and gutters as well as the historic jail across the street. “Most people who see it are pretty impressed that a small county has this great big ornate courthouse,” said Macoupin County Board Chairman Mark Dragovich. “We don’t ever hear any opposition from people about spending money on its restoration.”



(Top) Circuit Clerk and courthouse historian Mike Mathis shows off the courtroom interior. (Bottom) The newly restored north stairs.

Article excerpts and photos courtesy of Landmarks Illinois.

Madison County receives \$400,000 grant to identify contaminated sites

Madison County has been awarded a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify historically contaminated properties, also known as brownfields, in the county for clean-up and redevelopment.

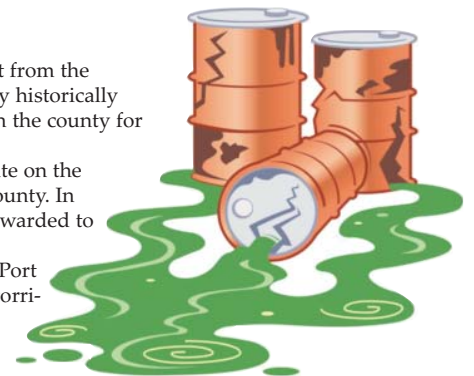
The brownfield assessment will primarily concentrate on the northern, eastern and southern portions of Madison County. In recent years, EPA brownfield assessment grants were awarded to the Southwestern Illinois Development Authority and America’s Central Port (formerly the Tri-City Regional Port District), to access more than 70 sites in the industrial corridor located in the western portion of the county.

“Being awarded this grant from the EPA is an important development in the eventual clean-up of abandoned and dilapidated industrial and commercial properties throughout Madison County,” Madison County Chairman Alan Dunstan said. “And it is also a key first step in Madison County’s economic development plan to concentrate on areas where jobs are needed most.”

Dunstan also praised the support received from the members of Madison County’s Congressional delegation. “Although the EPA awarded Madison County this grant based on need, the support our application received from Congressmen John Shimkus, Rodney Davis and Mike Bost was particularly helpful when you consider Madison County was just one of thousands of counties throughout the country competing for a limited amount of available grant dollars,” Dunstan said.

“This was clearly an example of elected officials, representing different political parties, working together for the betterment of Madison County and its residents,” Dunstan added. “This collective effort will result in improved public health, a better environment and, ultimately, jobs for our residents.”

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President's Message

by Deborah Sims, Cook County Commissioner



I am honored to serve as your new Illinois Counties Association (ICA) President. Before receiving this honor, I had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors under former Presidents Bobbie L. Steele and Ruth Anne Tobias, each of whom I consider great mentors.

This year's National Association of Counties (NACo) conference was held in Charlotte, North Carolina from July 10-13. The Illinois membership's attendance was higher than ever and I would like to congratulate everyone on our increased participation. NACo addresses issues important to our counties on a variety of topics and it is important that the issues of Illinois' many diverse communities are represented in the organization's legislative priorities and issue advocacy.

Illinois representatives attended a host of workshops, meetings and panel discussions. Featured among the many presenters were CNN's Soledad O'Brien and Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter. After several days of sharing best practices, legislative innovations and policy recommendations, the NACo Board of Directors took up consideration of 122 policy resolutions. These resolutions touched on many important topics. Among them were resolutions on the minimum wage, opposition to life sentences without parole for juveniles, environmental protection, clean water, Marketplace Fairness Act and others.

This year we hosted one of the association's largest dinners, co-hosted by Nationwide Retirement Solutions, provider of deferred compensation services to public sector employees across the nation, including many of our own members here in Illinois. Nationwide has proven to be a great friend of Illinois counties and I would like to thank them for their continued support. We also hosted a breakfast during the conference, at which the delegation was able to hear remarks from candidates for NACo President and Vice-President. Following the breakfast members held a caucus and decided to cast all their 241 votes for Second Vice President Roy Charles Brooks, a county commissioner from Tarrant County, Texas, who was nominated by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. During the breakfast, attendees registered for NACo's National Steering Committees. Because of our presence and high participation rates this year, we were able to get more Illinois members involved and nominated to serve. All committee applicants should have received their acceptance letters by now. If you have not, please contact NACo offices at your nearest opportunity. The breakfast was also an opportunity for a raffle for our members. The prize was reimbursement of the participants annual conference fee. The lucky winner was Denise Winfrey of Will County.

In other business, ICA is moving forward with its annual scholarship. 2015's awardees have already been notified. Be sure to encourage students from your county to participate in the Illinois Counties Association's scholarship program.

Thank you to all those who attended this year's NACo conference. I encourage those of you who have not had an opportunity to do so in the near future.

Madison County grant *continued from page 1*

Potential Brownfield sites that will be addressed as part of this study range from industrial sites as large as 80 acres to small, former gas stations. Preliminary work on the project revealed that in a number of rural areas, businesses which at one time supported the industrial facilities in the eastern part of the county are abandoned and appear to suffer from contamination.



Leaking tanks at gas station in Highland, Illinois.

Smaller communities located along major transportation corridors have numerous former gas stations that have long closed and those sites remain an impediment to redevelopment. Those abandoned gas stations have likely released petroleum/BTEX into the soil and groundwater. Although much of this is undocumented, early gas stations are notorious for leaking tanks.

Frank Miles, administrator of Madison County Community Development, said the EPA grant is only for the identification of brownfield sites in Madison County and does not include site clean-up. "After the study is completed, Madison County Community Development will develop a plan for the identified brownfield that includes clean-up and removal of any contamination."

The EPA specifies that \$200,000 of the \$400,000, three-year grant be used to identify hazardous brownfield sites with heavy metals, creosote and other toxicants in the soil. The remainder of the grant funds will be used to identify brownfield sites contaminated by petroleum products.

The \$400,000 grant will be used to prioritize and investigate the historic uses of the properties, determine the type, severity and extent of contaminants, and develop remedial alternatives that will allow for safe and viable reuse of the properties.

Madison County Community Development will serve as the lead agency and will retain a qualified environmental consultant to assist in managing and performing the activities funded by the grant. The department will oversee the work of the consultant and act as a liaison between the EPA, coalition members, the public, property owners and other stakeholders involved in projects resulting from this grant.

Some options are irresistible

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Burke selected for Leadership Academy

Jackson County Board member Emily Burke, pictured with Illinois Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti, has been selected to participate in the 2015-2016 Delta Leadership Institute Executive Academy.

Created by the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) to foster collaboration and capacity building, the Academy trains leaders selected from the eight Delta states toward the goal of improving the economic and social viability of the Delta region. A series of training and leadership sessions will be conducted around the South and in Washington, D.C. during the coming year to provide up and coming leaders with information they need to make a difference in the Mississippi Delta region.

Established in 2000 by Congress, the DRA makes investments of federal appropriations into the physical and human infrastructure of Delta communities. Southern Illinois is the northernmost part of the Authority. The 252 counties and parishes served by the DRA make up the most distressed areas of the country.

The Academy presents an opportunity for Burke to learn and network with an incredible group of like-minded people seeking to advocate and improve life in the Southern region. Burke commented that she is passionate about the work and excited about the opportunity to represent Jackson County and the residents of southern Illinois.



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Congratulations

ICA Scholarship recipients

The Illinois Counties Association Scholarship program awards up to 15 scholarships to Illinois high-school seniors. These \$3,000 gifts make a tremendous impact on the ability for academic and civic-minded students to receive a quality education at the institution of their choosing. The 2015-2016 recipients of this award, profiled here, demonstrate the high-caliber student applicants from counties throughout Illinois.

Ruth Adekale graduated from Bloom High School in Chicago Heights, and will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the fall. She plans on majoring in the biological and biomedical sciences, and hopes to graduate with honors. Her high school principal promotes her as a top-ten student in her class of 350, and as "our proverbial and metaphorical half-full glass." Her talent and her tenacity will take her far in life.

Mallory Battefeld is a graduate of Lewistown High School, and will attend Illinois College this fall. While in high school, Mallory was a major contributor to women's sports programming and other student organizations. Her teachers describe her as "intelligent, responsible," and her energy and enthusiasm as contagious. She plans to study business, and these skills will serve her well throughout her academic tenure.

This spring, **Elizabeth Canning** graduated from Loyola Academy in Wilmette with a 4.0 GPA. In a few weeks, she will be starting studies in Political Science and Philosophy at Boston College. Alongside her studies, Elizabeth will be seeking opportunities to excel in public service where she can relate her education to contemporary issues. Her school counselor describes Elizabeth as a motivating force for her friends and as a leader both in the classroom and out.

Tara Duffy attended Mother McAuley high school, and will join the freshman ranks at Marquette University this fall in the Biomedical Sciences/Pre-Physician Assistant program. Tara was named an Illinois Scholar, and served as the co-chair of the National Honor Society and was a two-time bronze medalist in the Latin National Exam. One recommendation said, "perhaps her most important gift is the goodness of her character." Certainly, her character will help her become a leader as she pursues her educational goals.

In a recommendation letter from **Whitney George's** Spanish teacher at Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School, she is described as being a "positive asset to the institution of higher learning she chooses to attend." The biological and biomedical sciences department at the University of Chicago is certainly lucky to have her. After maintaining a 3.95 GPA and devoting a strong commitment to both her education and service, Whitney is certainly headed for great things.

Branna Heaton graduated from Rushville-Industry High School, and plans to attend Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville this fall to study the health professions and related clinical sciences. In her application essay, Branna explains that her perseverance is a virtue that will allow her to achieve her goals. She has already expressed the determination to have an "unparalleled devotion" to her work and to her future patients. These skills will certainly serve her as she pursues her dreams.

Graduating from Auburn High School with a 4.0 GPA, **Cheri Michelich** is poised for success in achieving a degree in education from Illinois College. As an Illinois Scholar, she knows what it takes to be an exceptional student. Exceptional students make quality teachers dedicated to sharing their love of learning with future generations, and Cheri will fulfill that role well.

This fall, **Oluseyi Olaley** will be beginning a new school year as an Engineering student at Stanford University. His AP English teacher at Gary Comer College Prep said, "his curiosity transcends beyond grades. He truly cares about knowing more and being better." Another teacher said, "He has consistently articulated a desire to use his education to return to the South Side of the city and work to change the lives of the many African Americans who frequently fall victim to the culture of poverty perpetuated in the area." This young man is a true leader in our community and will accomplish greatness at Stanford.

Madelaine Perry finished at Rock Island High School with a 4.0 GPA and a plan to pursue the Biological and Biomedical Sciences at Augustana College, and hopes to attend medical school one day. Her placement in the top-10 students in her high school and her determination and loyalty to the task at hand will be an asset as she travels down this path.

Jameel Rice's principal at Urban Prep Academy for Young Men describes him as an "Outstanding individual who has limitless potential." Those who volunteer alongside him at the Salvation Army know him as an amazing role model for his peers. He will begin working toward a degree in Journalism at Dominican University in the fall. Jameel believes that the media can have a profound impact on our ability to change – and over the next four years, he will certainly experience that.



Visit illinoiscountiesassociation.org to learn more!

After graduating from Hinckley-Big Rock High School with a 4.0 GPA, **Jeffrey Urbahn** will be pursuing a degree in Graphic Design from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. His high school counselor described Jeff as "standing above his peers in his dedication to academics and school activities," going on to describe his rigorous course load, intentionally chosen to prepare himself for college. Jeff's motivation and dedication will prove useful as he embarks on his journey at UIUC.

Jocelyn Welker will matriculate at Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville, pursuing a degree as a nurse practitioner and hopes to work in the field of oncology. Jocelyn graduated from Massac County High School, where her English teacher describes her as "a role model for her peers in school and for adults in the community, and everyone respects her intelligence, work ethic and attitude."

Brady Wilkinson will attend Blackburn College in the fall, and recently graduated from Morrisonville High School. Brady plans to study criminal justice. His work at his local sheriff's department, as well as his community service work through the Key Club, FFA, FCA, SADD and National Honor Society have given him a unique perspective as he begins his coursework.

Jada Williams graduated from Chicago Bulls College Prep, and plans to study nursing at Illinois State University in the fall. Her tenacity and love of learning, shown through a recent success in teaching a young girl from Ethiopia to read, will serve her well in her education and in life. Her music director said that Jada was an individual with incredible work ethic and drive.

Kaela Wright attended Chicago Bulls College Preparatory School, and plans to attend DePaul University and major in Kinesiology. Her Physical Education teacher said Kaela's ability to master strength and conditioning exercises and execute whatever was thrown her way was "essential to our class' success." Her mathematics instructor described her as a "well-balanced young adult," an achievement critical to collegiate success.

Illinois Counties Association John Stroger Memorial Scholarship

John H. Stroger, the first African American president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, was first elected in 1970; serving from 1994-2006 as president. He holds the title of longest-serving Cook County Board member.

Stroger also served as the president of the National Association of Counties (NACo) from 1992-1993 and was appointed by former President Bill Clinton as a member of the Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations. He was a strong advocate for higher education having served as a teacher, coach and mentor early in his career. He passed away in 2008, and his memory is honored by selecting one recipient of a \$5,000 ICA scholarship available to master's level students and above.

Brooke Mosley is this year's recipient of the John Stroger Memorial Scholarship. Her drive for excellence has allowed her to graduate Magna Cum Laude from Florida A&M University with a degree in Accounting. She is currently working toward her MBA at Florida A&M, and is hoping to study abroad so that she can "expand her mind and adapt to a world outside of the one she is accustomed to." Brooke's instructors describe her as being destined to be a leader within the business field, and as "realizing her passion." Brooke embodies the spirit of this memorial scholarship.





REBUILDING FAIRDALE

County takes lead in providing ongoing support

by Ruth Anne Tobias, DeKalb County Board



After a deadly tornado destroys your home and most of your tiny community, the question quickly becomes 'What now?', both for Fairdale residents and for DeKalb County staff and board members. After the F4 tornado devastated the small unincorporated community on April 9, killing two residents, injuring others, destroying half of the 70 homes and severely damaging others, what does happen? Where have the residents scattered to, how does it get cleaned up, how does the county help the rebuilding effort, if there is to be one? DeKalb County is the community's government. So, what happens there matters to the county.

In 30 terrifying seconds, many residents were left with nothing but the clothes they were wearing. First aid, shelter, food, clothing, gas money and living money were immediate needs. So, many volunteers appeared on the scene, they had to be sent to Kirkland four miles away to be organized by the Kirkland Fire department, which had also responded to the situation. The Red Cross arrived to handle voluntary help and provide food and drink for first responders and residents in shelters. The Kirkland Lions club immediately started a GOFUNDME campaign – still open for donations – when donations began to pour in, and they handled trying to get gas cards, money cards and cash to residents. One funding campaign has been taken over by the DeKalb County Community Foundation. The amount donated and pledged stood at \$1.4 million in August, four months after the tragedy. Other funds are being collected by the American Red Cross, and there are local fundraisers still going on to help the residents.

The President of the LTRC Board, Bill Nicklas, was a city manager for many years and a community coordinator for Northern Illinois University. Bill has been 'on the job' seven days a week in the LTRC trailer in Fairdale for months, meeting with residents, collecting all the donations, and coordinating possibilities for the rebuild. Twelve board members are figuring out the best ways to spend limited resources. About \$200,000 was distributed to residents to help cover some immediate needs. The rest of the funds are to be focused on infrastructure, and mainly on a community septic field, connecting all the homes' septic tanks – even grinding down tree stumps.

Residents were not happy about the septic situation, but have come to agree that this is the most viable option. Seven acres of land has been purchased by the LTRC from a neighboring farmer, and a system is being planned with the donated engineering help of a DeKalb County Board member for the district in which Fairdale sits. Kevin Bunge, an engineer, donated the system design, and the LTRC is in talks with the gas company NICOR to include gas pipes so a propane tank for each house would not be necessary. As of August this project seems to be going forward.

The **first problem**, septic systems, appears to be solved. County Health Department Environmental Health staff assisted by meeting with every homeowner and turning off and securing local water supplies to protect them, but noted that existing septic systems were not in compliance with state regulations and new homes would not be allowed to use what was in the ground. What to do?



The Long Term Recovery trailer was set up in town following the disaster and has been operating for months as a central access point for all services.

A total of 21 homes in Fairdale were obliterated; 15 suffered major structural damage and remain uninhabitable; 14 others homes suffered various damages, but can be rebuilt.

(Photos courtesy of Ruth Anne Tobias and the DeKalb County Long Term Recovery Corporation)



The tornado that struck Fairdale and rural DeKalb County on April 9 was the greatest natural disaster to strike the county in generations. About 90 properties were affected. The estimated property damage was \$7.9 million, an estimated \$2.76 million of which were uninsured losses.

Even though the clean-up was accomplished by the end of April – unbelievably fast according to Tracy Jones, County Board member who worked many hours himself – with the help of many donated hours of hard work from the County Highway department, the Franklin Township workers, donated excavators, and many, many volunteers, it quickly became apparent that a central access point for all the services needed by Fairdale residents was necessary. County government would have a role, but it could not do it all. So, the Long Term Recovery Corporation was started to coordinate everything, meet with citizens on a regular basis and help make decisions about what next.

County Administrator Gary Hanson organized all the department heads to provide up to the minute ideas of how they would help. Those departments that had responded immediately would slowly give way to those that could provide ongoing support. But the County still needed a formal structure to disburse donated funds and handle the personal needs of the Fairdale community. The Long Term Recovery Corporation (LTRC) was the result, a not-for-profit organization that would help to plan, pay for some of the needs, and carry out the recovery.

The Health Department proposed a community septic field and a joint effort with the residents, staff, County Board members, and the Long Term Recovery Corporation is making this happen. They will work with Franklin Township Park District officials so that there will be a local government entity responsible for maintaining the system. The County Health Department will do an analysis of each home's water supply at no cost when they are ready to move back in.

Second problem is emotional support. The LTRC meets with residents as a group weekly at the Kirkland Fire Station and on an individual basis to meet their needs. Each family/resident has a volunteer case manager to assist however they can, whether to talk or to discuss rebuilding or to find resources for clothing, cars, food, etc. Most residents homes were either uninsured or under-insured, so that there is a great need to find support for the rebuild.



Construction has begun on the community septic tank field (adjacent farm property) which is scheduled for completion by November 1, 2015.

The DeKalb County Board and Planning Commission approved rezoning the town of Fairdale into a mixed-use development. The new set of rules gives residents more flexibility to build.

(Photos courtesy of Ruth Anne Tobias)

The Small Business Administration will offer low-interest home loans to the residents, but they may need assistance with organizing all that is needed. Often when disaster strikes, the mental health needs of the victims are not attended to. The County Mental Health Board (708 Board) announced that any services residents needed would be free for the foreseeable future.

Often, areas see an increase in divorces, substance abuse or other mental health problems after something so devastating. They worked with the DeKalb County Regional Office of Education to provide services through the school. Family forums are held monthly and there has been a community healing event. There have also been house blessings to bring the residents back into a community again. And, the DeKalb County Community Action department was able to provide some financial assistance for renters – two months of Homeless Assistance. Their case management approach is to focus on resources – budgeting and managing for ‘moved’ people. They also assist the case managers with disaster recovery and will continue until residents rebuild or move away.



As of August 10, three new foundations are underway in Fairdale, and one in rural DeKalb County. The LTRC estimates that seven more foundations will be dug in the next few months. In addition, five owners are completing the rehabilitation of their homes.

Third problem is rebuilding. The Planning and Zoning Department examined the lots, each with its own well and septic system, to determine how residents could rebuild their homes. However, Fairdale homes were built long before the county had an established planning code in place and so had been grandfathered in. New homes would have to be built exactly as they had been before, needing building permits. New homes would be more expensive and could need bigger lot sizes.

It was proposed to change the zoning designation for the area to Mixed Use from Agricultural so that new homes could be built as the residents wished and not exactly as they had been, but there would be some delay. The DeKalb County Board approved the zoning change at a special meeting July 1, and several residents picked up their permits on July 2, with no permit fees attached.

The Fairdale disaster did not reach the Federal Emergency Management Agency's threshold for disaster assistance (about \$18 million for Illinois), and there is no Illinois disaster recovery fund. Recovery will be a local responsibility for the owners, and for their fellow citizens.

Many residents cannot afford to rebuild, so may not be able to come back to the community. For those that do, the County Assessor will provide needed forms, like the Rebuild Assessment Reduction from the 2014 Assessment, and the Federal Natural Disaster Exemption. The Assessor even added new codes to the tax system for disaster-affected Fairdale homes, and the County Treasurer delayed real estate tax payments until November 2015.

Finally, the County has established a Long Term Recovery Plan Task Force to address emergency response issues not in our current Emergency Operations Plan. We will be the only county in Illinois, and one of the few in the United States with such a plan. When completed it could provide the county with certain powers to accomplish what needs to be done without County Board approval.

DeKalb County would like to thank all of the people and organizations – including Washington and Kane Counties in Illinois – that donated money, time and ‘things’ (currently stored in a former lumber company store) to help the residents. The generosity of people and organizations in such a drastic situation is one of the things that makes DeKalb County a great place to live and work.

LTRC committed to rebuilding Fairdale and meeting resident needs

Like almost every county in Illinois, DeKalb County does not have a long-term disaster recovery plan or a staff and budget to support one. As the well-coordinated emergency relief efforts were winding down, representatives from various public bodies and nonprofits met on April 20 to organize a volunteer steering committee to coordinate the long-term recovery. This group has since been incorporated as the DeKalb County Long Term Recovery Corporation (LTRC). It is a nonprofit entirely dependent upon donations.

Helping those families become whole again is the central mission of the group. The Corporation is made up of volunteers from the local area and includes faith-based organizations, local government and county agencies and others interested in meeting the financial, physical, emotional and human needs of those affected by the storms.

The LTRC will continue to support relief for affected residents while raising money to help offset rebuilding and utility costs. The mountain of troubles is steep.

The combined cost of well and foundation repairs and the common septic field is significant. Other infrastructure targeted for repair and renewal includes the central park in Fairdale, which was directly in the path of the tornado, planting trees to replace dozens lost in the April 9 storm, and repairs to the seal-coated streets and grassy ditch systems that were damaged by heavy equipment as debris was removed.

To learn more about the LTRC or make a tax-exempt donation visit www.dekalbcountyltrc.org.



DEKALB COUNTY
LONG TERM
RECOVERY
CORPORATION



AWARD-WINNING

Performance

Begin in 1970, the annual NACo Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program that recognizes innovative county government initiatives. Awards are given in 21 different categories including children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, county administration, county resiliency, information technology, health and many more. Five Illinois counties won awards for nine initiatives in 2015. Congratulations to this year's winners.

COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS Expedited Project Delivery Through Job Order Contracting

Cook County, the second most populous county in the nation, has a population of approximately 5.3 million, and includes the City of Chicago. In 2013, Cook County implemented a comprehensive Job Order Contracting (JOC) solution to expedite its construction procurement process. Cook County has awarded 12 JOC contracts to various types of contractors: four general, two electrical, two mechanical, two highway site work and two residential. These on-call contractors address the diverse repair, renovation and new construction needs of the County.

The program is available to all County departments, including Capital Planning & Policy, Facilities, Corrections, Highways, Health and Hospital System, Sheriff's Department and the Circuit Court, to streamline procurement of projects. The cooperative aspect of the program, called ezJOC®, is available to others in the County through Shared Services.

JOC is an indefinite delivery/quantity procurement tool that enables the County to complete a large number of projects with a single, competitively-bid contract. Work accomplished via the JOC process includes hospital condensing unit installation, correctional facility plumbing repairs, window replacements, ADA upgrades, office renovations, emergency repairs, roof replacements, and more. JOC eliminates the time, expense and administrative burden of completing the normal design-bid-build cycle, thus delivering quality construction faster and more cost-effectively.

"I am grateful to NACo for this award," stated Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle. "It comes from a lot of hard work by our asset management and procurement teams at Cook County, finding solutions to make contracting for our projects more efficient, and as a result, generate jobs in the private sector."

Using JOC, Cook County and its sister agencies have been able to produce a comprehensive scope of work via a Joint Scope Meeting, which allows for upfront communication with the contractor to promote clarity and significantly reduced change orders. In addition, the ability to mobilize a contractor on-site within one week's notice has become a hallmark of the Cook County JOC program. With JOC, the procurement process is more efficient, allowing more projects to move through the process quickly, so work can be completed effectively, efficiently and economically.



LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS 2015 Leaders Summit / Lake County Life

With the goal of strengthening intergovernmental cooperation among a very diverse group of elected and appointed officials representing 52 municipalities and hundreds of other public agencies, as well as businesses and civic groups, Lake County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor hosted the first Lake County Leaders Summit in 2014. Government and community leaders came together for the first time to discuss regional issues and opportunities to collaborate.

One year later, more than 150 leaders attended the 2nd Leaders Summit – more than the previous year – and engaged in an ideas exchange to discuss collaborative opportunities. At the event, the Chairman along with the Forest Preserve President launched a new collaborative initiative called Lake County Life which includes a website (lakecountylife.org) and a creative video that promotes Lake County's various attributes and what makes our county special. For example, we're active and healthy, we have a strong economy, excellent schools, and places for family fun and things to do.

A follow-up survey of summit attendees showed 98% of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with the event, and 96% said the Lake County Life initiative was very valuable or valuable. The website and video have garnered thousands of views. And, all of this was done at very little cost.



Innovation and ability to save lives DuPage County Narcan Program



Following a record number of heroin overdose deaths in 2013, the DuPage County Health Department, DuPage Chiefs of Police, DuPage County Coroner, State's Attorney and Sheriff initiated the DuPage Narcan Program in August of 2013. DuPage County became the first in the State of Illinois to equip law enforcement officers with a prescription medication called Narcan (Naloxone) because they are typically first on the scene of a potential drug overdose.

Narcan is used to reverse an opioid overdose. When properly administered, it takes effect within 2 to 5 minutes – just in time for paramedics to arrive on scene. If there is no response, then a second dose can be administered. To date, 1,969 officers from 49 different law enforcement agencies have been trained through the program. Seven of these agencies are located outside of DuPage County.

"DuPage County is gratified to be recognized by our peers from all around the nation," said DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin. "However the most compelling aspect of this program is our ability to deploy Narcan in the midst of an emergency and reverse heroin's deadly grip on a victim. We are proud to be a statewide and now national leader in the fight against heroin and join with thousands of others as we continue our work to make DuPage County heroin free."

As of March 2015, first responders have saved 45 lives. The DuPage County Health Department, which administers the program, obtained approval from the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) in October of 2013. The program supplies two doses of the lifesaving drug to all trained participants. Moving forward, the goal is to expand the program to high schools and colleges. Learn more at dupagehealth.org/dnpinfo.



The Lake County Opioid Initiative was founded in December 2012. State's Attorney Michael Nerheim, Chief George Filenko of the Round Lake Park Police Department, Chelsea Laliberte, Executive Director of Live4Lali, and Bruce Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of NICASA Behavioral Health Services came together to alleviate a growing opioid epidemic that has been affecting the Lake County area for far too long. The mission of the Lake County Opioid Initiative is to develop, implement, evaluate and sustain a multi-strategy county-wide effort to prevent opioid abuse, addiction, overdose and death.

The Lake County Health Department and the Mundelein Police Department were instrumental in the training of Naloxone administration of 52 police departments across Lake County. The Naloxone Police Program was implemented via a train-the-trainer program. This program trains individual police officers – who then train their colleagues in the administration of Naloxone. Due to the efforts of the Lake County Opioid Initiative, twenty-six lives have been saved since Christmas 2014. In addition, on February 10, 2015 the Lake County Board submitted a resolution providing for the support of efforts to train and equip first responders with Naloxone.

The Lake County Opioid Initiative has conducted at least 10 educational forums for parents and children since its inception. Attendance at each forum has ranged from 100 to 300. The interest of parents and youth has sparked as a result of the initiative's marketing and communications strategies. Furthermore, the Lake County Opioid Initiative has obtained funding for its anonymous Text-A-Tip program which will provide measurable results on the assistance needed, as it relates to the heroin and opioid issue, among other issues such as mental health, suicide and any assistance that a Lake County resident may need in a time of crisis. The initiative has also helped in expanding the availability of prescription drop boxes all while working with the DEA-Chicago Region. To learn more visit www.opioidinitiative.org.

Multi-Media Budget Project

The days of delivering information through words alone simply doesn't cut it. In today's visual world, content must be presented in multimedia formats in order to be effective. Lake County's budget is perhaps its most important document, yet we knew readership among much of our target audience was low. The Communications team and the Finance team teamed up to revamp our budget materials – both print and digital – to make them reader-friendly and visually appealing. The result was a new budget summary featuring eye-catching graphics for the budget book, an online budget portal, and a creative budget video.

The county administrator and elected officials responded very positively to the new budget summary and board members expressed that it was much easier to read. The online budget portal received nearly 1,400 website views over the last year. The budget video has garnered nearly 1,500 views, and other jurisdictions have contacted us with an interest in reproducing it.

In summary, for little to no cost, we implemented a multi-media campaign to increase transparency and understanding about the budget and county services, and increase confidence in how tax dollars are being spent among residents and taxpayers. Visit lakecountyil.gov/finance/budget.

Veteran's Treatment and Assistance Court Peer Mentor Program

In 2011, the 19th Judicial Circuit Court of Lake County, established the Veterans Treatment and Assistance Court (VTAC). At that time, the VTAC program realized that justice involved Veterans are more likely to respond positively to another Veteran with similar experiences. As a result the Veteran Mentor program was established so each Veteran accepted into Veterans Court is assigned a Mentor.

The supportive relationship developed between the mentor and participant is essential in assisting the justice involved veteran's success in the program. The lasting effects improve the participant's chances for sobriety, stability and law abiding behavior. The mission of the mentoring program is to support the Veteran throughout their readjustment to civilian life and assist them in navigating the court, VA and treatment systems. Most importantly the mentors act as a friend, advocate and ally to their assigned justice involved veteran. Mentors complete a mentor log after each interaction with their participant. The log is a critical document in that it is a vehicle to communicate to the other mentors during monthly meetings regarding what is happening with a participant. It also allows mentors the opportunity to ask questions about the program and to raise concerns or issues they are experiencing. The goal of the meetings is to utilize a team approach in assisting the justice involved veterans improve their lives and exit the criminal justice system successfully as well as provide the mentor with the necessary training and guidance to assist in the performance of their duties.

Mentors are encouraged to stand beside their justice involved veteran for each court appearance to provide support while he/she is being addressed by the Court. The mentors and participants also participate in quarterly outings (bowling, picnics, ball games and dinners) so each can interact in an informal and recreational atmosphere. These activities help to break down barriers and improve relationship between mentor and participant. As of June 1, 2014 VTAC mentors have serviced 69 total justice involved veterans. The program has a 51.9% graduation rate and a recidivism rate is 17.4%

PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS Creating Comprehensive County Animal Control

Through an intergovernmental agreement with Peoria County, the City of Peoria operated the community's animal shelter and animal control programs for three decades. In 2010, the City ceased its operation of these programs due to budget constraints. As a result, Peoria County assumed responsibility for creating an animal control and animal welfare program for its constituents, to avoid a gap in these public safety services.

During the transition of animal control services from the City to the County, the County Board established ambitious goals to reduce euthanasia of shelter animals, increase placement of impounded pets, and improve public safety overall. In 2015, less than five years after the establishment of Peoria County Animal Protection Services (PCAPS), the County Board announced successful results of its original goals, in many cases surpassing the goal. To achieve its objectives, PCAPS adopted policies and implemented programs that elevated animal control services and animal shelter programs beyond previous standards. By combining public safety activities with animal welfare components, the County was able to exceed its goals in the provision of comprehensive animal welfare services for the community.



Implementing a Fully Integrated Civil/Criminal Justice System

On November 11, 2013, Peoria County launched a customized Civil/Criminal Justice System known as Odyssey that technologically integrates all internal departments involved in criminal justice, including law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and probation. The system also grants external agencies access to criminal court records as appropriate. Previously, Peoria County operated on an antiquated system installed in 1990 that did not have the capability for interoperability, meaning records could not be accessed or shared electronically, resulting in a laborious process of information sharing with potentially harmful consequences if error, delay, or mishandling of court records or evidence occurred.

In 2011, Peoria County decided to install a client-server platform for a fully integrated system with modules for civil, criminal, traffic and court administration, prosecution, probation, civil process, and warrants. The following March, the County Board approved Tyler Technologies' proposal for an Integrated Civil/Criminal Justice System with the plan to go live in 2013, an aggressive schedule that meant actively engaging employees in six County departments. But upgrading to a fully integrated system has resulted in expeditious information sharing; enhanced productivity; and a reduction in duplications, omissions, and errors. It has also resulted in only the third comprehensive Odyssey suite implementation in the nation!

"I am pleased that NACo chose to recognize Peoria County for these two very worthy programs that enhance public safety for our residents and visitors," County Board Chairman Andrew Rand said. "Diligence and hard work on the part of elected and appointed offices alike has contributed to the successful implementation of a new justice system. And animal care and protection is very near and dear to my heart. I am extremely pleased the efforts of our team are being recognized on a national level."

MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS A Decade of Sustainability

McHenry County Government has created a decade of Sustainability within their County buildings. Back in early 2000, the McHenry County Board and the Facilities Management department embarked on making the County buildings "GREEN" and Sustainable. Since 2010, McHenry County buildings have seen in each year programs implemented that not only created energy savings to date in excess of \$700,000, but have reduced 1,100 metric tons of CO2 and 8% reduction in Energy. In addition, other created sustainable practices that include the installation of water bottle filling stations, installation of outdoor furniture made of recycled products and completion of retro-commissioning of several of the County large facilities.

The Facilities Management department takes a proactive approach in reviewing equipment replacement with Energy Star ratings and monitors building operations through an Active Building Automation System. All building are part of the Energy Star Portfolio Manage program and McHenry County has one certified Energy Star building (Treasurer's Office building) and two eligible buildings for certification (Administration building and Department of Transportation building).



Memories from the 2015 NACo Annual Conference and Exhibition



Cook County Commissioners (from left) Jesus Garcia, Peter Silvestri, President Toni Preckwinkle, Deborah Sims, Joan Patricia Murphy and Gregg Goslin.



More than 2,500 elected and appointed officials participated in the 80th NACo Annual Conference, where attendees adopted positions on federal policies affecting counties and worked with one another to identify innovative solutions to challenges facing American communities. The conference was held in Charlotte, N.C. July 10-13. Check out www.naco.org.



Special recognition awards were presented to Lisa Cole, Senior Director of NACo Financial Services Corp., Cook County Commissioner Robert Steele, and Linda Barber, Managing Director of Nationwide Retirement Solutions.



Illinois delegates convene at the 2015 NACo conference dinner which was co-sponsored by Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS). Representing Nationwide were Levi Lathen, NRS Program Director (left), Jennifer Brown, NRS Program Director (center) with ICA President Commissioner Deborah Sims, Michael Studebaker, Regional Vice President (second from right), and Michael Burkhart, NRS Managing Director (right).



Herbert Brooks, Jr., Will County Board Democratic Caucus Chair, takes a break between educational sessions.



Will County Board Member Denise Winfrey (left) visits with Brenda Casey Anderson, Regional Vice President of Nationwide Retirement Solutions.



ICA Treasurer and DuPage County Board Member James Healy (center) with Will County Board Members (from left) Suzanne Hart, Mike Friclone, Lauren Staley-Ferry and Ray Tuminello.

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SCHOLARSHIPS



As a non-profit association that provides services to county government, the Illinois Counties Association (ICA) is committed to promoting and advancing education and the future of Illinois' youth.

ICA will be awarding academic scholarships throughout the State of Illinois to students wishing to pursue higher education during the 2016-2017 academic year.

For more information be sure to visit www.illinoiscountiesassociation.org



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