

ECIA

a regional *Response* to local needs

July 2009

Maquoketa Awarded Brownfield Grant

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently awarded the City of Maquoketa a \$200,000 brownfield grant. The grant will help finance the demolition and clean-up of the fire debris on the properties impacted by the January 2008 fire that devastated the heart of the downtown district in Maquoketa. The site remains contaminated with debris and asbestos. In addition to the EPA grant, the City will receive \$103,250 in insurance funds from three property owners; an \$85,000 forgivable loan from the Iowa Department of Economic Development Brownfield program; and \$25,000 from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The Maquoketa Chamber is also holding over \$5,000 in community donations. The property owners, Chamber of Commerce, the City of Maquoketa, local citizen groups and the Maquoketa Industrial Development Assistance Board have worked diligently over the past 18 months to secure funding for the environmental mitigation and cleanup of the site. Last year the City was given a cost estimate to clean up the contaminated site of \$340,000, however, since the grant was submitted to the EPA, costs have increased and are expected to be higher to complete the project. Actual work on the site will begin sometime late this summer and will continue through 2009. ECIA assisted the City of Maquoketa in preparing and submitting the three awarded grant applications. For additional information on the Brownfield grant programs, contact Kelley Deutmeyer, Executive Director or Marla Quinn, Grants and Development Coordinator at 563-556-4166.

Buyer Supplier Grows to 100 Companies!

The Buyer Supplier program is alive and well with a 40% increase in company sign-ups in the past 8 months! If your company isn't signed up, join us at www.buyersupplier.org

Buyer Supplier is a FREE, web based solution, making the process of finding area suppliers of goods and services easier for businesses.

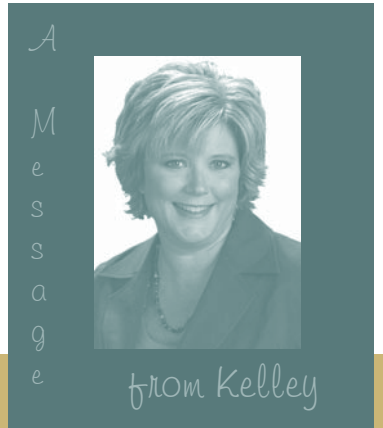
When you sign up with Buyer Supplier, you can:

- Create a searchable company profile
- Post, view, and reply to RFPs
- Receive invitations to targeted industry networking events
- Connect and start opening the doors to sales and partnerships within the region
- Have another presence on the world wide web with your free company profile

Connect, cut your costs and gain sales all while increasing the dollars circulating in our regional economy! Just a 5% shift from out-of-region purchases to in-region purchases would equal \$326 million additional dollars to fuel eastern Iowa's economy. For additional information contact Candace Eudaley, Regional Economic Development Coordinator at 563-556-4166 or visit www.buyersupplier.org.

Busy 2009 for Transit

The Regional Transit Authority has been extremely busy this year responding to the opportunities of the Stimulus funding and a successful fundraising campaign. The RTA has ordered a total of five new light duty buses that will be delivered later this summer and placed immediately into daily service thanks to a 100% stimulus grant and a 5309 grant where various area foundations donated the necessary local match. Also in response to the stimulus funding, the RTA has submitted a joint funding request with the City of Dubuque KeyLine Transit from the Federal Transit Administration's TIGGER grant solicitation to replace a number of older fuel inefficient diesel buses with newer, more fuel efficient equipment that includes several electric hybrid buses. The award date for this solicitation is scheduled for September 2009. For additional information on our transit programs contact Mark Munson, Director of Transit Operations at 563-556-4166.



Kelley Deutmeyer
Executive Director

In late May, ECIA had the opportunity to host the second annual Tri-State Alliance Summit in Dubuque. The Tri-State Alliance is our partnership with several communities in Wisconsin and Illinois where we are partnering to further our common transportation and economic development efforts such as the completion of the four-lane of Highway 20 from Dubuque to Freeport and the return of Amtrak passenger rail service from Dubuque to Chicago.

The second annual summit focused on getting ahead of the curve...what happens after the stimulus funding. We were honored to host Richard Skancke, CEO of Skancke Industries located in Las Vegas, Nevada as our keynote speaker. For nearly two decades, Tom Skancke has been the lead advisor on hundreds of transportation infrastructure projects throughout the west and nationally. He is widely recognized as one of the top transportation strategists in the U.S., whose vision is transforming the way surface transportation is perceived and marketed throughout the country. In 2005, United States Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) appointed Tom Skancke to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, which made landmark recommendations to Congress on policy, funding and infrastructure that will serve the nation for the next 50 years. Mr. Skancke has played a key role in the past three transportation reauthorization bills – ISTEA, TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU – and will be very involved with the new authorization in 2009.

Mr. Skancke's presentation focused on the needs of surface transportation across the United States. As we are all aware, our nation's transportation system is at capacity and no longer able to keep up with the demand. Our system was not designed for today's vast number of commuters or commerce. Our system was primarily designed for military mobilization in the 1950s.

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act CFP Stimulus Fund Update

The Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority received \$289,892 in Capital Fund Program (CFP) Stimulus Funds for building repair and modernization of its Public Housing properties. The Housing Authority has gone out to bid and awarded contracts for roof replacement at the following elderly complex locations:

- Town House Villa (Wheatland, IA)
- Bellevue Elderly (Bellevue, IA)
- Manchester Manor (Manchester, IA)
- Villa Park Apartments (Dyersville, IA)
- River City Apartments (Sabula, IA)
- Miles Elderly (Miles, IA)

Other site improvements that will go out to bid in the near future include Manchester and Dyersville Elderly parking lot resurfacing, security lighting at the elderly sites and the balance of funds will be utilized at various scattered site family units for replacement of furnaces. For additional information on our housing programs contact Michelle Schnier, Director of Housing and Support Services at 563-556-4166.

The Garden Project

The tax credit properties Asbury Meadows and Evergreen Meadows, owned by the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Corporation, are embarking on a new, "green" project this summer!

The staff and residents at both properties recently began community gardens which are located directly on the property grounds at each site. Each garden will be maintained throughout the summer by not only the staff at both sites, but primarily by the residents and their children at each respective site.



Planted in each garden are cucumbers, green beans, leaf lettuce, and tomatoes. Throughout the growing season, staff at each respective site will meet with residents and their children regarding

the importance of watering and weeding the garden, and to keep track of the progress the produce is making in each of the gardens. After the gardens have been watered and weeded, residents and



their children will be invited back to the community room for a light snack and beverage.

When the produce is ready to be harvested, a day will be planned for the residents and their children to pick the produce they have maintained all summer long. On that day, a potluck in the community room at each site will be held where staff will provide and grill hamburgers and hot dogs. The residents and their children will then be able to view and sample the produce that grew in the garden throughout the summer at each potluck! The intent of this project is to teach the residents and their children about the importance of healthy eating locally grown foods and the responsibilities and ownership of having a garden! For additional information on our tax credit programs or the garden project contact Mindy Meyers or Mindy Wiley, FSS Coordinators/Site Managers at 563-556-5013 or 563-588-1963.

Mississippi River Partnership Council

A recent bill signed by Governor Chet Culver will create a forum for stakeholders living along the river to convene and work together on river development and conservation issues.

According to the legislation, "the preservation, enhancement, and intelligent use of the Mississippi River is in the ecological and economic interests of the citizens of the state. The public interest is advanced by the stimulation of sustainable economic development initiatives and watershed management projects by local, state, and federal agencies, local communities, not-for-profit conservation organizations, and private landowners and other stakeholders along the Mississippi River."

The group will be facilitated by the regional councils of government, with the East Central Intergovernmental Association in the lead.

Some of the group's duties will include:

- Reviewing activities and programs administered by state and federal agencies that directly impact the Mississippi River;
- Working with local communities, organizations, and other states to encourage partnerships that promote sustainable economic development opportunities in counties along the river; enhance awareness about the river and its uses; encourage the protection, restoration, and expansion of critical habitats; and promote the adoption of soil conservation and water quality best management practices
- Working with federal agencies to optimize the implementation of programs and the expenditure of moneys affecting the river and counties in Iowa along the river;
- Advising and making recommendations to the state Water Resources Coordinating Council, the governor, the general assembly, and state agencies, regarding strategic plans and priorities impacting the river;
- Encouraging communities in counties bordering the river to develop watershed management plans for their communities to address stormwater, erosion, flooding, sedimentation, and pollution problems and encouraging projects for the natural conveyance and storage of floodwaters; the enhancement of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities; the recovery, management, and conservation of the river; and the preservation of farmland, prairies, and forests.
- Identifying and promoting opportunities to enhance economic development and job creation in communities along the Mississippi river, as well as other measurable development efforts, which are compatible with the ecological health of the Mississippi river and the state;
- Helping identify possible sources of funding for watershed management projects and sustainable economic development opportunities;
- Functioning as a forum for discussion and providing advice or recommendations on matters of public interest.

Several meetings will be facilitated by ECIA staff this summer in partnership with Representative Chuck Isenhardt to organize the council and create community awareness and support. For additional information on the Mississippi River Council contact Chandra Ravada, Director of Transportation & Planning or Kelley Deutmeyer, ECIA Executive Director at 563-556-4166.

EIRHA's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List Continues to Grow

The Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority continues to experience the affects of the current economic crisis. At the close of Fiscal Year 2008, the Section 8 HCV Waiting list was at 771 households with an average wait of 9-12 months. We are now closing upon the Fiscal Year 2009 and currently have a waiting list of 1,036 households with an average wait of 12 months or longer. Unfortunately no additional funding for the voucher program was allocated through the American Recovery Act Stimulus Funding. Program budgets for rental assistance remain stressed and demand continues to grow. For additional information on our housing program contact Michelle Schnier, Director of Housing and Support Services at 563-556-4166.

Just in Time for Graduation- Prosperity Eastern Iowa Launches AccessMyFuture.com

Prosperity Eastern Iowa has launched AccessMyFuture.com, a resource for 14-25 year olds providing an interactive career exploration experience; scholarship and apprenticeship information; information on 2-year and 4-year educational programs; listings and descriptions of high demand occupations; resume and cover letter samples; email etiquette; on the job videos; and links to job websites throughout the region.

In conjunction with the website launch, a compilation CD featuring local musicians is being distributed to individuals that sign up on the website. The compilation includes alma sub rosa, Aloysius Rexford, Feast of Mutton, James Kinds and the All Night Riders, Lucho Rey y Su Salsera, ochOsol, Nate Jenkins, and The Wild Animals.

Partners in this project include: East Central Intergovernmental Association and the Dubuque Area Labor Management Council with funding provided by the Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Dubuque Racing Association. Prosperity Eastern Iowa (PEI) is a membership supported organization of local economic development groups in Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson and Jones Counties and the cities of DeWitt, Marion and Springville in eastern Iowa.

For additional information contact Candace Eudaley, Regional Economic Development Coordinator, at 563-556-4166, or ceudaley@ecia.org or visit www.accessmyfuture.com.

Census 2010, "It's in Our Hands"

The theme for 2010 Census Bureau is "It's in Our Hands" and your county's participation is essential in securing your portion of the \$300 billion in federal funds allocated annually to state, county, and local communities based on census data. Census data guides local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, (e.g. where to build new roads, hospital and schools). In addition, census data affects your voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Iowa could possibly lose a seat in Congress so, it is imperative that we make sure we can get everyone counted in 2010.

Completing the 2010 Census questionnaire is simple and safe. The 2010 Census questionnaire will only have a few questions which will focus on name, age, gender, relationship, date of birth and whether or not respondent rents or owns their home. This simple and short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail. It is safe, the U.S. Census Bureau respects your privacy and keeps your personal information confidential....It's the law! (Title 13, U.S. Code) The Census Bureau does not release or share any information that identifies individual respondents or their households for 72 years.

ECIA is working with community leaders to promote awareness of the 2010 Census. The Census Bureau's approach is to spread the word by identifying our community leaders, businesses, faith based organizations, media outlets, schools and human service agencies in our areas to build partnerships with and help promote census awareness.

If you would like ECIA to help facilitate a meeting in your community because you are interested in developing a partnership with the US Census Bureau and promoting awareness of the 2010 Census, contact Marla Quinn, Grants and Development Coordinator at 563-556-4166.

ECIA Adds New Employees

The RTA has hired Stacie Scott in their dispatch office to replace a vacancy created earlier this year. Stacie brings considerable experience with her from the City of Dubuque KeyLine Transit system in addition to her excellent customer service skills and pleasant personality. Stacie also worked in the delivery field of United Parcel Service and has strong computer skills to assist the RTA in the full deployment and operation of their computer assisted dispatch scheduling system.



Stacie Scott

The Community Development Department recently added two temporary staff to assist with ongoing projects. Jennifer Walker was hired to assist with the preparation of Hazard Mitigation Plans contracted in the region. Jennifer holds degrees in psychology and art history and for the past 3.5 years has been teaching art history at Clarke and Loras. During that time she has also been freelance writing for art catalogs and grants. Jennifer is married to Richard and they have two young children, Rick and Claire. Ryan Walter joined the department to assist with flood and housing projects. Ryan's previous employment includes Blackhawk Engineering, Morton Buildings and Jim's Building Center, all in Wisconsin. Please join us in welcoming Stacie, Jennifer and Ryan.



Jennifer Walker



Ryan Walter

ECIA Continues Regional Flood Recovery Efforts

ECIA continues to work on recovery efforts related to the floods of 2008. The majority of damages in the ECIA region was experienced in Cedar County along the Cedar River where homes suffered extensive losses. There were also homes and businesses flooded in the cities of Dyersville and Manchester and scattered damages throughout the region.

Applications were submitted to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HLSEM) for buyouts of flood damaged properties for 21 buyouts in rural Cedar County, six properties in Manchester and 41 properties in Dyersville. The applications are reviewed and forwarded to FEMA. The communities are awaiting FEMA approval and awards to begin the property acquisition process.

ECIA is administering the Jumpstart programs, which includes three rounds of State funding and three rounds of federal supplemental CDBG funding to date. In the ECIA region, including the City of Dubuque, 64 applications for assistance were received in the Jumpstart programs requesting almost \$1.7 million. Fifteen applicants have been approved for over \$573,000 in assistance and over \$309,000 has been disbursed. ECIA also oversees the six counties of the BiState Regional Planning Commission, including the city of Davenport and Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission to the south. In the expanded region including ECIA, a total of 277 applications requesting slightly under \$6.9 million were received with 109 committed for over \$2 million in assistance and over \$1.8 million disbursed.

Please contact Mark Schneider, Director of Community Development and Public Works at ECIA at 563-556-4166 or 1-800-942-4648 if you have questions regarding the flood recovery efforts throughout the ECIA region.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Clinton County Community Dev. Assoc. - Fund B	July 14, 2009
Community Attraction & Tourism	July 15, 2009
Alliant Energy Foundation	August 1, 2009
Wahlert Foundation	August 25, 2009



Representative Bruce Braley and Derrick James of Amtrak speak at the Tri-State Alliance Summit.

Currently 70% of the goods are moved nationally by truck and 30% are moved by rail. Mr. Skancke emphasized that investment is needed in both.

During the past four years, the Federal Highway Commission completed a study of the transportation needs nationwide. Mr. Skancke indicated that on the average the United States has transportation needs in excess of \$220 billion dollars annually and we are currently investing approximately \$87 billion annually. The study also looked at the typical transportation project development process. Typically a project from the planning stages through the environmental process to the final design and construction takes a minimum of ten years. Many projects take even longer. The study indicated that for every \$1 of federal investment, you add 5-8 years of red tape to the process adding billions of dollars in cost to the project. The Commission estimates that a \$1 billion dollar project today will cost \$3 to \$4 billion in eight to ten years.

Mr. Skancke indicated that the Federal Highway Commission has recommended a new direction for the upcoming federal transportation bill reauthorization. They have recommended to Congress and Senate to reduce the existing 108 federal programs to 10 very efficient ones. The Commission has recommended that through the upcoming transportation bill we revolutionize the system with the following: fewer Programs; less time on project delivery; performance-driven system; create a safer system; and finally focus on freight and goods movement.



Expert panel discussion at the Tri-State Alliance Summit in May.

The Commission is encouraging citizens to get involved through this reauthorization process and to do the following: hold public officials to a higher standard; call for a bold vision followed by congressional leadership and courage; increase investment ... a performance-based outcome-driven system; be willing to pay, if Congress gets it right and fixes the system; we need to stop talking and demand that congress start delivering projects. We must prioritize and invest in the future like previous generations did for us.

Thank you to our sponsors: AECOM, ECIA, Howard R. Green, HDR, Northern Illinois Building Contractors Association, Rockford Area Economic Development Council, Tri-State Tourism Council and URS.

For more information on the Federal Highway Commission study, Mr. Tom Skancke, and the Tri-State Alliance Summit, visit TransportationForTomorrow.org and our ECIA website at www.ecia.org.

East Central Intergovernmental Association
7600 Commerce Park
Dubuque IA 52002

www.ecia.org 563.556.4166

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