



ECIA Spotlight

March 2022

ECIA Promotes Program in Green Fashion!

On Saturday, March 12th ECIA staff participated in the Dyersville St. Patrick's Day parade to promote the Lead Paint and Healthy Homes program. The group passed out candy and distributed flyers saying "It's your Lucky Day. Call us for home repair and renovation funds." Staff also had signage explaining program details and things it provides like help with radon, windows, siding, peeling paint, and exhaust fans.

The Lead Paint and Healthy Homes program is for homeowners and renters who live in Delaware or Dubuque County, and the Cities of Clinton or Maquoketa. The program offers an average of \$25,000 per property to make the home lead safe and also for improvements to make the home healthier. Lead is especially harmful to young children under five years old, so those with young children who live in the home or visit the home are a priority for the program. Once an applicant is income qualified, an inspector makes a scheduled visit to identify if there is lead. If lead is found, in many cases, applicants can get new windows or siding as well as other improvements to the home. ECIA has a pool of lead certified contractors that complete the remediation and improvements. While the work is being completed, funds are available to provide housing at a nearby hotel for the homeowners. If you know someone with an older home, send them to Leadpaint@ecia.org or visit https://www.ecia.org/programs/lead_program/index.php.

Hiring Crawl

The Cascade Hiring Crawl took place in January and provided job seekers access to over 20 Cascade businesses who opened their doors and allowed them to take tours, learn about current openings, complete applications, interviews, etc. Job seekers could find positions in the manufacturing, healthcare, service, general business, and construction fields. The jobs included full-time, part-time, and seasonal opportunities. Participating businesses were placed on a map that was provided at the Cascade City Hall on the day of the event as well as the over 20 participating businesses.

Brad Ludwig, Cascade Economic Development Corporation President stated, "We are excited to have so many local businesses and industries willing to participate and showcase their business during this new event. The idea of interested job seekers going around to Cascade's local businesses is a new approach and allows the job seeker to scope out the businesses on their own and pick and choose who they would like to learn more about. It also gives the City a chance to showcase and promote the community to those who are coming from outside the area."

The 2022 Cascade Hiring Crawl was a partnership of the Cascade Economic Development Corporation, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, Jones County Economic Development Corp., City of Cascade, East Central Intergovernmental Association, and Greater Dubuque Development Corp.

Legislators Listen and Take Action

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 is a \$1.5 trillion omnibus spending bill making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance for the situation in Ukraine, and for other purposes. The bill was passed by Congress on March 14, 2022 and was signed into law by the President Joe Biden on March 15, 2022.

As proof of asking for funding from your legislator can work; two projects in ECIA's region were a part of this bill for special interest projects. Dubuque and Tipton applied for the congressionally directed funds (or earmarks) and were awarded.

The city of Tipton will receive \$2 million from the Act towards reconstruction of Highway 38/Cedar Street (Tipton's "Main Street") from South to Third Street and Third to Seventh Street. As part of the joint project with the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), ADA upgrades will be made to the associated sidewalks along the 28-foot wide traveled-on portion of Hwy 38, along with parking lanes, traffic lights, conduits for high-speed fiber and a walking and biking trail. The proposed trail would go from near the south city limit to the downtown then east along Hwy 130 where it can connect the City Park/Aquatic Center/HS Football Field/Track.



Tipton's Hwy 38

Brian Wagner, Tipton City Manager stated, "Except for a street section that was replaced about 10 years ago, Hwy 38 or Cedar Street is "shot" from our north city limit to our south city limit. In the nearly five years that I've been here, we've been working on the related design, coordination, and questions of how to pay for the project."

Dubuque had a trail in the bill for Schmitt Island. The project provides a multi-purpose trail connection, from the east 16th Street Bridge to the Chaplain Schmitt Veterans Memorial. This connection will be a direct extension of the regional trail network that links the Bee Branch and Heritage Trail Networks. The trail connection project will provide safe, ADA compliant access onto Chaplain Schmitt Island, a small trail head with ADA parking (located along Admiral Sheehy Drive) and direct access to the Memorial.

Recruiting EMT Volunteers

ECIA recognizes that many communities in our region struggle to recruit and maintain EMT volunteers for their fire departments. Watch for a free training opportunity on this topic! In the meantime, click on the link to see a video of some very impressive youth stepping up amidst a volunteer EMT shortage in the state of New York. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/group-of-high-schoolers-step-up-during-volunteer-emt-shortage-in-sackets-harbor-new-york/>

Healthy Homes Grant for 110 Properties

ECIA recently received a \$1.95 million Healthy Homes Production Grant which will go towards improvements to over 100 properties in ECIA's five-county region, not including the city limits of Dubuque, which was awarded their own grant. This grant helps to prevent common childhood diseases and injuries and will address items such as: mold, lead, allergens, asthma, carbon monoxide, home safety, and radon. By focusing primarily on moisture issues and the "Keep it Dry" principle, the aim is to help prevent childhood asthma and allergies by addressing water problems before they become mold.

The program is based around HUD's eight "Keep It" principles as follows (with examples):

Keep it Maintained – addressing deteriorated lead-based paint or replacing old, defunct windows

Keep it Ventilated – installing exhaust fans or replacing windows that don't open

Keep it Clean – educating residents on the importance of a clean home and the role that cleanliness plays in all of the other "Keep It" principles

Keep it Dry – installing exhaust fans in bathrooms or possibly replacing roofs

Keep it Contaminant Free – educating residents on the importance of keeping medicines and cleaners up and away from children's reach

Keep it Safe – installing smoke/CO alarms as well as missing handrails or broken stair treads

Keep it Pest Free – closing exterior points of entry for pests/insects

Keep it Comfortable – replacing nonfunctioning windows and doors or possibly replacing an outdated HVAC system

The program is available to both homeowners and renters who are at or below 80% of their county's LMI. Interested persons should contact ECIA's Katie Bahl Steffensmeier at 563-690-5776 or ksteffensmeier@ecia.org.

CDBG Certified

Congratulations to the nine ECIA employees who have recently become Iowa Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Certified: Craig Elskamp, Kim Glaser, Angela Koppes, Elizabeth Kemp, Christine Mergen, Walter Nims, Roseann Sabers, Matt Specht, and Tricia Wagner. CDBG project administration requires an in-depth knowledge of state and federal requirements and regulations. Having a team of well-trained grant administrators is critical to the proper functioning of the State's CDBG programs.

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) recently developed a certified CDBG grant administrator program to ensure compliance at the state and local levels with all CDBG related requirements. With this new program, communities receiving CDBG funding must utilize a certified CDBG grant administrator to manage the CDBG award.

Pocket Neighborhood Update

The Bear River Cottages in Maquoketa is making strides towards completion!



KIB 2022 Awards

Governor Kim Reynolds will present the 2022 awards at a ceremony at the State Capitol on Thursday, March 31 at 12noon. The Governor will be signing a proclamation kicking off April as Keep Iowa Beautiful month.

"Keep Iowa Beautiful award program is designed to recognize exceptional people and organizations that have gone the extra mile to help build stronger Iowa communities," said Reo Menning, KIB Chair.

KIB Corporation Award goes to the RAYGUN for partnering with Keep Iowa Beautiful on the Karras Bike Cart trash removal project.

KIB Organization Award to the Iowa Bicycle Coalition for promoting safe and enjoyable bicycling as an economic benefit and tourism attraction making communities better places to live.

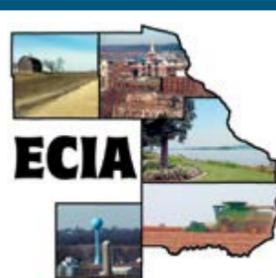
KIB Robert D. Ray Award of Excellence to Bellevue for the remarkable partnerships and projects that enhanced the quality of life in the community.

KIB Donald F. Lamberti Hometown Pride Vision Award selected Patty Hardin, Delmar Mayor for being an outstanding leader who has inspired many in making Delmar a great community to live.

Mayor Hardin commented, "I'm very excited and humbled by this award. I'm accepting the award for all the residents in Delmar that take such pride in our town. It truly takes a village."



River Ridge Brewery, Bellevue



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