

ECICOG EXPRESS

SERVING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN BENTON, IOWA, JONES, JOHNSON, LINN AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Addressing the region's childcare needs

In recent years, ECICOG has assisted numerous communities in securing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to support the construction of new and expanded childcare facilities. Wellman, Williamsburg, and Monticello are currently constructing facilities, and Central City and Vinton are recently completed examples.

In most cases, these projects are a cooperative venture between city government and a private, nonprofit childcare organization. The city often provides land or other assistance, as well as acting as fiscal agent for CDBG funding. USDA Rural Development is also often a financial participant, providing both grant and loan funds to a project.

The most recent example in the ECICOG region is in the community of Wyoming, which received \$300,000 in CDBG funding to construct a 4,200 square foot structure. When complete, it will have the capacity to serve 52 children.

Determining the need for and gathering support to construct the facility was really a regional effort including parents, daycare providers, and human service and educational professionals from several communities in Jones and Jackson Counties.

Another highlight of the project in Wyoming is its plans to meet the relatively new "Green Streets Criteria" of CDBG funding, which promote public health, energy efficiency, water conservation, smart locations, operational savings and sustainable building practices. Included in the project's design to meet those requirements are:

- in-fill development
- improved energy performance and comfort
- a healthier indoor environment
- increased durability of building components, and
- simplified maintenance requirements to yield cost savings through long-term reduction in operating expenses.

For more information on how ECICOG may help your community in planning for and meeting childcare needs, contact **Gary Hughes (ext. 129)** at ECICOG.



The City of Williamsburg received \$600,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to assist in the construction of a new childcare center. When complete, the 10,400 square foot facility will serve as many as 162 children.

Leadership group organizing local foods tour

The Johnson/Linn County Public Leadership Group is organizing a half-day tour the morning of Friday, July 17, for local officials interested in learning more about the local foods industry.



Most people have become reacquainted with local foods through the many farmers markets held throughout the region, especially during the summer months. But more and more, restaurants, grocery stores, institutional kitchens, and individual consumers are seeking out locally grown produce and products.

On July 17, tour participants will visit several local producers to learn more about issues of storage, processing, and distribution, and to better understand the impact of this re-emerging sector of the economy. A lunch featuring locally produced foods will also be available.

For more information, contact **Gina Johnson (ext. 137)** at ECICOG.



Parks & Produce

June 20th, 2009 10:00 a.m. until Dark
At the Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area
4530 McChesack Rd, Palo, IA 50794 (319)450-7786



South Site Events	North Site Events
10:00 to Walk for Your Health and Fun! Lynn Dennis, Mercy Medical Center, Rv. for Fitness	11:00 to Yoga for You Kristin Kuch, Mercy Fitness Center
10:30 to Cooking Vegetables on the Grill Chef Jason, Daniel Arthurs	12:00 to Archery Al Perkins, Waltonian Archers
11:00 to The Benefits of Locally Grown Food Andrea Geary, UNI Food and Farm Partnership	1:00 to Flyball Fun with the Dog Gone Devils Dag Gone Wild
11:30 to Tent Assembly & Campout Preparation Girl Scouts of America	2:00 to Concurrent Sessions Offered by Project AWARE Canoe Skills and Safety Clinic Nate Hingegen, IDNR
12:00 to Greening a Neighborhood Near You! Cyndi O'Hern, Green Iowa AmeriCorps, CR Division	2:30 to Iowa Herps Gail Barels, Linn County Conservation
12:30 to State Parks: Their History & Their Mystery Jerry Reisinger, Kirkwood Community College	5:30 to Project WET Festival Rebecca Kaetm and Kathy Schull, UNI
1:30 to Visit a Farm for Fun, Healthy Learning Marsha Laus, PSU Extension	
2:00 to Come Out and Reel in the Fun! Jeremy Corbett, Linn County Conservation	

Parks and Produce is a free event!
 ✓ Fishing piers will be available from Linn County Conservation.
 ✓ No fishing license required for those under 10.
 ✓ All you need to bring is a picnic lunch and some lawn chairs.



For more information on this health day event, contact Gina Johnson at 319-365-9941 ext 137

ECICOG Iowa Department of Public Health Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans **DNR**

The Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and ECICOG invite you to participate in Parks & Produce on Saturday, June 20. Explore healthy living through outdoor recreation, local foods, and fun! For more information, contact Gina Johnson (ext. 137) at ECICOG, or go to www.ecicog.org/parks&produce.

ECICOG was established in 1973 to promote regional cooperation and provide professional planning services to local governments in Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington Counties. ECICOG also provides solid waste planning services to Tama County and transportation planning services to Cedar County.

Members of the ECICOG Board of Directors:

- | | |
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ECICOG Staff

- | | |
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STAFF NOTES

Adam Ralston joined the ECICOG staff in June as a housing planner. Ralston received his MS in urban and regional planning from the University of Iowa. He was most recently a project manager for the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics where he oversaw planning, design, and construction of ongoing renovation. At ECICOG, Ralston will be responsible for administering housing rehabilitation and repair programs and assisting member governments with housing policy and planning.

Calendar

- June 11** Solid Waste TAC Meeting, University Services Building, Room 232, 1 West Prentiss Street, Iowa City, 1:00 p.m.
- Transit Operators Group Meeting, Jones County Courthouse, 500 W. Main Street, Anamosa, 10:00 a.m.
- June 18** ECICOG Business Assistance RLF Loan Review Committee Meeting, ECICOG Offices, 700 16th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 2:00 p.m.
- June 25** ECICOG Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG Offices, 700 16th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 1:00 p.m.
- Housing Fund for Linn County Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG Offices, 700 16th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 5:00 p.m.
- July 3** ECICOG offices closed in observance of Independence Day holiday
- July 9** Solid Waste TAC Meeting, location TBA, 1:00 p.m.
- July 17** Johnson/Linn County Public Leadership Group Local Foods Systems Tour



Express is a bimonthly electronic publication of the East Central Iowa Council of Governments.