

ECICOG EXPRESS

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

Belle Plaine's downtown revitalization

The City of Belle Plaine's downtown revitalization project is moving forward. In the last year, the city received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and I-JOBs funding for façade, streetscape and storm water improvements for a two-block portion of their Central Business District.

Construction started this spring with the replacement of new streets and sidewalks, as well as the integrated storm water drainage system which will utilize permeable pavers for sustainable storm water run-off. In addition, preliminary façade work on many of the downtown storefronts has begun. The façade work will greatly enhance aesthetics, provide substantial energy efficiency improvements, as well as improve structural integrity. With unique access being provided via easement agreements (for a public contract to conduct work on private property), it is expected that the façade component of this project will serve as a model for other communities.

As the project continues, landscaping and period lighting will be added along with major improvements to parking in the area. It is anticipated that with renovated façades and a sustainable streetscape, Belle Plaine's downtown will become a destination for people not only to address business interests, but also for socialization, recreation, education and entertainment.

Project funding

ECICOG has assisted to secure several grants for the project. \$500,000 has been awarded from the CDBG program and \$1.5 million from the I-JOBs Main Street program for façade Improvements, and another \$100,000 has been awarded from I-JOBs for storm water improvements.

In addition, another \$300,000 was secured from the CDBG "Sustainable Communities" fund for streetscape improvements.

Local funding is provided from a combination of cash reserves and essential purpose general obligation bonds. Total project cost is expected to be approximately \$4.2 million.



12th Street Toward 7th Avenue - May 17, 2011

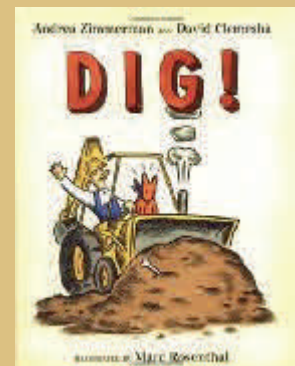


12th Street Toward 8th Avenue - May 17, 2011

Summer reading program

The Environmental Services Department will once again provide solid waste educational programs in conjunction with the Iowa State Library's summer reading program. This is the eighth year the agency has provided a program customized to fit the theme of the statewide summer reading program, which is presented in local libraries.

The book for this year's program is *Dig!* By Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha. The story will be accompanied by a landfill building activity. Libraries in the region are currently scheduling the program for the coming months. For more information, contact **Kristin Simon** (ext 126), or at kristin.simon@ecicog.org.



Recent funding awards

Numerous grant applications prepared by ECICOG staff were funded since the last issue of the *ECICOG Express*. These recent awards are listed below, and were made by the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and the Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management Division (IHSEMD). For information on these and similar programs, contact the ECICOG offices.

Grantee	Project	Award	Funding Agency
City of Vinton	Smart Planning	\$5,682	IDED
City of Palo	Smart Planning	\$5,500	IDED
Jones County	Smart Planning	\$5,290	IDED
Benton County Landfill Commission	Recycling Program	\$20,000	IDNR
ECICOG	Tama County Recycling Program	\$20,000	IDNR
City of Coralville	Housing Rehabilitation	\$214,234	IDED
City of Wellman	Water System Improvements	\$500,000	IDED
Johnson County Emergency Management	Hazard Mitigation Planning	\$50,000	IHSEMD
TOTAL		\$820,706	

Calendar

May 26	ECICOG Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16 th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 1:00 p.m.
May 30	ECICOG offices closed in observance of Memorial Day holiday.
June 2	ECICOG Transit Operators' Group Meeting, Iowa County Transportation, 1680 Franklin Avenue, Marengo, 10:00 a.m.
June 9	ECICOG Solid Waste TAC Meeting, Location TBA, 10:00 a.m.
June 23	ECICOG Business Assistance RLF Loan Review Committee, ECICOG offices, 700 16 th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 1:00 p.m.
June 30	ECICOG Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16 th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 1:00 p.m. Region 10 RPA Policy Board Meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16 th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 2:00 p.m.
July 4	ECICOG offices closed in observance of Independence Day holiday.

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:

Kent Ackerson	Linda Langston
Lu Barron	Adam Mangold
Leo Cook (Chair)	Vicki Pope
Sandra Cronbaugh	David Plyman
Bill Daily	Ed Raber
Darrin Gage	Ben Rogers
Tom Gill	Sally Stutsman
Don Gray	Kathleen VanSteenhuysen
Kevin Heitshusen	David Vermedahl
Rick Jedlicka	Jones County vacancy
Alan Johnson	

ECICOG Staff

EXT

Doug Elliott, <i>Executive Director</i>	122
Gina Peters, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	120
Robyn Jacobson, <i>Contracts Administrator</i>	134
Mary Rump, <i>Transportation Director</i>	128
Hilary Copeland, <i>AICP, GIS Services</i>	125
Brock Grenis, <i>Transit Administrator/Planner</i>	137
Chad Sands, <i>AICP, Comm. Development Director</i>	127
Gary Hughes, <i>Comm. Development</i>	129
Diana Stromer, <i>Community Development</i>	123
Melanie Riley, <i>Community Development</i>	138
Rob Arnold, <i>Housing Services</i>	124
Tracy DeKoter, <i>Economic Development</i>	130
Jennifer Ryan Fencl, <i>Environmental Services Dir</i>	131
Kristin Simon, <i>Solid Waste Planning</i>	126
Bart Knox <i>Iowa Waste Exchange</i>	121
JJ Breen, <i>Disaster Recovery</i>	139

East Central Iowa
Council of Governments
700 16th Street NE, Suite 301
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402
(319) 365-9941
Fax: (319) 365-9981
e-mail: ecicog@ecicog.org
www.ecicog.org



**EAST CENTRAL IOWA
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**
YOUR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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