

Courthouse Journal

W W W . W A C O U N T I E S . O R G

Washington State Association of Counties
Washington Association of County Officials

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**Happy
Holidays**

Happy Holidays To All!
With Christmas Day and holiday vacations coming up, most of the WACO and WSAC staff will be out of the office next week, as well as New Year's week. We will resume publication of the Courthouse Journal on January 11, 2002.

January Legislative Rally and Meetings

On Wednesday, January 30, WSAC, WACO, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) will be holding its 2nd Annual Legislative Reception at St. Martin's Pavilion, in Lacey. All elected officials are encouraged to attend and to call their individual legislators and personally invite them to attend, as well. The reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and will cost \$25. Legislators will be hosted.

Scheduled around the Legislative Reception

will be the Annual WSAC Legislative Rally, and meetings of the county assessors, auditors, clerks, prosecutors, sheriffs, and treasurers. The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) will also be meeting. Each group will send out their own registrations for meetings and the reception will be separate. In addition, on Thursday, January 31, WSAC will host a luncheon at the Olympia Hotel Ballroom for WSAC and WACO members with legislative leadership as guest speakers.

Time for "Round Two" of FEMA Mitigation Grants

The state Emergency Management Division (EMD) this week announced a second round of federal grants to fund projects that reduce or eliminate the effects of hazards or vulnerability to future disaster damage. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program, goes beyond just fixing disaster damage. These grants help fund a wide array of new projects that reduce future vulnerability to hazards and the potential for damage. This round of grants may be used for planning ac-

tivities as well as project construction. The first round was limited to project construction.

By now all counties should have received a Fact Sheet, a Project Letter of Intent and a Planning Letter of Intent for the second round funding of the mitigation grant program, which is available as a result of the Nisqually earthquake. County officials are urged to review the fact sheet carefully to prioritize projects and identify potential problem areas.

Letters of intent (the first phase of the ap-

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plication process) must be received at the state Emergency Management Division office no later than **5:00 p.m. on February 15, 2002**. Letters received after this date will not be considered.

If you did not receive these materials, please contact State Hazard Mitigation Officer Martin Best, at (253) 512-7073 or m.best@emd.wa.gov, or WSAC staff Sophia Byrd at sbyrd@wacounties.org or 360-753-1886. Martin Best also may be able to provide some individualized technical assistance upon request.

During the first round letter-of-intent process, EMD received more than 370 inquiries from 150 applicants for total project costs exceeding \$427 million dollars. During the first round application process, EMD received 73 applications from 55 applicants for total project costs exceeding \$72 million dol-

lars. Grant awards for the first round have not yet been finalized. Available funds are about \$20 million.

Due to the competitive nature of the process, potential applicants should focus their letters of intent for this second round on the projects that are a priority in their jurisdiction. During the first round of applications, numerous applicants were unsuccessful because they waited to develop the application until the last few weeks prior to the deadline. This resulted, among other things, in inadequate public involvement in the development and selection of the preferred alternative and the applications were ineligible for further consideration.

In the near future the state EMD will conduct applicant briefings to answer questions about the program and the process, and to provide technical assistance in your project development.

The Courthouse Journal

The *Courthouse Journal* is published weekly by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Thursday.

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131.

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NACo News

Achievement Awards Program Materials Available for 2002

One of the National Association of Counties' (NACo) most popular programs is back for its 33rd year. The Achievement Awards seek to recognize outstanding and unique programs initiated by county leaders to more effectively govern their citizens. Last year, a total of 374 programs were recognized with awards and that number is expected to increase this year. These programs also form a databank, helpful to both NACo and its members, of successful county programs.

Awards are given out in 21 categories, ranging from Arts and Historic Preservation to Emergency Management, from Libraries to Information Technology. The winning counties are celebrated at a ceremony held during NACo's annual conference, to be held this year in New Orleans, LA. Counties and state associations of counties are eligible to apply.

The deadline for applications is February 15, 2002. To receive an application, or for any other information regarding the Achievement Awards program, please contact Joseph Hansen of NACo's Research Department at 202-661-8834 or by email at jhansen@naco.org.

New Membership Guide Available: NACo's Membership Guide is now

available. The Guide contains a comprehensive description of NACo, including its structure, conferences, departments, as well as information about money and time saving programs. The Guide will be mailed to new member counties as they join, and is designed to be seamlessly updated as needed. Current member counties can request a guide by calling NACo's Membership Coordinator, Josh Fudge, at (202) 942-4242.

NACo Acts of Caring Awards

Deadline January 18: Any county government or affiliated volunteer group with an active program that meets the application criteria is eligible to participate in the 2002 Acts of Caring awards (AOC). Applications for the 2002 AOC must be received on or before Friday, January 18, 2002. No applications will be accepted or considered after this date. Faxed or e-mailed copies will not be accepted.

NACo recognizes and promotes the AOC award winners at a national ceremony on Capitol Hill during National County Government Week in April. To learn more visit the NACo Web site at <http://www.naco.org/programs/special/millenn/services/acts.cfm>

Mail applications to Acts of Caring c/o Tom Goodman, 440 First Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.

List of Courthouse Holiday Closures

A number of county courthouses will observe modified work hours on

December 24, 2001. The closures are

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allowed in individual counties either through employee contracts, comp time or annual leave.

The following courthouses will be closed, or will close early on December 24:

Asotin County	Closed
Columbia County	Closed
Franklin County	Closed
Grant County	Closed

(Superior Court/Clerk's Office will be open from 8:00 to noon)

Grays Harbor County	Closed
Kittitas County	Closed
Klickitat County	Closed
Lincoln County	Closed
Okanogan County	Closed
Pend Oreille County	Closed
Wahkiakum County	Closed
Whatcom County	Closed
Whitman County	Closed

Coming Events

2002 Meetings

January

11 WACO Board of Trustees' Meeting, Washington Counties Building, Olympia, 8:00 a.m.

14 Legislative Session Begins

14-18 Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course, Central Washington University, Ellensburg. For information call the Criminal Justice Training Commission at (360) 459-6342.

16 Association of County Human Services (ACHS) Meeting, Olympia

30 Legislative Rally and Legislative Reception (WACO, WSAC, Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC), St. Martin's Pavilion, Lacey, 6:00—8:00 p.m. (WACO/WSAC meetings and affiliate meetings January 29-30 - check individual schedules.)

31 Training - Ethical Dilemmas: Integrity as a Tool for Successful Public Officials, Phoenix Inn & Suites, Olympia, with credit toward Certified Public Official (CPO).

February

7 Washington State association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) Meeting, Olympia

11-13 Washington State Association of County Auditors' Recording Conference, Red Lion Inn, Wenatchee.

March

1-5 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Legislative Conference, Washington Hilton and Towers, Washington, D.C.

20-22 Association of County Human Services (ACHS) Meeting, Tacoma, Pierce County

TBA Washington State Association of Sheriffs' and Oregon State Association of Sheriffs' Annual Joint Meeting, Walla Walla.

April

7-13 National County Government Week

11-12 WSAC Western District Meeting, Rosario Resort, San Juan Islands, San Juan County

23-26 Washington State Association of County Clerks' and Superior Court Administrators' Joint Conference, Ridpath Hotel, Spokane.

24-26 Washington Association of

Prosecuting Attorneys' (WAPA) Annual Spring Training Program, Icicle Inn, Leavenworth.

25-26 WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop.

May

6-10 Washington State Association of County Auditors' Annual Conference, Red Lion, Port Angeles.

15-17 Association of County Human Services (ACHS) Meeting, Spokane.

20-23 Washington State Association of Sheriffs' & Police Chiefs' (WASPC) Spring Conference, WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee.

22-24 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference, Billings, Montana.

June

17 Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) in conjunction with the WSAC Summer Convention.

18-21 WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue.

Employment Opportunities

Finance Manager, Klickitat County - is seeking an energetic person to serve as the Finance Manager for the Public Works in Goldendale. This position has duties of planning, organizing and managing the accounting functions and fi-

nancial reports in compliance with County and government laws and procedures. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field with 4 years progressively responsible experience in accounting/data processing. Experience in county/city government preferred. Application packets available at Klickitat County Personnel Department, (509) 773-7171, 205 S. Columbus, MS-CH 15, Goldendale, WA 98620. E-mail:

lynnc@co.klickitat.wa.us or www.klickitatcounty.org for information. Position Opened Until Filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Health and Human Services Director, Whatcom County Health and Human Services Department, Bellingham, WA. Hiring range: \$66,468 - \$83,484 annually, DOQ. We offer excellent em-

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ployer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family. 3 weeks vacation/year to start. Average 12 holidays a year. WA State Retirement system. Optional deferred comp, long term disability and Flex 125. This position manages multi-location, multi-service public health programs including Environmental Health (food surveillance and investigations, public water quality, hazardous materials contamination, shellfish activities, enforcement of regu-

lations related to sewage disposal systems and solid and biomedical waste collection, storage and disposal), Community Health (communicable disease, immunizations, maternal/infant health, STD/HIV/AIDS, and WIC/ nutrition services), and Human Services (substance abuse, developmental disabilities and mental health program facilitation). This position requires a Master's degree in public health or public health administration or a related field AND 6 years progressively responsible related experi-

ence including 3 years of management/ supervisory experience. Resume & cover letter must be received I Human Resources, 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 107, Bellingham, WA 98225, by January 15, 2002. For a detailed job announcement regarding this position, contact Whatcom County Human Resources, Bellingham, WA, (360) 676-6802 or visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us. Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Staff of
WSAC and WACO wish
you the best of the holiday
season and good cheer
for the new year!