You're Invited! WSAC Summer Convention Registration Now Available

Make plans today to attend the 96th Annual WSAC Convention in Bellevue, June 19 – 21. Because these are trying times for county government and for our country, WSAC President LeRoy Allison has chosen as the theme of this year’s convention the importance of cooperation among all levels of government. “We must work together better to maintain our citizens’ trust in government -- and to get done the work they expect from us with less financial resources,” said President Allison in his letter inviting members to attend.

Javier Gonzales, the President of the National Association of Counties and a County Commissioner from Santa Fe County, New Mexico, will be at the Convention for the opening ceremonies on Wednesday morning and speak at Wednesday’s luncheon about county-federal relationships. County, state and federal relationships also will be addressed in a plenary session featuring Bob Lohn, the Regional Director for the National Marine Fisheries Service and in a session on emergency preparedness featuring John Pennington, the Regional Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Major General Timothy Lowenberg, who heads the state Military Department.

Governor Gary Locke has agreed to join us on Thursday, June 20 as a keynote speaker and Seattle mayor Greg Nickels – a former WSAC member as a King County Councilman – will share his perspectives from the county and city viewpoint on Thursday morning.

Peter Hutchinson, a nationally known consultant on reinventing government, will share his lessons on “Leadership in Tough Times” on Thursday morning. He also will provide CPO Training – at no cost to those registered for the conference – titled “Budget Solutions: A 12-Step program for improving services while cutting spending.” An all-day Financial Management workshop on Tuesday precedes the Convention and fulfills a required course requirement for those pursuing CPO (Certified Public Official) credit.

The Washington Association of County Council/Commission Clerks, the Washington State Association of County Engineers, the Washington State Association of County and Regional Planning Directors, and the leadership of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials will also be holding their own meetings and in some instances annual banquets.

Registration packets are in the mail and will be e-mailed to all WSAC members.
Drug Sentencing Committees Need County Representation

HB 2338, which reduces prison sentences for certain drug offenses and directs the prison savings to drug treatment, establishes several committees to help implement the landmark legislation. The bill specifies WSAC representation on three committees that will review drug-sentencing provisions and distribute up to $8.2 million annually to counties for offender treatment programs, including drug court.

Because of the integrated and somewhat overlapping nature of the committees, a single individual serving on all the committees might best represent WSAC. Any WSAC member seeking the position should submit a letter of interest to the WSAC Board of Directors by May 15. The Board will appoint a representative at its June meeting. Committee members are not paid, but are eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses.

Following is an overview of the committees’ functions. For more detail, see the bill at www.leg.wa.gov.

- The Joint Select Committee on the Drug Offense Sentencing Grid will review and make recommendations by June 1, 2003 regarding a new Drug Offense Sentencing Grid. Among other things, the committee shall establish a methodology for determining fiscal consequences to the state and local governments, examine racial disproportionality issues, recommend a statewide method of evaluating drug court success, review and revise criteria for funding treatment programs, and review and recommend changes in distribution of funds for offender treatment. The group will have strong staff support from the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, the Caseload Forecast Council, and the Legislature.

- Seventy-five percent of the money saved from reduced prison sentences will be appropriated to the state Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA), to be distributed to counties. DASA, serving as the fiscal agency for distribution of the county treatment funds, is establishing a committee to develop the county distribution formula. This committee will distribute 70 percent of the local treatment funds.

- The remaining 30 percent of local treatment funds are to be distributed to counties as grants. The grant awards will be determined by a panel of stakeholders that review plans submitted by counties or groups of counties.

Feds Announce “Serious, Violent Offender Reentry Initiative”

Several federal agencies, under the leadership of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs, are announcing applications for the "Serious, Violent Offender Reentry Initiative.”

Application information is available by calling the DOJ at 800-421-6770 or online at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/solicitation/solicitation.html. Application deadline is May 15.

This grant program is designed to address the issues related to violent offenders being released from correctional facilities into communities. The program aims to reduce recidivism by these returning offenders and thus enhance community safety.

Eligible applicants are states, local jurisdictions, or tribes that represent a partnership between institutional and community corrections agencies.

Although some new grants will be awarded, the focus of the initiative is not “new money.” Rather, the federal partners are identifying funds from their respective agencies that are already available and suitable for the purposes of the initiative. The goal is to fund at least one sustainable program in each state. Each site would receive approximately $500,000 to $2 million.

FEMA Wants Input on Strategic Plan

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regional office in Bothell is hosting a day-long Strategic Planning Roundtable on Tuesday, April 30, to solicit input on its Draft Strategic Plan. The six-year plan is available for review at www.fema.gov under “hot topics: strat planning.”

When finalized, the Strategic Plan will serve as the basis for developing annual performance targets to show which programs are working and where future funding should be applied.

County officials who wish to participate in the Roundtable should RSVP to Charles Axton at FEMA Region 10, at 425-487-4685 or charles.axton@fema.gov. The Roundtable will be held at the FEMA Region 10 offices at 130 228th Street, Southwest, Bothell, WA 98021. Questions or concerns? Call or email Charles Axton.
Supreme Court Rules on Local Liability Associated with Permitting

The Washington state Supreme Court this week issued two unanimous opinions in related cases involving local liability for land-use permitting decisions. In both cases plaintiffs’ property sustained significant natural damage and plaintiffs sued their respective local governments alleging that the governments should not have issued development and building permits due to flood and landslide hazards, and that the governments failed to maintain storm drain systems. Both cases involved recorded documents exculpating the local government from liability for damages.

In Howe v. Douglas County, No. 70572-1, and Lakeview Boulevard Condominium Association v. Apartment Sales Corporation, No. 70704-9, the court determines the permissible scope of exculpatory clauses. The Court holds that narrowly tailored, bargained-for exculpatory clauses may be permissible, but that exculpatory clauses secured routinely for the performance of a basic government function do not relieve government from liability for damages arising from its tortious conduct.

In the Howe case, plaintiffs sued Douglas County after recurrent flooding damaged their property. The Howes alleged that Douglas County was negligent in failing to adequately maintain a public storm drain system. Issuance of the building permit had been conditioned upon a general waiver, which the Howes argued was an unenforceable attempt to illegally recreate the sovereign immunity abolished 40 years ago by the Washington Legislature. The trial court dismissed the suit at summary judgment based on the public duty doctrine and on the general exculpatory language in the deed to the property. The high court agreed with the Howes.

In the Lakeview case, plaintiffs sued the city of Seattle arguing that the city should not have permitted their condominiums to be built because of unstable soil conditions, and that the city’s storm drains had contributed to the landslide that damaged their property. Before issuing permits to the condo developer, the city expressed concern about the potential for landslides and imposed several permit conditions, one of which was a covenant exculpating the city from liability for damages caused specifically by soil movement. The trial court and the court of appeals ruled that the claims arising from permitting should be dismissed. The Supreme Court agreed, and holds that a narrowly drafted release for risks specific to a particular activity or condition is not an impermissible attempt to functionally recreate sovereign immunity.

The Supreme Court differentiated between Howe and Lakeview based on the specificity of the exculpatory language relating to unique risks associated with the property involved. The court held in Lakeview that if because of the shape, composition, location, or other characteristic of property there exists risks unique to that particular property, “parties may reach an arms length, bargained-for agreement, which may include waivers of liability limited to the proposed use and character of the property.”

$9 Million Available to Fund Treatment Services for Homeless Individuals

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is announcing the availability of funds for grants to expand and strengthen community treatment services for homeless individuals with substance abuse disorders, mental illness or with co-occurring substance abuse disorders and mental illness.

Approximately $9 million in funding will be available to fund 15 to 17 grants. The average award is expected to range from $450,000 to $600,000 per year in total costs. The grants will be awarded for a period of up to 3 years. SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) will administer the grants.

WHO CAN APPLY: Community-based public and private nonprofit entities are eligible. Community-based public entities include tribal and local governments. Private nonprofit entities include community-based and faith-based organizations. These can include providers of homeless services, primary health care, housing or other closely linked services for persons with substance abuse, mental illness or co-occurring disorders. States are not eligible to apply.

HOW TO APPLY: This program announcement is No. TI 02-006. Guidance for Applicants (GFA No. TI 02-006) is available from SAMHSA’s web site at http://www.SAMHSA.gov/grants/grants.html (click on “Current...”) APPLICATION DUE DATE: June 19, 2002. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Applicants with questions on program issues should contact Joanne C. Gambel, M.A. at 301-443-7945 or jgamel@SAMHSA.gov. Queries on grants management issues should be directed to Steve Hudak at 301-443-9666 or shudak@SAMHSA.gov.

Rural Housing and Economic Development Grants Available

HUD released the Notice of Funding Availability for the Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) grants. There is $25 million available this year for projects that build capacity or support innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas. Eligible applicants include: local, rural non-profits, community development corporations, federally-recognized Indian Tribes, State housing finance agencies, and State economic or community development agencies. The application deadline is April 26, 2002 and awards will be announced in early June. See website below: http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/foa/grprural.cfm

If people have questions, they are welcome to call Donna Batch at (206) 220-5150 ext. 3620 or e-mail her at donna_batch@hud.gov. Donna is the Economic Development Specialist for HUD’s Northwest/Alaska Region.

Washington Community Mental Health Council (WCMHC) Announces Annual Conference

WCMHC is announcing their 13th annual conference. It will take place in Wenatchee at the Convention Center from June 12 – 14. The title for this year is “Recovering in a Changing World.” Keynote speakers include Patricia Deegan, Ph.D, Senior Director, Institute for the Study of Human Resilience, Boston University who spoke at the recent Co-Occurring Disorders Conference in Yakima. Dr. Deegan spoke inspirationally of her own experiences with schizophrenia. Other keynoters will include Monica Oss, Founder and President, Open Minds; Deborah DeWolfe, Ph.D, MSPH; Karl Brimner, Director, Department of Social and Health Services Mental Health Division; and Lauren R. Charlot, Ph.D, University of Massachusetts Medical School. Their topics will include disaster preparedness in Washington State, community mental health organizations in a changing environment, and mood disorders in persons with developmental disabilities. Thursday and Friday will be full of workshops with topics as varied as disaster management, working with high-risk children and youth, assertive case management, persons with co-occurring disorders, creating housing, dealing with anxiety and/or aggression, and others. Early registrations are due by May 16 for the discounted rate. Additional information may be obtained from the Community Mental Health Council at 206-464-7965. Cathy Gaylord, CEO, of the Council has invited the RSN Administrators and WSAC staff to a special presentation by Monica Oss on Wednesday, June 12 from 1 – 5. The topic is “The Evolution of Behavioral Health Policy and Management Issues.” Please let the Council know if you are coming to this special presentation.

Governor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee Announces Grants

The Governor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC) has announced the availability of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Formula Grants Program. The subject of emphasis is runaways and youth in conflict. The RFPs are due May 6, 2002. They can be viewed on the GJJAC website at www.wa.gov/juvemilejustice or call 360-407-0151 for a hard copy.

So What’s Wrong with this Picture

About a month ago, the Everett Herald had a picture of a brand-new $25 million prison facility on its front page. What’s interesting are two facts. This facility is totally empty and it was specifically built for mentally ill prisoners. There are 256 empty beds and no staff. The brand-new facility fell victim to the budget crisis and hiring freeze on state employees. It was originally scheduled to open last year but the opening has now been delayed indefinitely. Located at the Special Offender Unit in Monroe, the units were expected to cost $8.8 million in fiscal year 2003 and have an average of 115 full-time employees. According to Ella Rae Deacon, Director of the existing 144-bed mental health unit, there is a waiting list of “critical” inmates waiting to get in. The actual percentage of the mentally ill in our state prison system is unknown. It is estimated at about 15% in local jails with some jails running as high as 30%. What is truly unfortunate is the impact this could have on our already stressed community mental health sys-
could keep an inmate in prison for 40 years. Sen. Lisa Brown, Chair, Senate Ways and Means, said court orders, community demands, and legislative decisions make it almost impossible to control spending on sex offenders which has tripled to more than $20 million annually during the past four years. And when the new 400-bed facility is completed, the bill will run $74 million for the capital costs plus millions more for additional LRA’s in the other counties besides Pierce.

But despite the expense of the program, more than a dozen states have followed Washington’s lead. The Governor’s policy adviser, Dick Van Wagenen, notes Washington is facing issues others haven’t reached yet but it is admittedly horrendously expensive and other states are watching us and trying to learn from our mistakes. What is gained is relatively unclear. While some of the worst are confined in the Special Commitment Center, some 15,000 registered sex offenders with little or no supervision live freely in the state and hundreds are Level 3 offenders just as the LRA’s resident. Rep. Barry Sehlin, Ranking Republican on the House Appropriations Committees notes it may be time for an informed, rational public discussion about this whole situation especially the cost.

Chelan-Douglas’ Monitor Park Examined as a Site for Permanent Farmworker Housing

The state plans to house farmworkers in permanent structures at Wenatchee River County Park during cherry, pear, and apple harvests this year. Chelan County and the state Office of Community Development (OCD) have just about closed a deal that marks a new direction in the state’s effort to provide housing for migrant workers.

During the past two years, the state has used temporary tent camps with a 28-day time limit to house workers and their families. Under the proposed deal, they would be able to stay in modular homes for the entire harvest. The state operated a tent camp both at Monitor as well as one near Pangborn in East Wenatchee last year. The camp that would go up this year would be the first of its kind for the fledging state program, and would serve as a model for future camps, said Ray Price, Assistant Director for Housing for OCD. It will be much more cost effective and should better serve the growers and the workers to be there for six months rather than 28 days.

The state would like to build a second camp in Chelan or Douglas counties and at least two more elsewhere in the state. There will not be a camp near Pangborn this summer. The county and state are working on a one-year contract that would offer 200 beds in permanent modular structures for the season and another 100 beds in tents. In exchange for the use of the park site, the state is talking about paying the county $125,000 this year. They paid $56,000 last year for the 28-day camp. The contract could be renewed annually. Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walter indicated the county’s interest in signing a multi-year contract which the state would also like to have. WSAC wants to thank Chelan County, OCD, and especially Ray Price and Jim Potts for their work on making this a permanent camp.
Environment, Land Use and Resources

Representative Dicks Plans on More Money for Culvert Repair
Recognizing the need for federal land management agencies to fix as many as 5,500 culverts in Oregon and Washington to enhance passage of endangered fish and comply with the Endangered Species Act, Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Washington, has committed to try for additional federal funds for culvert repair. In an interview, Dicks said he hoped to earmark $25 million to $30 million this year to begin work.

Biodiversity Initiative Urged
A report recommending a Washington Biodiversity Initiative, which helped to spur legislation authorizing state funding to establish a biodiversity conservation committee in available on the web. Although the legislation, ESSB 6400, would create a broad range of stakeholders to develop recommendations for a long-term state biodiversity strategy, initial work toward that goal can be found at www.biodiversitypartners.org.

The report indicates that the proposal for a biodiversity strategy drew strong support from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, and other state agencies, as well as The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, American Farmland Trust and other conservation organizations. Counties and cities expressed reservations. Backers of the proposal have already begun looking for additional funding and expect to submit a grant proposal to the Interagency Outdoor Recreation Committee for a partnership effort that could get the biodiversity conservation committee under way later this year.

General Government and Miscellaneous

Longtime County Administrator Leaves Snohomish County
Tom Dickson, Snohomish County Council Administrator will be leaving his job after 17 years at the end of this month. Dickson came to work for the council in 1985 as their chief of staff and has worked for many council members during those years. He was also active in WSAC helping to organize the Urban County Caucus in 1990.

In 1976 Dickson came to Washington to work on the presidential campaign for Senator Henry Jackson. Later he worked for former Senate Majority Leader, August Mardesich. He had also been a practicing attorney in Everett for a number of years.

Dickson was asked to resign by the council in March reflecting the desires of a new council elected last fall. Replacing Dickson will be John Chelminiak the former King County Council chief of staff. Chelminiak was replaced on the King County Council earlier this year after the majority on the council changed in the fall elections.

AQB Proposes New Education Criteria
On February 12, the Appraiser Qualifications Board released an exposure draft that proposes revisions to its current Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria. The original criteria was developed in 1991 following implementation of Title XI of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enhancement Act (FIRREA). Two years later, some minor revisions were made to the criteria since original educational qualifications were set relatively low. The AQB has now proposed further changes in light of today’s market.

The AQB states appraisers need to have expertise and knowledge in many different fields, and that higher standards of education are not only the key to performing their jobs accurately, but also “to providing adequate public protections.” Realizing the revisions may take one year to be adopted and three years to be implemented by the states, the AQB is developing the new qualifications criteria to be relevant five to 10 years from now.

The most significant proposed changes are:

• Raising the education requirement for licensed residential appraisers to 140 hours.
• Raising the education requirement for certified residential appraisers to 200 hours.
• Raising the education requirement for certified general appraisers to 315 hours.
• Adding a required core curriculum for each licensure level.
• Requiring individuals seeking the certified general credential to have a bachelor’s degree to meet other educational requirements.
• Allowing certified appraisers to gain four hours of continuing education for supervising and managing trainee appraisers.

The exposure draft is available for download at www.appraisalfoundation.org/html/PDF-Images/AQBexdRPAQC2-12-02.pdf.
Attention - Summer Conference WACCCs Information
The Washington Association of County Commissioner/Council Clerks (WACCCs) want to remind Commissioners and Councilmembers to encourage their Clerks to attend the WSAC Summer Conference in Bellevue. President Anne Noris, King County, has an excellent agenda, and there will be something for everyone!

Budgets are tight this year, so this is also a reminder that the WACCCs do have a Scholarship Fund available to assist with expenses related to the Conference. If anyone is interested in applying for a Scholarship, please contact Vickie Musgrove, musgrovev@co.cowlitz.wa.us for further information.

See you in Bellevue!

Calling all Clerks! Scholarship Available for Summer Conference of WACCCs
It's conference time again. There is a conference scholarship available this year for members of the WACCCs. The conference is scheduled in Bellevue, June 18-21, 2002. This will be a full scholarship for up to $500 to cover registration, travel, and lodging expenses. Application forms may be obtained through Vickie Musgrove, Cowlitz County Commissioners Office: 207 4th Avenue North, Kelso, WA 98626, Phone: (360) 577-3020 or E-mail: MusgroveV@co.cowlitz.wa.us Application deadline is Friday, May 10, 2002.
Courthouse Ramblings

Congratulations to Grays Harbor County Treasurer Ron Strabbing, who was elected President of the Washington Municipal Treasurers’ Association (WMTA) during that organization’s annual conference, in Chelan, April 10-12!

The mission statement of the group is “To promote the profession of Municipal Treasurers in the State of Washington through education, mutual support, professional recognition, and legislative advocacy.” Ron is a past president of both WACO and the Washington State Association of County Treasurers. He currently serves on the WACO Board of Trustees. We wish him much success in his year as president of WMTA.

May is National High School Voter Registration Month - Scholarships Available for Student Ambassadors

Secretary of State Sam Reed recently sent a letter to all high school principals in the state, in support of the National Association of Secretaries of State endorsement of the World Wrestling Federation’s (WWF) Smackdown Your Vote Program. The program encourages students to become “ambassadors” for their schools by organizing voter registration efforts and signing up eligible voters (18 and older). These student ambassadors may then apply for one of 50 $2000 academic scholarships. Following is a copy of Secretary Reed’s letter with all the details:

Dear Principal:

In the aftermath of the September 11th tragedies, Americans are sharing a desire and need to help our country and make a difference. By promoting participation and respect for our democracy, we can enhance the communities we live in and teach our youth about the importance of a thriving democracy.

Unfortunately, statistics show that the 18-to-24 year old age group has dismally low voter participation. That’s why we are pleased that the Washington Secretary of State’s Office is teaming up with Smackdown Your Vote! to promote youth vote participation. Smackdown Your Vote! is a partnership of nonpartisan organizations created to encourage young people to register and then vote. This partnership includes the National Association of Secretaries of State, National Foundation for Women Legislators, Project Vote Smart, Youth Vote Coalition, Close Up/First Vote, Youth-e-Vote, California Vote America, and World Wrestling Federation Entertainment, Inc.

In collaboration with Smackdown Your Vote! the Washington Secretary of State’s Office will promote “National High School Voter Registration Month” which will take place in May. Our goal is to have every high school in Washington participate in “National High School Voter Registration Month” by completing the attached pledge/order form indicating your participation in the Smackdown Your Vote! program. Voter registration materials will be sent once we receive the form.

In addition, teachers can order the Close Up Foundation’s First Vote materials. The First Vote program is a nonpartisan, classroom-based voter education, registration, and citizenship program designed for high school students. The program helps educate young people about the importance of citizen participation and voting, and challenges them to get involved in their communities. Materials include a teacher’s resource guide and a 14 minute video. Teachers should visit the First Vote site (www.closeup.org/frstvote.htm) by Friday, April 20 to receive the First Vote materials free-of-charge.

Participating high schools will be recognized for their involvement and will be acknowledged on the Smackdown Your Vote! site (www.smackdownyourvote.com).

Students are encouraged to become Smackdown Your Vote! Ambassadors as part of this effort to encourage participation in the democratic process. Those students who organize voter registration events are eligible to apply for one of 50 nonrestrictive $2,000 academic scholarships. The scholarship is valid for use toward college tuition at any U.S. college or university the winner attends in his or her freshman year. Smackdown Your Vote! will work also to help the 50 students obtain summer internships with public officials in their communities implementing Smackdown Your Vote! programs to promote youth voter registration and voting. For more information on the Smackdown Your Vote! Ambassador program or the academic scholarship program, please visit www.smackdownyourvote.com.

Please help us reverse the downward trend of voting among young adults in Washington. Encourage your students to register and vote!

Sincerely,

SAM REED
Secretary of State

KURT ANGLE
WWFE Superstar & Honorary Chairman of Smackdown Your Vote!
April 23
Basic Contract Training, sponsored by the WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA), Rodeway Inn, Leavenworth, 8:00 - 4:30 p.m.

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

May 1

May 2
CPO Public Meetings, Public Disclosure and More: Do You Know the Rules? Davenport—Cost: $50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 3

May 6–10
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys-Support Enforcement (WAPA-Sep)’s Annual Conference, Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

May 6–10
Washington State Association of County Auditors’ Annual Conference, Red Lion, Port Angeles

May 8

May 9
CPO Public Meetings, Public Disclosure and More: Do You Know the Rules? Tacoma—Cost: $50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 10

May 15–17
ACHS, Spokane

May 20–23
Washington State Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs’ (WASPC) Spring Conference, WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee

May 22–24
WIR, Yellowstone County, billings MT

June 15
American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators certification testing, 8:00 a.m.–noon, Room 2605, Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, OR.

June 16–19
Government Finance Officers’ Association (GFOA) Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado

June 17
WSALPHO Meeting in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue

June 18
WCIF Board in conjunction with WSAC Summer Conference, 10:00 a.m.–noon, Bellevue

June 18
CPO Financial Management: Understanding County Government Financing, Bellevue—Cost: $120, CPO Credits: 4 (Core Course). An additional elective course will also be offered at the Summer convention, topic TBD

June 18–21
WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue

June 18–21
Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference, Yakima

June 19–21
Washington State Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ (WAPA) Summer Training Program, Campbell’s Lodge, Chelan

June 22–26
National Sheriffs Association’s Annual

July 9–12
Northwest Regional Election Conference 2002, Jantzen Beach Doubletree Hotel, Portland

July 12–16
NACo Annual Conference, New Orleans Parish, New Orleans, LA

July 17–19
ACHS, Clark County

August 22
WCIP Board/Rate Setting Session, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. SeaTac

September 10–13
City/County Planning Directors, Lake Chelan

September 12
WSALPHO Meeting, Spokane

September 18–20
ACHS, Leavenworth

September 19
WCIF/HCIP Boards/Insurance Advisory Committee (All Day Meeting), SeaTac

September 30–October 4
WACO/WSAC Annual Conference, WestCoast Wenatchee Hotel, Wenatchee

October 1
CPO Personnel/Human Resources—Understand the Laws; Maximize Your Personnel System, Wenatchee—Cost: $120, CPO Credits: 4 (Core Course)

(Continued on page 10)
Calendar of Events

(Continued from page 9)

October 2
CPO The Class-Act County Government Official—Building Courthouse Partnerships, Wenatchee—Cost TBD, CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

November 14
WCIF Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.–noon, Eastern Washington Location

November 18–21
Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs’ (WASPC) Annual Fall Conference, Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

November 20–22
ACHS, Seattle

December 5
WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

December 10–13
CPO Newly Elected Officials Training—Understanding Your New Job at the Courthouse, Olympia—Cost: TBD, CPO Credits: All newly elected officials must attend to become certified.

2003 MEETINGS

May 19–22
WASPC Spring Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel, Spokane

June 24-27, 2003
WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

July 11–15, 2003
NACo Annual Conference, Milwaukee County, Milwaukee, WI

September 29–October 3, 2003
Joint WACO/WSAC Conference, Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport

November 17–20
WASPC Fall Conference, Campbell’s Resort, Chelan

2004 MEETINGS

May 24–27
WASPC Spring Conference, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima

June 22–25, 2004
WSAC Summer Convention, Sheraton Tacoma, Pierce County

July 16–20, 2004
NACo Annual Conference Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ

October 4–8, 2004
WACO/WSAC Joint Legislative Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel at the Park, Spokane

November 15–18
WASPC Fall Conference, Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores

2005 MEETINGS

May 23–26
WASPC Spring Conference, West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee

July 15–19, 2005
NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
EXPERIENCED PROGRAMMER/ANALYST to provide technical expertise to users and staff members in the areas of development, business administration, database and website development. Applicants must have a BS/BA in computer-related field and three years of related experience; or any equivalent combination of education and experience, which would provide the applicant with the necessary skills, knowledge and ability to perform essential functions of the position. Experience in a programmer/analyst mode utilizing Visual Basic, C, C++, Java, HTML (or code generator), SQL - PL/SQL, and project management software preferred. Development experience using Oracle Tools is desirable. $51,625.60 to $59,779.20, DOQ.

Benefits include paid vacation and sick leave, medical for employee and dependents, and excellent retirement plan. The county pays for continuing professional training as it relates to each position. The county welcomes those applicants who are seeking an escape from the "pressure cooker" environment.

Please visit our website at: www.skagitcounty.net or by calling our Job Line 1-800-548-7957. Application deadline is Friday, May 3, 2002, by 4:30 p.m.

YAKIMA COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT—Planner (Three Positions), Annual Salary Range: $36,404 to $52,185. Yakima County is seeking three Planners to join an organization known throughout the State of Washington for its leadership and innovation in urban, rural and environmental planning issues. Hiring Range is up to $37,530 DOQ. (Greater hiring salary requires a pay policy exception). Planners will be assigned staff reports, technical and field work related to subdivision, zoning, critical areas and environmental project reviews, public assistance and comprehensive planning research. The Planner position requires a Bachelor’s Degree in Planning and one year of planning experience, which would provide the applicant with the necessary skills, knowledge and ability to perform duties and responsibilities of the position. Master's in Business or Public Administration preferred.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON. Salary: $70,000-$95,000 Requires a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration or related field and five years experience in government administration, financial management, human resource management or related areas or any equivalent combination which provides the required skills, knowledge and ability to perform duties and responsibilities of the position. Master's in Business or Public Administration preferred.

County Administrator works under the direction of the three member Skagit County Board of Commissioners and is responsible for: implementing Board policies, carrying out Board directives, overseeing achievement of Board goals and objectives, regularly reporting to the Board and keeping the Board timely advised regarding all strategic, legal, policy, labor relations, public safety, agency relations, community relations, operational and financial matters which could materially affect the County, and other matters as directed by the Board.

Individuals interested in being considered for this position should submit a letter of interest, resume and completed application to the Skagit County Personnel Department at 700 South Second Street, Room 101, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. The application form may be obtained from our website www.skagitcounty.net or by calling our Job Line 1-800-548-7957. Application deadline is Friday, May 3, 2002, by 4:30 p.m.

KITSAP COUNTY - Collections Supervisor, Public Works/Wastewater. Salary: $22.64 - $28.90/hr, $47,091.20 - $60,112.00/yr. Opening Date - April 22, 2002 – Closing Date - May 31, 2002. Applications are available in the Personnel Office or at www.kitsapgov.com. The following items are required: 1) Kitsap County Application form. 2) Supplemental questionnaire. 3) If you would like your technical school or college level education considered, please attach copies of transcripts or certificate/diploma. Verification of education must be received by time of appointment. 4) Application must be received by the personnel office or postmarked prior to May 31, 2002.

General Statement: An employee in this position plans, organizes, and supervises the work of assigned employees in the operation and maintenance of wastewater and storm water collection systems and solid waste facilities for Kitsap County. Work assignments are received with general and limited technical instruction and require considerable independence in the selection of courses of action and resolution of complex or unique problems within the framework of department policies and procedures under limited direction. Work is reviewed by supervisor for effective operation of assigned functions and evaluated through conferences, reports and

(Continued on page 12)
Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma, or GED, vocational training in sanitary, chemical engineering, biology, environmental sciences, or closely related field preferred, and five years of progressively responsible work experience in the operation and maintenance of a primary or secondary wastewater treatment plant or in wastewater or storm water conveyance system maintenance repair and replacement, including two years of supervisory or lead responsibility; or any equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work.

Must possess a Washington State Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with Endorsement "N" for the operation of related equipment including certification to operate vehicles with air brakes. Must possess a valid Washington State Wastewater Collection Specialist II Certification, Flagger Certification Card, and current Washington State Industrial First Aid Certification. Prior to employment, a selected applicant must provide a driving record abstract from the Washington State Department of Licensing.

Note: In accordance with federal regulations and Kitsap County Drug and Alcohol Policy and Procedures, no applicant will be allowed to work in this position for Kitsap County until he/she has successfully passed urine drug testing. In accordance with WAC 296-62-07150 and WAC 296-62-09027, medical evaluations, to include the ability to use a respirator and audiometric testing, will be conducted on successful applicants prior to employment. A criminal background check through law enforcement agencies will be conducted on all successful applicants prior to their being appointed to this position.


Application packets are available in the personnel office or at www.kitsapgov.com. The following items are required: Kitsap County Application form. 2) Supplemental Questionnaire. 3) If you would like your technical school or college-level education considered, please attach copies of transcripts or certificate/diploma verification of education must be received by time of appointment. 4) Application must be received by the personnel office or post-marked prior to May 24, 2002.

General Statement: Plans, organizes, and manages all operations of the equipment services division to assure the efficient and timely maintenance and replacement of the majority of county-owned vehicles and road construction and maintenance equipment and the development of adequate rental rates to cover maintenance, operation and replacement costs. Includes overseeing the operation of the County’s mechanical shops, central stores and sign manufacturing shop as well as underground fueling facilities throughout the County. Work assignments are received with little or no technical instruction and require the selection of course of action and resolution of complex or unique problems with considerable latitude for independent judgment to develop procedures, systems and establish priorities working within the framework of established administrative guidelines. Work is reviewed by the Director for compliance with established policies and objectives and is evaluated through reports, conferences, and results obtained.

Minimum Qualifications: Technical training in fleet management, or closely related field, and five years of progressively responsible experience in large fleet/equipment management, including specification writing with a government agency, with two years of supervisory or lead responsibilities is required; or any equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work.

Must be able to meet all traveling requirements of the position. If utilizing a personal or County owned vehicle in the performance of County work, must possess and maintain a valid Washington State Driver's License and the appropriate amount of automobile insurance.

Prior to employment, a selected applicant must provide a driving record abstract from the Washington State Department of Licensing.

DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, Grant County – Deputy Prosecuting Attorney - Salary $42,800 plus; DOE/DOQ. Grant County is seeking a motivated individual for Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Position will be responsible for providing extensive research and writing for the appeals process and to assist in prosecuting persons charged with crimes, with opportunities to try cases in court.

Ideal candidate will have excellent written and verbal communication skills, presentation skills, organization skills, solid legal skills and a desire for criminal trial practice. Previous in-court prosecution, research and writing experience strongly preferred. Member of the Washington State Bar Association required. Also requires valid Washington State driver’s license with no restrictions.

Grant County is located in beautiful Central Washington with more than 247,000 surface acres of water for every type of recreation. Home of the Grant Coulee Dam, the largest concrete structure on earth. Enjoys four distinct seasons with generally mild winters and sunny summers. Position located in Ephrata, which boasts ideal conditions for glider competition and an easy drive to Seattle and Spokane.

Grant County offers a generous benefits package. Please see our website at www.grantcounty-wa.com for more information. Send cover letters, resumes and writing examples to: Grant County, Human Resources, P O Box 37, Ephrata, WA 98823. Open until May 31, 2002, or until filled. Grant County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

WHATCOM COUNTY, Public Works, Bellingham - Engineer/Sr. Engineer – Structural design (1 position) and Engineer/Sr. Engineer – Road Design (2 positions). Salary Range: Engineer: $18.94 - $24.72/hr., DOQ and Sr. Engineer: $20.60 - $26.89/hr., DOQ. Both levels require a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related engineering field. Engineer level requires 2 yrs. experience in a similar engineering position and must possess a valid E.I.T. certificate at time of hire & throughout employment. Sr. Engineer level requires 4 yrs. experience in a similar engineering position and must be registered as a P.E. in the State of Washington. We offer excellent employer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family. Generous vacation & sick leave package, average 12 holidays/yr., and WA
Employment Opportunities

(State Retirement system (PERS). Optional deferred compensation plans & Flex 125 available. Closing date 5/13/02.
For more details & to request required application packet contact Whatcom County Human Resources, Bellingham, WA, (360) 676-6802 or visit www.co.whatcom.wa.us. EOE.)

News Clippings

Three Pierce courts may be ruled out of existence
By Rob Tucker, from the News Tribune, April 17, 2002
The Pierce County Council may drop district courts in Gig Harbor, Buckley and Eatonville to save money. That means people who live in unincorporated areas on the Peninsula or in East Pierce County may have to travel farther to see a judge or pay a ticket. Just how much money the county would save is uncertain, officials said Tuesday. But County Council members point to District Court inefficiencies and unevenly distributed caseloads and see room to consolidate, possibly into one District Court in Tacoma. "It's a cost-savings issue," said Councilman Kevin Wimsett, who represents the South Hill area and sponsored the proposal with council members Pat O'Malley and Harold Moss. "We're in a tough situation."

Because of the passage of Initiative 747, which limits regular property tax collections, Pierce County must trim $6 million from its general fund budget next year. Consolidation of the four district courts has come up over the years, Moss said. Some judges want the County Council to take the lead to accomplish the changes and save money in overhead and personnel, he said. But not the ones who showed up at Tuesday's council meeting, where the proposal was announced. "Keep the judicial districts independent," said District Judge Paul Treyz, who serves the Eatonville area. "Don't force people to come into Tacoma or Puyallup to have their judicial needs met."

One of the staunchest opponents of consolidation was the late District Judge Tom Farrow, who served the Gig Harbor area for nearly 12 years before he died April 3. Kim Shannon, Farrow's longtime judicial assistant, said the timing of the proposal "comes as a huge shock to all of us." The plan, with details yet to be determined, would combine all District Court administration in Tacoma by 2003 and could close the following court offices:

* Gig Harbor, with one judge and an annual budget of $645,030; serves unincorporated areas of Pierce County in the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas.
* Eatonville, with a three-quarter-time judge and budget of $265,530; serves Elbe-Ashford, McKenna and areas around Eatonville and Roy.
* Buckley, with a quarter-time judge and a budget of $125,830; serves unincorporated areas between Buckley and Sumner, part of Lake Tapps, and the Greenwater-Crystal Mountain and Orting areas.

The Tacoma District Court, with five judges, serves Parkland-Spanaway, Graham, South Hill, and other unincorporated areas outside Tacoma. The court also contracts to serve the cities of University Place and Edgewood.

According to County Council research, the 5,322 cases filed in Gig Harbor last year add up to little more than half of the 9,990 cases filed before each of five full-time judges in Tacoma. Eatonville's 1,494 case filings last year amount to less than one-sixth of a Tacoma judge's load. Under the plan, part-time satellite courts still may be established outside of Tacoma, where cases may be heard but little else. The council may cut the Gig Harbor judge's pay in half and proposes to cut Treyz's pay next year from 75 percent of a full-time judge's salary to 40 percent of a full-time judge's salary. Treyz said he now makes $85,143, and a full-time District Court judge makes $113,524.

The proposal also calls for the eight district judges to be elected countywide instead of by district after 2006. In the meantime, because of Farrow's death, there is no permanent, elected judge in Gig Harbor, so that court would be combined with Tacoma immediately. The Eatonville and Buckley courts would be combined Jan. 1, 2003, according to the proposal. But Shannon, the Gig Harbor court official, said people on the peninsula don't want a Tacoma judge deciding their cases. Farrow, before he died, said he opposed consolidation. "I do not feel that big is necessarily better," he wrote in a Feb. 7 letter.

A council public meeting on the issue is scheduled for April 29.

* Staff writer Rob Tucker covers East Pierce County. Reach him at 253-597-8374 or rob.tucker@mail.tribnet.com. © The News Tribune