

march 2024

ecia spotlight



A project in the making for a very long time; partners gather for the ceremonial ground breaking of the SW Arterial in 2016. The SW Arterial Study began in 1996. (Sophia Wagner, daughter of ECIA's Tricia Wagner, designed the 50th logo below. She is a Graphic Design Major at University of Iowa.)

ECIA Marks 50th Anniversary



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After forming in 1974, ECIA naturally needed a governing board and the following year, representatives from Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson counties were appointed.

ECIA Designated By EDA

The five-county ECIA area has become eligible for increased Federal financial assistance to plan and carry out programs aimed at creating jobs and stimulating coordinated economic growth, according to an October 6th press release by Robert T. Hall, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. The announcement states that the goal of the EDA district program is to encourage adjacent counties to work together in a joint effort to overcome regional problems blocking economic growth.

Designation of the East Central Iowa Economic Development District makes each member city and county eligible for bonuses of 10 percent above what they would normally receive in EDA grants for public facilities essential to long range industrial and commercial growth. In addition to public works grants, the EDA program includes loans and loan guarantees to encourage private enterprise to expand and create jobs, and planning grants and technical assistance to help solve problems blocking growth. The program thus aims to create jobs through the development of local resources.

ECIA Executive Director, Karl Biasi, stated that he wished to thank all those local officials who assisted since the designation application was submitted in April, 1977. He further noted that ECIA has assisted the City of Dyersville in securing an EDA grant for a water project in their industrial park, and is currently working with several other member governments on industrial and commercial public facilities programs.

In the future, ECIA will apply for EDA planning funds to continue designation. Regional officials in Denver have indicated that ECIA's first report will be required in June, 1979.

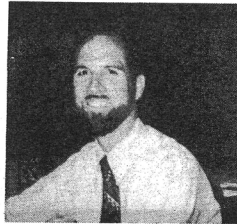
NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL members were elected at the July meeting of the ECIA Council. Representing each of the five counties in the ECIA region are Tom Railsback of Cedar, Pete Smith of Clinton, Elvin Reth of Delaware, Rolland Greenwood of Dubuque, and Don Casteel of Jackson.

Seated, from left, is Greenwood, chairman, and Reth, vice chairman. Standing, from left, are P. Smith, Casteel, and Railsback, treasurer. Karl Biasi, executive director, was again named secretary to the executive council.

--Maquoketa Newspapers photo.



Nagle New Assistant Director



Larry Nagle, serving as circuit rider-management advisor for East Central Intergovernmental Association during the past two years, has been promoted to assistant director of the association.

Nagle's promotion took place at the August meeting of the executive committee.

In his new position, Nagle will assist Director Baum in the general management of ECIA. He will also be heavily involved in revising the United Work Program for FY82 and expanding the technical assistance program for local governments.

Originally from Toledo, Iowa, Nagle earned his BA at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls and his MPA at the University of Nebraska in Omaha.

Prior to joining the ECIA staff, Nagle worked as a field representative for General Motors Acceptance Corporation in Des Moines, Iowa. He and his wife, Connie, reside in Dubuque.

This was a big deal. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) still considers this designation today.

Growing pains - ECIA needed an assistant director and Larry Nagle served in that position for about 28 years and retired after 36 years total.

1996

ECIA Forms New Regional Planning Affiliation

After two regionwide meetings of the general membership of ECIA, the composition of the new ECIA Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA) Policy Board was agreed upon in late October. Membership will consist of representatives of the counties of Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson, the cities of Clinton, Maquoketa, and Manchester, and one small city in each of the four counties. The function of the RPA is to work jointly with the Iowa DOT in the formation of short and long range transportation plans which will be used to program the new ISTEAF funding. ECIA will be staffing the new organization, and the first meeting of the Policy Board will be held on **January 26**. Currently the articles of agreement are being approved to determine which Policy Board members will be voting members.



Staff celebrate Hall of Fame teambuilding event

1984

Bob Kraymer was a 'new' employee multiple times over ECIA's history. The running joke was that we would have a retirement party for him but then we would need him to fill in somewhere. Rest in peace, Bob, you were a wonderful human being and a joy to have around the office.

NEW EMPLOYEE



Robert F. Kraymer joins ECIA in the Transportation Department. Bob will serve as senior transportation planner and will be responsible for supervision of the "3-C", multi-modal transportation planning process for the Dubuque metropolitan area; for the **Regional Transit Development Plan** which serves the counties of Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson, and for all transit planning for the **Clinton Municipal Transit Authority** in Clinton, Iowa.

Bob has many years of active, organizational involvement in area transportation planning including the Rail Task Force with the **Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce**; the **DMATS Citizen and Rail Advisory Committees**; the **Tri State Transportation Club, Inc.**, and the **521st Association**.

Prior to joining ECIA, Bob was employed as traffic manager at the John Deere Company in Dubuque. He retired from Deere in November 1984 after 32 years of service.

Where does the time go? Well, instead of discussing where we've been and how far we've come, we thought this pictorial of highlights through the years would tell the story.

rsary 2001

Kelley Hutton Deutmeyer Returns



Kelley Hutton Deutmeyer has recently been employed as the Housing Supervisor at ECIA. Kelley left the same position in 1992 to relocate to Wisconsin, but came back to Dubuque three years ago. When Jerelyn O'Connor made the move to the City of Dubuque, Kelley applied, interviewed, and was rehired.

Kelley is supervising the programs of the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority, and a staff of eight persons working with elderly and families on the Section 8 rental assistance and public housing programs. In addition to working for ECIA from 1984 to 1992, Kelley worked for the Kansas City Public Housing Authority as the Tenant Selection Coordinator; Community Action, Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties in Wisconsin as the Director of Housing and Community Development; and most recently with Clarke College in Dubuque as the Director of Grant Proposals.

Welcome back Kelley!

From L-R, Mark Schneider, Dave Leary, and Larry Nagle, grilling for the staff cookout.



2013

2012



An example of the hundreds of millions of dollars ECIA has secured for communities over the years for transportation, recreation, housing, community development, programming, etc. projects.

2022



2018



between and Christmas every year, along with other s.



State officials have supported many of ECIA projects in the region. Pictured above with new homeowners at the Maquoketa pocket neighborhood, Debi Durham, Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA). Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg on a Delaware County tour with a stop at two projects in Delhi.

2023



Below are some fun facts about ECIA over the years:

- ECIA has had three executive directors with Kelley Deutmeyer's career spanning about half of ECIA's lifetime.
- ECIA began with five employees and currently has 48 employees.
- When ECIA began, it had one program; now it has 15.



RTA Helps Multicultural Family Center

The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) provides affordable, demand-response transportation in the cities, communities and rural areas of Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson Counties, enhancing the quality of life for those without transportation. Contracting with East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) for management services and office space, RTA staff manage a fleet of 30 light duty buses and accessible minivans, all equipped to accommodate the public, including children, elderly, and people with disabilities. The non-profit transit service provides 100,000 annual passenger trips serving over 2,500 individuals in the three-county region.

The RTA's services are based on the demand of their clients. Recently, the RTA partnered with the Multicultural Family Center to take their clients to the University of Dubuque. Bailey Galle, AmeriCorps Academic Advocate, Multicultural Family Center City of Dubuque AmeriCorps Program had this to say about the partnership, "We are loving being able to use RTA. Having access to transportation has opened a lot of doors in what we can provide for the youth we serve, and we are so excited to go on more field trips in the future.

So far, we have been able to go to a Fighting Saints hockey game and to the University of Dubuque Heritage Center to watch a Black violinist perform. Both field trips were firsts for so many of our teens and we are so happy that we can offer these experiences for free because of valuable partnerships like this. Our drivers are always so nice, and Stacie Scott is so great to work with. I cannot say enough positive things about this service!"

For more information on RTA's services, please visit <https://www.rta8.org/>.



CSEI Awarded HUD's FY23 CoC Grant

Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa (CSEI) was chosen to receive the Continuum of Care Competition (CoC) Homeless Assistance Grant renewal funding for their Rapid Rehousing (RRH) program. CSEI will receive \$254,556 over a 12-month period to build on the program they started in 2022.

CoC grant funding supports a broad array of interventions designed to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness, particularly those living in places not meant for habitation, located in sheltering programs, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

Jennifer Walker, Director of Special Programs ECIA/CSEI said, "This funding has been critical for people in our area experiencing homelessness. The need for housing assistance continues to outpace the funding CSEI has, so we are glad to be able to renew this grant. We are seeing some really good outcomes for the families we can get into affordable housing and provide them with case management assistance. The two services go hand-in-hand in this grant, and that makes a big difference."



Input Needed for Safety Plan

The ECIA Transportation Department is working on a Transportation Safety Plan for the cities in our region. Two surveys have been developed to collect public input for the plan. Everyone is encouraged to complete both surveys multiple times for as many cities and locations as they wish. Please share the survey links with others who are interested in improving transportation safety.

The Transportation Safety Concern Mapping Tool is the format for submitting your transportation safety concerns for specific locations. The map can be used to report a safety concern or provide a safety improvement idea for a specific location.



Take the Transportation Safety Survey to provide your thoughts on transportation safety in your community. Both surveys and an instructional video on the mapping tool can be found here: <https://eciatrans.org/transportation-safety-plan/surveys.php>.

Signature Brownfield Event

From fixer to fabulous, learn how to transform your community's obstacles into opportunities. Join local, state, and federal partners as they share free tools, resources, financial assistance programs and project examples that will help your community's next redevelopment project.

Who should attend?

Local government officials, key community stakeholders, economic and community development organizations, not-for-profits, community groups, private citizens, and others working to promote community revitalization.

When?

Thu, Apr 11, 2024, 8:45am - 3:00pm CDT (lunch provided)

Where?

Monticello City Council Chambers, 200 E 1st St., Monticello, IA

For agenda and to register visit: <https://tinyurl.com/Brownfield-Workshop>.





Finance 101 & FY25 Budget Trainings, and More!

It's budget time, so ECIA offered four training sessions providing an overview of city government financing and budgeting. Partially funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Community Development Initiative (USDA RCDI), ECIA partnered with Iowa League of Cities' Teresa Rotschafer who addressed the state-imposed limitations on property taxes, the impacts of inflation, and the difficult choices cities are facing. She provided suggestions for balancing the city budget in 2024 and discussed ways to cut services, reduce costs, or enhance city revenues.

Three in-person training sessions were held across the ECIA region and one virtual training, with over 48 participants. If you were unable to attend one of these sessions but are interested, a recording of the virtual training has been posted to ECIA's website along with other recordings. You will also find a list and calendar view of upcoming events and trainings.

Please reach out to Tricia Wagner, twagner@ecia.org 563.690.5770 if you are interested in an on-site training for a specific topic to help your community, or with ideas for future group trainings!

Upcoming Lead Safe Trainings Available!

April is Healthy Homes month and to help promote the concept ECIA has scheduled several training for area contractors. Lead safe renovator training is an 8-hour training that will be held April 22, 2024. In addition ECIA has scheduled an initial lead abatement worker class June 3 – 5 and initial lead abatement contractor class June 3 – 7, 2024. Spread the work to your contractors and landlords! All training will take place at ECIA, 7600 Commerce Park, Dubuque. For more information contact Liz Kemp, ekemp@ecia.org or call 563-690-5720.

Cheerful ECIA Receptionist Retires

A familiar face at ECIA's front desk, Linda Murray, Receptionist is retiring after more than 4.5 years. Linda started with ECIA on June 30, 2019, and her last day of work will be April 10, 2024. From answering phone calls and walk-in inquiries from our region, to assisting the homelessness program in helping people experiencing food insecurities during the COVID pandemic, and to tracking news articles for staff and compiling spreadsheets, Linda has always been eager to lend a helping hand.

Holly McPherson, Director Human Resources & Program Development stated, "Thank you Linda for your 4.5 years of service! It's been a pleasure to work with you."



Recent ECIA Anniversaries:



Dan Fox - 14 years on
February 11, 2024



Kim Glaser - 5 years on
January 7, 2024



Kristi Oberhoffer – 2
years on March 21,
2024



Nuisance Abatement Program



ECIA can help clean up your community



Delhi property before and after

A nuisance property creates serious problems for the community and headaches for the city officials who must deal with it. If left to deteriorate, these blighted properties become a chronic drain on time and resources for cities and counties. In 2019, ECIA launched a nuisance abatement program to assist cities and counties with their nuisance property enforcement and has had great success at an affordable cost.

For program details, contact Marla Quinn, Grants and Municipal Coordinator at 563-690-5703

www.ecia.org • 7600 Commerce Park Dubuque, IA 52002 • 563-556-4166