



Upcoming Events

December 3, 2009

Establishing a Stormwater Utility.
Register/more information [here](#)

December 8, 2009

Construction Site Inspector Training (stormwater).
Register/more information [here](#)

December 9 & 10, 2009

Water Operator Lab Workshop.
Note: Registration is full

Running-Marquardt is new Iowa House 33 legislator

◆ In a special election held November 24, Kirsten Running-Marquardt won the Iowa House District 33 seat. She replaces Dick Taylor, who resigned from the legislature earlier this fall. A Democrat, she soundly defeated Republican Joshua Thurston, winning by a margin of more than 75 percent.

Running-Marquardt, 32, is a resident of Cedar Rapids and is employed by Democratic Senator Dave Loebsack's Cedar Rapids office. Her father is Rich Running, who represented part of the same district in the Iowa House for four consecutive terms and has also served as a state senator. District 33 is in Linn County and includes portions of Cedar Rapids.



Running-Marquardt is pictured with House Speaker Pat Murphy (left) and Rep. Dick Taylor, whom she replaces.

New program deals with drugs in state water supplies



◆ Pharmaceuticals are an emerging contaminant group in public water supply source waters. A new pilot program, the TakeAway™ program, launched by the Iowa Pharmaceuticals Association, provides a disposal mechanism for unwanted prescription and non-prescription pharmaceuticals. It involves a return program at participating pharmacies, as a safe alternative to flushing and landfill disposal options previously available. Iowans can now properly dispose of unused and expired over-the-counter and prescription medications at participating pharmacies through the TakeAway™ program.



Medications improperly disposed of can pose the risk of accidental ingestion if left in the house. Disposing medications down the toilet or drain can potentially contaminate rivers and lakes since most wastewater treatment plants and septic systems are not able to remove pharmaceutical chemicals.

More than 300 pharmacies in 96 of the state's 99 counties are participating in the TakeAway™ pilot program, funded by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP).

Through the SWAP grant, pharmacies received the TakeAway drop-off system at no charge for Iowans to conveniently return unwanted medications for free during the pilot period.

Not all medications are acceptable for the program. To review a list of acceptable and unacceptable items, to locate a participating pharmacy in your community and for more details about the program, go to www.iarx.org/takeaway.

State climate change council hears research summary



◆ The Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council (ICCAC) held a meeting Tuesday, November 24 to discuss issues related to the "Olson" amendment, which passed during the 2009 Iowa legislative session. The amendment required an analysis by the Regents Institutions of the potential impact of climate change on Iowa.

ICCAC Chairperson Dr. Jerry Schnoor, co-director of the Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research at the University of Iowa, reviewed Dr. Eugene S. Takle's **White Paper** entitled "Assessment of Potential Impacts of Climate Changes on Iowa Using Current Trends and Future Projections."

Dr. Schnoor summarized the research and came to the conclusion that meteorological and stream discharge measurements during the past 100+ years show that our climate is already changing in Iowa. Specifically, Iowa is warmer (especially in winter), wetter, and milder (in both winter and summer), has more high intensity precipitation events with more runoff in streams, has higher dew point temperatures, more humidity, warmer nights, a longer growing season and less energy requirements for heat in winter and air conditioning in summer. Further meetings to discuss additional research are planned.

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