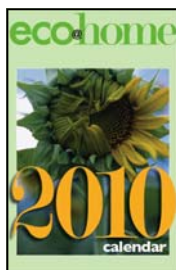




Upcoming Events

**October 21 & November 5, 2009
Rainscaping Rain Gardens: New
Hartford Community Center (Oct.
21); F.W. Kent Park, Johnson
County (Nov. 5). More information
here**

**November 17 — 19, 2009
Annual Water/Wastewater Opera-
tor Conference, Holiday Inn North-
west, Des Moines. Early discount
registration deadline Nov. 2. Reg-
ister/more information here**



**eco@home 2010
calendars are
now available.**

**Click here or
contact Sandy
Longfellow at
800-810-4268.**

Special election set to replace Rep. Dick Taylor



**Rep. Dick
Taylor**

◆ **Governor Culver
has signed a procla-
mation setting
Tuesday, November
24 as the date for a
special election in
House District 33
to replace State**

**Representative Dick Taylor, who
recently announced his resigna-
tion from the Iowa House.**

Taylor, 78, has held the seat since 2000. Democrats hold a 56-44 margin in the House, and the special election will hold a challenge for Republicans, as Democrats consider the district to be one of the 10 most Democratically-leaning districts in the state. District 33 is located in Linn County and includes portions of Cedar Rapids.

West Union to become model city for green energy



◆ **The IAMU member city of West Union is set to make history by be-
coming a cutting edge example of green energy planning.** Governor
Culver has announced the awarding of a \$1 million grant to the city to
establish an innovative geothermal district-wide heating and cooling sys-
tem (DHCS) and a radiant-heat snow-melt system.

West Union's planned renovation of six blocks of downtown infrastructure is called West Union Green Pilot Project. The awards were made through the Community Block Development Block Grants (CDBG) Downtown Revitalization Fund and Community Sustainability program.

The community will replace aging infrastructure such as water, storm and sanitary sewers, streets, sidewalks and lights using environmentally friendly materials. The city also intends to complete a six block green streetscape including reconstruction of the streets and sidewalks from store front to store front. Porous pavement, rainwater harvesting and reuse, rain gardens and bioswales for stormwater retention will make the project green and sustainable. Geothermal conduits, radiant snow melt infrastructure and energy efficient street lighting will be installed.



No other community in the country will have integrated as many green infrastructure practices in one place and at one time as West Union. The city was named one of Iowa's two Green Pilot Communities by the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

The Iowa Green Streets Criteria promote public health, energy efficiency, water conservation, smart locations, operational savings and sustainable building practices. The Iowa Green Streets Criteria apply to Iowa Department of Economic Development Housing Fund, Community Development Block Grant Program Community Facilities and Services Fund, and Main Street Iowa Challenge Grant projects. As a result, the strategies enhance affordable housing, community facilities, town centers and communities as a whole.

Senate panel OKs FERC nomination for John Norris



John Norris

◆ **The U.S. Senate energy committee has approved the nomination of John R.
Norris to a seat on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).** His
nomination will require approval by the U.S. Senate.

Norris is a former chair of the Iowa Utilities Board and has served as Chief of Staff for Secretary Tom Vilsack at the U.S. Department of Agriculture after leaving the IUB position. Norris' resume also includes being a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), where he worked on the Electricity Committee and was Co-Chair of the 2009 National Electricity Delivery Forum. He served as a Board Member, Secretary and President of the Organization of Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) States as well as Chairman of the MISO Demand Response Working Group. He also was a member of the FERC/NARUC Demand Response Collaborative. Norris was on the Board of Directors of the National Regulatory Research Institute, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Power Fund and served on the Advisory Councils of the Iowa Energy Center, the Financial Research Institute for the University of Missouri College of Business and the Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research at the University of Iowa. In 1999 and 2000 he was Chairman of the Iowa Electric Restructuring Task Force while serving as Chief of Staff for then Iowa Governor Vilsack.



Clean water newsletter can come to your email inbox



◆ Current topics and valuable resource information can be found in *Clean Water*

Starts With Us, a quarterly electronic newsletter dedicated to improving water quality in Iowa.

The collaborative publication involves the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Division of Soil Conservation and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The newsletter (including back issues) can be accessed [here](#). Individuals can be added to the distribution list by sending a blank email to join-clean_water@lists.ia.gov.

Video stresses public help in recognizing terrorism



◆ The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has unveiled a new video called “Recognizing 8 Signs of Terrorism.” It was produced with DHS grant funding for the State of Colorado, but the information is applicable to all states. The roughly eight-minute video was designed to educate the public about the shared responsibility of recognizing signs of terrorist activity.

The CELL – The Center for Empowered Living & Learning – a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the global threat of terrorism, was one of several agencies in a joint partnership for creation of the video. It can be viewed at www.thecell.org.

New source for water/wastewater funding assistance



◆ Iowa’s water and wastewater infrastructure funding agencies have released a joint document detailing various sources available to fund improvements and to help communities determine which source to pursue. A link to this document has been placed on the home page of the IAMU website, www.iamu.org.

The United States Department of Agriculture, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Finance Authority and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources are all included. Eligible applicants and projects, amount of funding available, priorities, deadlines, contact information and more is included for each resource.

DNR grant program aims at urban water improvement



◆ The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has begun taking applications for a new grant program aimed at helping to improve urban water quality while creating jobs for Iowans. Governor Culver and the DNR are encouraging cities, schools, businesses and other groups to apply for the I-JOBS Green Urban Stormwater program. I-JOBS, the Culver-Judge job and infrastructure initiative, includes \$80 million in funds for water quality and environmental projects.

The DNR will give special consideration to applications from the Cedar and Iowa river basins, which were both heavily hit by the 2008 floods.

To apply, visit www.iowadnr.gov/rfp.html and click on “I-JOBS Improves Green Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices.” Applications are due by 4:30 p.m., December 1, 2009.

Iowa Energy Poster Contest: great tool for utilities



◆ It’s time for your utility to plan for the annual Iowa Energy Poster Contest.

Each year the Center for Energy & Environmental Education (CEEE) and the Iowa Energy Center sponsor the statewide contest for students in grades 1 – 6, to help promote energy awareness. Two winners from each grade statewide are selected and receive a plaque and a \$100 savings bond. The winning posters are displayed at the State Capitol and also exhibited throughout the state as part of a traveling energy art gallery.

Municipal utilities are ideal local sponsors of the Energy Poster Contest, and it is an excellent opportunity to enhance your community relations



This entry by Madison K. of Fairfield was one of the overall winners in the 2009 Energy Poster Contest.

and energy awareness efforts. Individual utilities tailor their sponsorship to meet their needs, and sponsorship can often be done for a minimal cost. Utilities often partner with administrators and teachers in their local school district to coordinate the program. CEEE can provide guidance in organizing the contest. Winning posters must be sent to CEEE no later than March 1, 2010.



For more information contact Angela Wichtendahl at 319-273-2560 or jrsolarsprint@uni.edu.

The IAMU *Informer* is an electronic publication of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

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