

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

APRIL 2007

M E T R O P O L I T A N A R E A P L A N N I N G A G E N C Y

2006 County Population Estimates Released

The Census Bureau released the July 1, 2006 population estimates for counties on March 22, after the March What's Happening went to press. The table here shows the latest numbers along with the July 1, 2005 estimates and the April 1, 2000 Census population. Each year, the Census Bureau revises the estimates for all previous years except the 2000 Census, therefore the county estimates you have now for 2005 will be different than these shown here. These numbers should now be used until the new estimates come out next year. The July 1, 2006 jurisdiction estimates will be released this summer.

Geographic Area	July 1, 2006 Estimate	July 1, 2005 Estimate	April 1, 2000 Census	2000-2006 # Change	2000-2006 % Change
Douglas County NE	492,003	486,854	463,585	28,418	6.1
Sarpy County NE	142,637	139,245	122,595	20,042	16.3
Washington County NE	20,044	19,828	18,780	1,264	6.7
Mills County IA	15,595	15,255	14,547	1,048	7.2
Pottawattamie County IA	90,218	89,673	87,803	2,415	2.8
MAPA Region	760,497	750,855	707,310	53,187	7.5
Cass County NE	25,963	25,777	24,334	1,629	6.7
Saunders County NE	20,344	20,439	19,830	514	2.6
Harrison County IA	15,745	15,759	15,666	79	0.5
Omaha NE-Council Bluffs IA MSA*	822,549	812,830	767,140	55,409	7.2
Iowa	2,982,085	2,965,524	2,926,324	55,761	1.9
Nebraska	1,768,331	1,758,163	1,711,263	57,068	3.3

*All eight counties listed in the table comprise the MSA. The MAPA region consists of the first five counties listed.

Join 2007 Mayor's Bicycle Ride

Everyone that can do so is being asked to join Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey and Bikeable Communities! in a ride to promote cycling in the metro area. The ride will be held May 14 beginning at 8:00 a.m. and is part of National Bike To Work Week, May 14-18. Riders can participate in the two-mile short ride from 20th and Charles Street to the Qwest Center and back or in the longer ride from 20th and Charles Street to the Qwest Center, on to Farnam Street to Happy Hollow Boulevard near Elmwood Park and back downtown on Leavenworth Street.

The ride kicks off the 2nd Annual Omaha Metro Bicycle Commuter Challenge, which will end with the 17th Annual Corporate Cycling Challenge on August 19. The challenge is a project of Activate Omaha in collaboration with WELCOM and Bikeable Communities! to promote exercise and awareness of cycling through friendly competition among workplaces. Last year 306 individuals from 27 teams participated in the challenge and logged over 77,000 miles. For more information go to www.activateomaha.org and click on cycling.



Committee tours MUD plant

Donning hard hats and safety gear, members of the MAPA Data Resources Committee were provided with a rare opportunity recently when they were given a tour of MUD's Platte West Treatment Plant now under construction at 216th and Q Streets. The plant is MUD's third water treatment plant and, when complete and on-line in June 2008, will add 100 million gallons per day (MGD) to MUD's existing pumping capacity of 234 million gallons per day. MUD's other plants are the Florence Treatment Plant in north Omaha near Florence, in service since 1889, and the Platte South Treatment Plant on the Platte River south of Omaha near LaPlatte, in service since 1968.

The \$352 million water treatment plant will be as long as three football fields and cover 630,511 square feet when complete. Water will be supplied by 26 wells located on 1,190 acres in Saunders County and 16 wells on 1,040 acres in Douglas County. The plant has been designed to meet Omaha's westward expansion. For more information about the plant and MUD go to www.mudomaha.com.

Fluffy trash makes Lake Clean-up 2007 easier



The "fluffy trash" the nearly 200 volunteers who participated in the Third Annual Clean-Up of Carter Lake on Saturday, April 14th collected was quite a change from the types of trash collected in the past two clean-ups.

"Fluffy trash" was the term used by one of the volunteers to describe the kinds of stuff - paper, cans and other litter - picked up around the four miles of Carter Lake shoreline. This "fluffy

trash" was markedly different from the overwhelming amount of junk pulled from the lake in the past two clean ups - hundreds of tires, dozens of barrels, and tons of glass, metal, and other types of junk dumped in and around the lake. This year, the trash was predominantly sprinkled around the shoreline.

The amount of trash in the lake was also down considerably and the volunteers spent less time cleaning their designated areas. In 2005 and 2006, the

clean up was a day-long event, with parts of the shoreline not even covered because of all the trash in the lake, but this year, the volunteers had finished combing the entire shoreline in three hours. The trash was much lighter and easier for the volunteers to pick up and to stuff into their collection bags because it was "fluffy". The truck drivers made fewer trips to the dumpsters provided by the City of Omaha and the dumpsters filled less quickly.

Carter Lake Preservation Society President, Jeanne Eibes summed it up this way: "I believe we have finally turned the corner. People are now aware of the efforts of the Carter Lake Preservation Society and are responding positively to our message to 'Save the Lake'. Our efforts are finally making a difference and people are showing more respect for the lake. The amount of trash and litter is down considerably - I consider this a very good sign."

Committee meetings yield ideas

Three Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan committees met and discussed types of coordinated transportation projects that could be developed to better serve the elderly, disabled, and low income populations, ways to get the word out about the necessity for coordinated transportation, and review criteria for coordinated projects that will be developed. Many ideas were presented that will be incorporated into the draft plan, which will be discussed at the general committee meeting May 10.

The Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan is being developed in response to a requirement in the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act-a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) that states that each state and metro area must have a coordinated plan developed by users and providers. The plan must be in place before any project is approved under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant programs - 5310-Elderly Individuals and Individuals with

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Disabilities; 5316-Job Access and Reverse Commute; and 5317-New Freedom. Specific dollar amounts have been allocated to the metro area and as soon as the plan is finalized and approved by the MAPA Board of Directors and meets FTA guidelines, projects can be submitted for funding.

The next meeting, which will be held May 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the MAPA offices, is open to the public. All input is important. If you are unable to attend, the draft plan will be available on the MAPA web site, www.mapacog.org and comments will be taken in writing, by e-mail to pjesse@mapacog.org, or by telephone, 444-6866. For more information about the plan and/or the grants, please call Pat Jesse at 444-6866, Ext. 224.

Can small towns be “cool”?

Suggestions for ways towns could become “cool” (not weather cool, but growth and sustainability cool) were demonstrated in a web-based seminar sponsored by Michigan State University and hosted by MAPA. Examples were presented of success themes among “cool” small communities. They were chosen from 225 communities in nine states that were part of a study conducted by the Michigan State University Land Policy Program. Major themes leading to success were:

- Strong engagement among citizens, community organizations and government
- Realistic appraisal of future land use opportunities
- Active pursuit of cultural economic development opportunities
- Cultural efforts that were authentic and not overly contrived
- Cultural efforts that reach out to community youth
- Deliberate effort to engage youth
- Dedicated effort to preserve heritage
- Attention to natural amenities
- Local entrepreneurial investment in community
- Willingness to seek help from the outside

And to top everything off was the conviction of all “cool” communities that in the long run, you have to do it yourself. Thriving communities work at it and don’t give up, they agreed. Thriving communities continually learn and always have an eye to the future. Success breeds success!

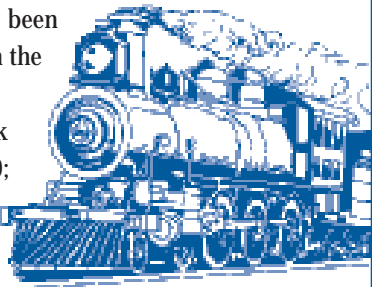
Workshop provides LUCA overview

The Census Bureau has been getting ready for the 2010 Census almost since the last census was conducted in 2000. One of the important procedures undertaken in preparation for the census is the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). This program allows tribal, state and local governments to help update the Census Bureau’s Address List so that a more accurate census count can be achieved in April 2010. A LUCA workshop outlining a choice of several procedures local jurisdictions may use to update the Census Bureau’s address lists was held at MAPA in April. A training workshop on the specific procedures to follow in updating the lists will be held later this year.

A very good guide on LUCA was distributed at the workshop. MAPA has extra copies of the guide plus a CD on software that can be used to assist in the updates. Contact either James Gerjevic or Pat Jesse at MAPA if you were unable to attend the meeting and would like copies.

Train restoration and museum project receives funding

A project that will restore the little Watson Steam Train in Missouri Valley has received \$175,000 in Transportation Enhancement funding toward the total project cost of \$325,000. The project includes completely restoring the scale version of an historic 1948 Ottoway Steam Train, which has been running in the Missouri Valley Park since 1950; building a new train station to house a museum; purchasing additional track; adding lighting; and more.



Missouri Valley is part of the Rural Planning Affiliation-18 (RPA-18) in Iowa, one of 18 transportation planning groups in Iowa formed by the state of Iowa to better coordinate and prioritize federal funding for rural transportation projects. MAPA is the administrator.

CALENDAR

May

16...6:00 p.m. – Council of Officials

23...8:30 a.m. – Finance Committee
3:00 p.m. – Project Review

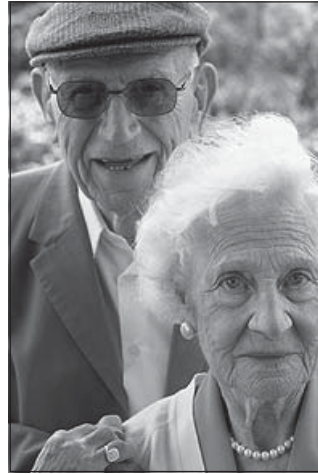
25...10:00 a.m. – Transportation

28...Memorial Day
MAPA Offices Closed

31...1:30 p.m. – Board of Directors

Region Scene

May is both *Older Americans Month* and *Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month*. Older Americans Month has been observed since 1963 when President Kennedy proclaimed May “Senior Citizens Month”. President Carter changed it to “Older Americans Month” in 1980. In 1992, Congress expanded a 10-day Asian/Pacific American observance established in 1978 to a monthlong celebration. As of July 2005, there were 36.5 million people 65 or older in the United States. And as of July 2005, there were 14.4 million U.S. residents who said they were Asian or Asian in combination with one or more races.



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