

THE KIRPC NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Renewable energy sources</i>	2
<i>Transportation Conference</i>	2
<i>Head Start move in Pulaski Co.</i>	2
<i>Storm damages school building</i>	3
<i>Dedication ceremony in Jasper Co</i>	3
<i>INDOT stakeholder meeting</i>	3
<i>Lake Bruce CFF Grant</i>	4

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RENSSELAER WATER PROJECT AWARDED A COMMUNITY FOCUS FUND GRANT

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman awarded the City of Rensselaer a \$517,650 Community Focus Fund Grant during an awards ceremony on May 31, 2007 in the Indiana State House.

The city had contacted KIRPC regarding writing the application and administering the grant in the fall of 2006.

According to Mayor Arihood, the project will allow the city to dig a new well and connect it to the water treatment plant. A test well has been dug at the proposed site and the test results show that there is plenty of water at the site and it is clean.

The project will also allow for an increase in the supply of water to the city and will alleviate concerns about the declining capacity of the other wells. Therefore, an additional aim of the project was to be proactive and prevent major problems for residents before they occur.

Additional short term benefits will also include fire safety. This project will insure that the fire department has adequate water to fight fires when they occur in the city.

The long term benefit will be



The representatives from KIRPC and the City of Rensselaer accept the award from Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman

the continued growth and development of the community. Without a new well, the city would have been unable to accommodate the growth that is occurring in the area. They would not have been able to extend city water service to new growth areas and new industry could not have been provided city water.

Construction of the new well includes a 12" well dug to the depth of 400 feet and a well house at the site.

"When Governor Daniels and I took office, we made a commitment to dedicate resources to help rural Indiana build on its strengths," said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. "The Community Focus Funds are just one of the many resources and tools we believe rural communities can use to help Indiana work toward economic prosperity."

KIRPC congratulates the city on their award.

THE TOWNS OF WHEATFIELD, SAN PIERRE, AND KNOX AWARDED FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs recently awarded planning grants to the towns of Wheatfield, San Pierre, and Knox to fund future development within their communities. KIRPC wrote and will administer the grants.

The Wheatfield Comprehensive Plan Project will study community

demographics, transportation, housing, public and environmental infrastructure, recreation, economic development, central business district, land use, and quality of life.

The San Pierre study will assemble and analyze demographic and economic data, transportation data, growth issues, and identify

community assets.

The Knox grant will fund a utility master plan for the wastewater and storm utilities in the city of Knox. The scope will include an inventory of the existing system and evaluate the present facilities. The plan will provide recommended improvements to the system.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SKILLMAN CALLS FOR IMPROVED ENERGY EFFICIENCY

"In this day and age, we live in an electronic world where power-generated technology is everywhere. In Reynolds, the BioTown, USA project is thriving."

*Becky Skillman,
Lt. Governor, State of
Indiana*

"The EXPO brings together our federal and state partners in our effort to extend community and public transportation to every American."

*Dale Marsico, CCTM,
Community Transportation
Newsletter Publisher*

"Five honor roll students in the 4th grade at Eastern Pulaski Elementary School were former Head Start students."

*Belinda Gutwein, KIRPC
Head Start Director*

In a recent article in the March 2007 Indiana Housing & Community newsletter, Lt Governor Becky Skillman noted that in this day and age, we live in an electronic world where power-generated technology is everywhere. All around us are televisions, computers, and video games, just to name a few and the need for energy efficiency and conservation has never been greater or clearer.

As demand for electricity grows, so does the need for more energy sources. Here in Indiana we are adapting by installing new facilities such as a clean coal technology plant in Edwardsport and a synthetic natural gas plant in Southwest-

ern Indiana. In addition, we are developing the technology to turn municipal and animal waste into usable energy in Reynolds, Indiana.

In Reynolds, the BioTown, USA project is thriving. It is the nation's first community dedicated to finding ways to meet all its energy needs through renewable resources. This month ground was broken on Phase II of the project, showcasing the technology suite the town will use to generate electricity.

Improving energy efficiency is a critical component to lowering the price of electricity. As consumers, we can

help by using ENERGY STAR appliances, switching to compact fluorescent bulbs, and weatherizing our homes.

Lt. Governor Skillman emphasizes that it is all tied together. Seeking alternative energy sources while lowering our energy consumption will create a better atmosphere for the consumer, for the business owner, and for all Hoosiers.

KIRPC is currently working with the town of Reynolds to apply for a CFF grant to address expansion to the town's wastewater treatment plant. If the grant is awarded by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, funding could come by December.

CTAA HOSTS NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE IN RENO, NEVADA

From lobbying Congress, to making presentations to state transit associations, to providing in-depth technical assistance at local public and community transportation systems, the Community Transportation Association of America is everywhere helping to improve mobility for all Americans.

Therefore, at the CTAA EXPO in Reno, Nevada, a wealth of

information was presented to attendees throughout the country regarding transportation systems.

KIRPC is Grantee and Administrator of Arrowhead Country Public Transit, and has contracted for provision of service with community service agencies in the counties of Jasper, Pulaski, and Starke for the past twenty years. The transit service is funded through the Federal Transportation Administra-

tion and INDOT.

CTAA supports Arrowhead Country Public Transit by being our voice in Washington, by offering outstanding training and certification programs, and by providing technical assistance and timely resources to help address problems. Effective public and community transportation contributes mightily to the quality of life for our people.

KIRPC HEAD START IN PULASKI COUNTY MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

The Head Start/PACE Preschool classroom at West Central Elementary School was moved on May 31, 2007 due to space needs at the school. The new location is at the Gutwein Milling Company office building on South Bill street in Francesville.

The building is owned by Humanitarian Distribution Center, Inc., which has "transformed a donated warehouse into a place that will receive donations of food

from individuals and businesses both locally and nationwide." HDC will distribute these donations at no charge to qualified food pantries and soup kitchens", according to Belinda Gutwein, **KIRPC** Head Start Director.

Head Start/PACE Preschool was fortunate that this new partnership was formed so that services could continue on the west side of Pulaski County for an additional year. The PACE Preschool funds will end May 2008 under the CAPE III Grant through Eli Lilly unless additional

funding sources can be identified.

On a related note, Head Start teacher Sarah Beck of Winamac, was delighted to hear that Honor Roll Awards at Eastern Pulaski County for the 4th graders included five of her former students. In addition, two of the top three spelling bee champs were also her former Head Start students. What a wonderful partnership that lasts beyond the preschool years!

KIRPC HEAD START RECOVERS FROM WEATHER DAMAGES TO CLASSROOMS

Extreme temperatures led to broken pipes and extensive damage at the Generation Center building in Roselawn (Newton County) during the night of February 6, 2007.

KIRPC Head Start operates the Head Start program in the building, and the damage left approximately 32 children without a classroom.

Ameri-Clean from Valparaiso was contracted to draw up the water and dry the building out. The entire building was damaged from an estimated 30,000 gallons of water.

The insurance company has yet to determine the loss to **KIRPC** Head Start, but indicated that the loss would be covered, including computers.

In the meantime, North Newton School Corporation was contacted regarding empty rooms to rent at the Lincoln Elementary School next door to the Generation Center building. A proposal was developed by Belinda Gutwein, **KIRPC** Head Start Director, and presented to the school corporation to rent two side by side rooms in the kindergarten wing of the school through the end of May 2007. Fortunately, the proposal was accepted and classes were resumed with very little interruption or down time.

KIRPC Head Start is appreciative of the cooperation extended by Lincoln Elementary School principal Jennifer Faust, as well as by the North Newton School Corporation as a whole.

Once the damages were assessed, the repairs took four months to complete.

Subsequent discussions between Newton County and **KIRPC** Head Start led to the decision to return to the Generation Center building at the end of May, and classes resumed on June 11, 2007 for the children.

KIRPC Head Start extends an appreciation to all parties for their patience and support during a stressful event which required community support to rectify.

Belinda Gutwein, **KIRPC** Head Start Director stated, "we cannot thank the North Newton School Corporation enough for partnering with us in our time of need."

"We cannot thank North Newton School Corporation enough for partnering with us in our time of need. They literally rescued the Head Start program by allowing us to occupy classroom space and to provide for food and support services."

*Belinda Gutwein, KIRPC
Head Start Director*

JASPER COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC., AND KIRPC DEDICATE A NEW MINI VAN

On a blustery, rainy day last April, officials of Jasper County Community Services and **KIRPC** dedicated a new 2007 Dodge Caravan mini van. The mini van will be utilized in the Arrowhead Country Public Transit Service.

Ceremony participants were Kelly Bauer, JCCS; Sharon Colee, JCCS; Ed Polletta and Will Chevrette, JCCS Board members; Randy Mitchell and Tari

Bateman with **KIRPC**.

The new mini van was obtained through a grant application prepared by **KIRPC** on behalf of Arrowhead Country Public Transit Service, Inc. Arrowhead is a transportation Partnership serviced by Jasper County Community Services, Inc., Pulaski County Human Services, Inc., and Community Services of Starke County, Inc.



JCCS & KIRPC officials cut ribbon at dedication ceremony in Rensselaer.

"Arrowhead Country Transit and JCCS work together to provide safe, reliable and efficient transportation to our area residents. Our partnership will continue to move forward providing transportation to those in need."

*Kelly Bauer, JCCS
Transportation Director*

KIRPC Hosts INDOT STAKEHOLDER MEETING

KIRPC recently hosted a regional conference including public, private, and non-profit transportation services, human services providers, and the general public.

Attendees from Newton, Jasper, Pulaski, and Starke counties gathered in Monon, Indiana on June 28, 2007 to begin the process of developing a public transit—human services coordinated transportation plan. The meeting was facilitated by Bill Djubek from RLS & Associates, Inc., and INDOT, Office of Transit.

INDOT has been mandated to develop a statewide coordination plan by the end of 2007. This is a result of a study that disclosed sixty-two different federal funding programs from eight different federal funding agencies. Currently there is little or no coordination of programs and various levels of duplication and program resources.

The goals of the meeting were to 1) identify existing needs for transportation, 2) identify existing services, 3) identify service gaps and/or duplication of services, and 4) identify possible alterna-

tives for coordination. Further discussion surrounded the topics of the existing transportation needs for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with limited incomes. The planned outcome will be to develop a strategy for meeting the needs of the above and to prioritize services.

After the initial focus group meetings are completed throughout the state, RLS & Associates will begin to inventory all existing providers relative to vehicles, hours of operation, and population served.

"INDOT will take the lead in the development of a statewide coordination plan for Indiana. By the end of the year we should have a guide for the identification of service gaps and/or duplication of services."

*James English
Program Manager INDOT*

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SERVING TODAY AND TOMORROW

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KIRPC MISSION STATEMENT

KIRPC is a voluntary public partnership serving Benton, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski, Starke, and White Counties that provides assistance to local units of government to maximize community and economic development opportunities for the benefit of all citizens.

Representation/Governance

The **KIRPC** agency is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of appointees from each member county, city, and incorporated town within the region. At least two-thirds of the membership consists of locally elected officials. While **KIRPC** personnel work in cooperation and coordination with federal, state, and local agencies on behalf of the member units of government, they remain directly responsible to the governing board.

LAKE BRUCE SEWER PROJECT RECEIVES A COMMUNITY FOCUS FUND GRANT

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman awarded the Lake Bruce Conservancy District a \$525,000 Community Focus Fund Grant during an awards ceremony on May 31, 2007 in the Indiana State House.

In 2003, local residents were experiencing problems with their septic systems and started a grass roots movement to have sewers constructed for the lake area. Thus, engineering studies were begun to study the construction of sewers for the area.

In 2006, the Conservancy contacted KIRPC regarding writing the application and administering the grant.

The short term benefit will be stopping the flow of contamination into the lake and the groundwater supply. All waste will be properly treated to insure against further contamination. This will result in a safer and cleaner environment for the residents of Lake Bruce.

Long term benefits will include a cleaner environment and economic development opportuni-



The representatives from KIRPC and the Lake Bruce Conservancy District accept the award from Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman.

ties. Since contamination will be stopped, the lake, groundwater, and soil will eventually cleanse itself and Lake Bruce will be clean for many future generations. This will be beneficial for both residential and commercial growth.

The federally funded Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG) Program awards CFF grants twice a year after competitive funding rounds. During the 1st round of funding this year, 26 Hoosier communities shared in more than \$12 million. The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) administers the Community Focus Fund.