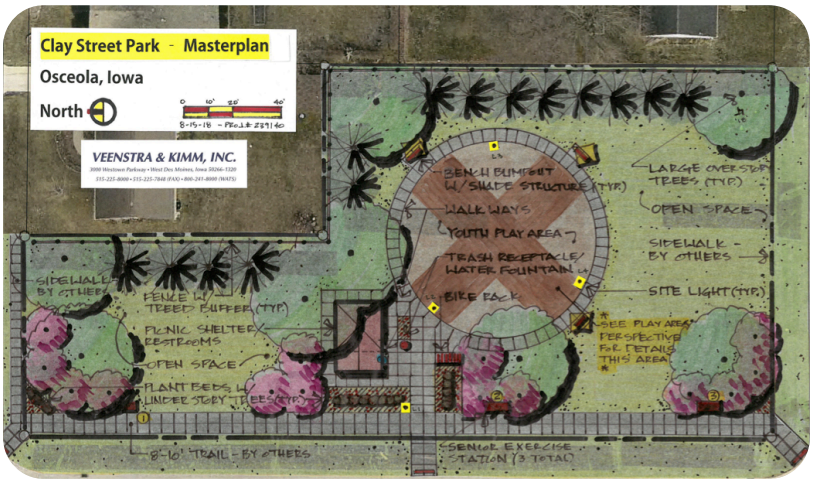
# THE WINDMILL

## Osceola's Clay Park Awarded Two Grants in April - More Grants Are Available




Soon, a new city park will be built in a northeast Osceola neighborhood. Clay Park is named after the street on which it will be located. Needing to find a good use for low-development-potential land that the city acquired in a nuisance abatement effort and recognizing from the City's comprehensive plan that the neighborhood was underserved in terms of recreation, the City hired a firm to design a modern playground and attractive recreational area with a cost of just under a half-million dollars. The City began fundraising and applying for grants for this project. In a unique grantsmanship effort, SICOG and the Clarke County Development Corporation worked to identify who would lead the grant preparation process. SICOG was assigned five of these grants, all of which have been submitted. To date, two of these grants have been awarded (the remaining are pending). The Iowa DNR's Land and Water Conservation Fund made an award of $75,000. This application scored second highest among the nearly twenty applications submitted. A week later, we learned that the Wellmark Foundation awarded the City a $100,000 Large MATCH grant. Only 20% of the submitted Large MATCH applications were funded. Working as a team with the City and CCDC, we anticipate the entire project will be funded by this summer. If you have a...*Continued on page 4*

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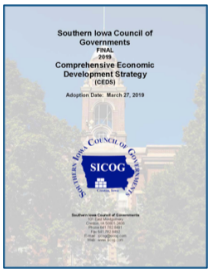
# A View From the First Tee

It occurred to me that with spring comes the turning of our surroundings from brown to green and that I should be the raconteur of good things. As you have read in major newspapers and most likely heard on the media outlets, I have experienced another birthday. As a side note for those who are counting, it was my 63rd birthday. My sainted wife will be enjoying "Mother's Day" and a birthday. She is turning...I was told I couldn't say.

Golf season has begun and I must tell you that I have played more than any year before and my game is okay. In order to feel better about how I play this game called golf, I pledge to play more. For some reason (maybe it is because of my birthday) I just can't hit the ball like I use to.

I would like to highlight two documents that you may be interested in viewing. The first is the "Annual Report 2018" and the second is "CEDS – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy." These can be found on the SICOG web site: **www.sicog.com/publications/**




*As always, if there is anything I can do, please let me know. Our phone number is 641.782.8491. Remember, we are working for you.*

*Timothy Ostroski*

Again, I would like to thank the members of the SICOG County Boards, SICOG Project Boards and the SICOG Executive Board for all their hard work, dedication and commitment to our region over the past year. In addition, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Aaron Price and Karl McCarty for their stellar work. The following were elected as this year's officers:

**Dan Christensen - Chairperson (Decatur County)**

**John Twombly- Vice Chairperson (Adair County)**

**Karen Zabel - Secretary (Taylor County)**

**Ron Riley - Treasurer (Union County)**

Do you have a special housing project in mind? Do you have a special housing project that you think we should find funds for? Contact us with your suggestions for a new program.

In case you didn't notice, for the first time this month we are producing our electronic version of the Windmill in "High Definition," "Blu-Ray" and digital transmission.

I heard from someone that there was a recent survey conducted by five separate state departments related to the performance and effectiveness of the state's council of governments. I am sure that I was told SICOG was ranked the highest in both the performance and effectiveness categories. WOW

As many of you are aware, we continue our "Partnership Program." This is a program to expand our services and work efforts to our member area. I would again like to express my sincere gratitude to the individual organizations and financial institutions that have joined the "Partnership Program 2019." Please see page 4 of this newsletter identifying our current partners. If you would like to participate in the SICOG Partnership Program, please contact our office. Remember, your involvement helps continue to improve your community and make Southern Iowa a great place for families to live!

I highly recommend you read the rest of this newsletter for informative news about the region and SICOG activities.

## Executive Board Meeting of March 5, 2019

Vice-chairman, Dan Christensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with the following members present: Birt, Christensen, Davidson, Fitch, Lesan, McCann, Minnick, Riley, Trickey, Tullberg, Twombly, Waddle and Zabel. Staff present: Ostroski and Brimm.

Twombly made a motion to approve the agenda. McCann seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

McCann made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2019 meeting. Minnick seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Waddle made a motion to approve the financial reports for the month of February. Tullberg seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Other items discussed included: CEDS, Partnership Program, Annual Project Board Meetings, Annual Meeting, EDA Planning Grant Application, Building Renovations, Grant Report, Ringgold County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Form 990, Workers Comp. Premium, State Legislature (COG Assistance and Property Tax Reform).

Twombly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 p.m. Minnick seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Brimm

## LEAD UC Class of 2019

Under the guidance of Wayne Pantini, Executive Director of the Union County Development Association, and Mindy Stalker, Marketing Coordinator, the LEAD UC participants recently visited the SICOG office. Executive Director, Tim Ostroski, welcomed the young leaders and discussed the Southern Iowa Development Group, the Housing Trust Fund and the projects SICOG has been involved with over the years. The LEAD UC program exposes individuals to a variety of personal, community and work leadership skills while showcasing the opportunities that are available in Union County and the surrounding area. It builds constructive relationships with local leaders and enables them to identify and act on ideas that contribute to the community and regional economy. Two of SICOG's employees, Joel Lamb and Marcus Amman, are 2019 graduates of LEAD UC.

**May 14**
**RPA/14 ATURA Policy Board Meeting, Primrose Restaurant, Corning, 1:30 p.m.**

**June 4**
**SICOG Executive Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.**
**SIDG Executive Board Meeting to follow**

**June 6 – 8**
**Preserve Iowa Summit, Newton**

## Clay Park - More Grants Are Available

*Continued from page 1*

compelling recreational, wellness, or conservation project, please contact SICOG for assistance. **The Wellmark Small MATCH grant is due in early June.** Now is the time to contact SICOG to help you with your recreational or wellness project. This grant is ideal for smaller projects such as sidewalks and trails, playgrounds, and individual fields or courts. **In August, the IDNR's REAP grant will be available.** This grant is for recreational and conservation projects of all sizes, including acquisition and development. Contact Jeremy Rounds or Joel Lamb for assistance.

## Housing Funds Available Now

Time is quickly approaching for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines Affordable Housing Program (AHP). Grants up to $1 million can be sought, but we must submit the grant this month. Contact SICOG this week to discuss any possible housing project you have. This grant is open to local governments, non-profit organizations, and private developers. The program will fund almost any kind of housing program or project, but the grants are competitive. SICOG has had much success with the program and we want to see our communities applying for and using the funds. Please contact Jeremy Rounds or Joel Lamb for assistance.

## Public Hearing & Meeting Notice

### RPA 14 / ATURA Transportation Planning Affiliation

The Policy Board of the **RPA 14 / ATURA Transportation Planning Affiliation** (Adair, Taylor, Union, Ringgold, and Adams Counties) will meet at **1:30 p.m.** on **Tuesday, May 14, 2019** at the Primrose Restaurant in Corning, Iowa.

Action items on the agenda include:

- **1:30 p.m. Public Hearing** regarding Final RPA 14/ATURA FY2020 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)
- Resolution Approving and Adopting Final 2020 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)
- Adair County request to borrow ahead for Transportation Improvement Program
- Union County STBG applications for Transportation Improvement Program

The public is invited to attend and provide comments. Contact Marcus Amman at Southern Iowa Council of Governments at amman@sicog.com or 641.782.8491 for additional information.

## 2019 SICOG PARTNERSHIPS

**PLATINUM ($2,500)**

- Clarke County Development Corporation
- John Wayne Birthplace Society, Ltd. of Winterset

**DIAMOND ($1,500)**

- Creston City Water Works
- First National Bank of Afton & Creston
- Iowa State Savings Bank of Corning, Creston, Diagonal, & Lenox
- Lenox Municipal Utilities

**GOLD ($1,000)**

- Garden & Associates, Ltd. of Creston & Oskaloosa

**SILVER ($500)**

- American State Bank of Lamoni, Osceola & Winterset
- Corning Municipal Utilities
- First National Bank of Osceola
- Gilbert True Value of Leon & Osceola
- Greater Regional Medical Center of Creston
- JEO Consulting Group, Inc. of Ankeny
- Michael Foods of Lenox
- PCSB Bank in Clarinda, Corning, Creston, Lenox, & Mount Ayr
- Snyder & Associates, Inc. of Ankeny & Atlantic
- Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative of Corning, Mount Ayr, & Stanton
- Tyler Insurance Services of Creston & Mount Ayr
- Union County Development Association
- Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. of West Des Moines

**BRONZE ($250)**

- Adams Community Economic Development Corporation
- Akin Building Centers of Corning & Creston
- City State Bank of Mount Ayr
- Clarke County Hospital
- Clarke Electrical Cooperative of Osceola
- Community Development Corporation of Greenfield
- Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Orient, St. Charles, & Winterset
- FNB Bank of Fontanelle & Greenfield
- Great Western Bank of Creston
- Lenox Development Corporation
- Ringgold County Development Corporation
- Saylor Realty, LLC of Osceola
- Southwestern Community College
- State Bank of Brooks
- Union State Bank of Greenfield
- Union State Bank of Winterset

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

In the Spotlight

# Community of Corning

*SICOG and Corning have partnered on multiple projects including: street and sidewalk improvements, downtown revitalization, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Corning Aquatic Center, Lake Icaria, and Johnny Carson Birthplace.*

Corning is an agricultural community in the heart of Adams County with many businesses and industries including: Akin Building Center, Feeders Grain and Supply, Red Star Mills, and Poet Biorefining ethanol plant. Also, the Blue Grass industrial park is home to Precision Inc., Brown Bear Corp. and Echco Concrete. Corning is fortunate to have 95% of its main street buildings occupied and open for business.

**What unique characteristics are you proud of in Corning?**

This community is amazing for the number of citizen volunteers, the cooperation between the City, the Board of Supervisors, and the Economic Development Corporation; the spirit of keeping this community active and thriving with the involvement of local businesses; law enforcement keeps this City safe & secure; the Corning Fire Department is an all volunteer fire department which requires hours of training & dedication for emergencies; Corning Municipal Utilities are pro-active and continually upgrading the infrastructure; and the Southwest Valley school system provides an enthusiastic learning environment. Corning has a thriving Main Street with not only State recognized, but also nationally recognized businesses. Consider the following awards:

- Carver's Ridge received the Business of the Year award from Main Street Iowa and Iowa's Economic Development Authority award.
- Primrose Restaurant received the superior interior rehabilitation project award from Main Street Iowa and was also featured in Midwest Living for their farm to table seasonal cuisine.
- The Opera house received national recognition from SCORE for Outstanding Community Impact Business Award.
- Three C's Diner won the Iowa Pork Producers' best breaded tenderloin award.
- Sweet Desires Bakery was awarded the 3rd best bakery in Central Iowa.
- Main Street businesses spent over $600,000 on façade upgrades and tens of thousands more adding & renovating upstairs apartments. The downtown district is a Commercial Historic District. The Corning American Theater has been completely renovated with first run movies; a new curved screen, new sound system, rocker chairs and recliners, and was voted by Iowan magazine to have the best popcorn.
- Corning was chosen for the National American Motorcycle Association Tour of Honor.

**What projects are you working on now in Corning?**

A new hotel/motel will be built with 33 rooms. Community Nuisance Abatement: The city has an annual city wide cleanup and actively pursues abandoned properties. Community Visioning: Corning was one of ten communities selected to participate in the 2018 Living Roadways Community Visioning Program. The community identified ways to improve the City and prioritized projects:

- Re-surface Hwy 148 and add sidewalks from Spring Lake to the Aquatic Center
- Replace an older bridge on Hull Street and add a lighted path from the elementary school to the high school football field
- Paint new crosswalks downtown, add signage to destinations, add a dog park, add more bike paths potentially to Lake Icaria from downtown or Lake Binder, and add river access for kayaking / canoeing

**If you were asked to give a tour of your community, what would you show your visitors?**

There is a lot to do around Corning: Lake Icaria & Lake Binder for fishing, boating & camping; Main Street's restaurants and shopping; French Icarian Village, Adams Community Aquatic Center; Happy Hollow Country Club, Adams County Speedway, Corning Winery; Johnny Carson birthplace; House of History; R & S Collectibles with restored classic and antique vehicles; Farmers Market; Historic Central Park; CHI Wellness Center; CHI Health Mercy hospital; Corning Fine Arts Gallery with a residency program and classes; and the Corning Clinic is just finishing a million dollar renovation to a building on main street.

**What do you want people to know about Corning that they might not already know?**

Corning is not a sleepy little town; it is active and alive with live entertainment at the Opera House, the Speedway races, the golf club, Lake Icaria, the summer festivals, etc. Corning is open for business and provides a fun safe, clean environment for people to work and raise a family!

**Do you have a website or social media links for Corning that you would like for us to share?**

www.adamscountyiowa.com www.facebook.com/adamscommunitychamberofcommerce
www.facebook.com/MainStreetCorning www.facebook.com/AdamsCommunityCorningIowa

# Approaching Grant Opportunities

The following are deadlines for popular grants our members and associated organizations should consider. **The SICOG due date is a date when the applicant should have all relevant information to SICOG to finish the application on time.** SICOG has the staff and experience to assist our communities submitting the best possible applications for these funds. **There are many other sources, so if you have a project, please contact us.**

| Source/Program | Funding Uses | SICOG's Due Date |
|---|---|---|
| USDA Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant [2] | New program: Funds organizations that assist with local partners in the process of planning and applying for USDA Community Facilities funds. The applicant serves as a grantee to make awards to sub-grantees. | May 15 |
| Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines Affordable Housing Program [2] | Various housing capital projects, including homeowner and rental housing, rehabilitation, new construction, special needs housing, and others. | May 15 |
| USDA ReConnect Broadband Infrastructure Program [2] | These funds will enable the federal government to partner with the private sector and rural communities to build modern broadband infrastructure in areas with insufficient internet service. Insufficient service is defined as connection speeds of less than 10 megabits per second download and 1 megabit per second upload. | May 15 |
| Alliant Energy Branching Out Grant [6] | Tree planting projects. | May 20 |
| State Recreational Trails (IDOT) [1] | Acquisition, construction, or improvement of recreational trails, mostly of regional or statewide importance. | June 1 |
| CDBG Water and Sewer Program [1] | Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc. | June 1 (next quarterly round) |
| Solid Waste Alternatives Program [1] | Programs to encourage landfill alternatives – recycling, diversion, new technologies, new manufacturing processes, etc. | June 1 |
| Wellmark Small MATCH Grant [2] | Matching grants up to $25,000 for health and wellness projects. | June 1 |
| BUILD Transportation grants [1] | Federal road, highway, and/or multi-modal transportation projects. | June 1 |
| Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) [2] | Tourism, recreation, and entertainment capital projects, such as museums, libraries, swimming pools, trails, large recreational areas, amphitheaters, etc. | June 15 |
| Iowa West Foundation [2, 4] | Community development, economic development, education, and human needs projects. | July 1 |
| National Endowment for the Arts Our Town grant [2] | Project based funding for projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities. | July 15 |
| Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program [1] | Outdoor recreational projects, natural and recreational land acquisitions, trails, playgrounds, and related recreational infrastructure and open space projects. | July 31 |
| RISE Local Development Grant Program [1] | Funding to provide road/street access to expand business parks and development areas. | August 1 |
| Traffic Safety Improvement Program [1] | TSIP provides safety funds to cities, counties for site-specific improvements, traffic control devices or studies. | August 1 |
| Alliant Energy Foundation [6] | Community projects focused on environment, education, family needs and programs, and outdoor recreation. | August 15 |
| Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program [1] | Constructing or improving boat access facilities to Iowa's lakes and streams. Projects can include boat-launching ramps, loading/off-loading docks and other structures to enhance use by the public. | September 1 |
| FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (nearly $4,000,000 Iowa allocation) [2] | Hazard mitigation plans and projects, including tornado safe rooms, building and utility retrofits, minor flood control projects, elevations and relocations of buildings in flood hazard areas and storm water management projects. | Open ended |

**1 – Cities and counties**

**2 – Local governments, certain private and non-profit entities**

**3 – Local governments, first response agencies**

**4 – Limited to certain geographic area of region**

**5 – Local governments, NGOs, conservation boards, soil and water conservation districts, public water supply utilities, watershed management organizations**

**6 – Limited to communities served by company/organization**

**7 – Various types of non-profits only**

As always, SICOG provides this un-exhaustive list of grants to generate ideas about possible projects and provide funding guidance. Grant funding sources are increasingly interested in creative solutions to problems and many are willing to support not only construction, but also operations. If your community has a problem that outside funding might address, please contact your SICOG office. We would be glad to help and can attend a local meeting at no cost to our members discuss the project or idea.

## Healthy Hometown Powered by Wellmark

Getting healthy can be a challenge between work, school and other commitments. Some days there just aren't enough hours, but have you ever noticed how your surroundings affect your activity level? Just think about your normal day. Are processed foods easier to fit into your hectic schedule rather than a healthy meal? Do you drive to the store instead of walking or biking? Our day-to-day activities and where we live impact our health. In fact, your zip code may impact your health more than your genetic code.

Today, Americans are eating more and moving less. Transportation systems are designed for cars and less for people, resulting in communities' reduced walkability. Fewer students walk to school. Even the social connections we make are often virtual instead of face to face. We have seen a large increase in screen time for adults and children, leading to decreased physical activity.

**But, there is a solution for these problems and they start in our hometowns.** A community can't change habits, but it can be a guide to better ones. Small changes like creating walking and biking paths and establishing community gardens are just a couple ways to reduce these issues. **Wellmark BCBS wants to help.** Healthy Hometown Powered by Wellmark works with communities, at no cost, to identify positive and lasting changes that enhance well-being in your community. Healthy Hometown wants to help make your vision a reality.

**The City of Creston is currently working with Wellmark for improvements to their downtown area and a trail to McKinley Park.** Would you like to make positive changes in your hometown? Get your friends, neighbors, and community leaders on board and find out how you can make your hometown healthier by visiting **www.wellmark.com/healthyhometown** What are you waiting for?

## Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) recently announced a new down payment and closing cost assistance program for Iowa homebuyers. The new Home for Iowans program includes a grant of $2,500 or 0% loan up to 5% of the sale price of the home or $5,000 (whichever is less) and is repayable at the time of sale or refinance.

To see if you are eligible, contact an IFA participating lender:
**http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/Home/sfcontactlisting**

You may also check your eligibility at: **http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/home/quickcheck**

# From the Planner's Desk...

## Sustainable Development Code

One of our professional partners in our projects, RDG Planning & Design, shared with us an interesting webpage with numerous tools for development, land use, and design: **https://sustainablecitycode.org/** Why is this important? First of all, the information this site contains can help with planning for normal expensive infrastructure, such as water and streets. Second, we know that good land use decisions save cities and counties lots of money in averted unnecessary infrastructure development, maintenance, and public services. The Sustainable Development Code contains seven chapters that detail issue like community character, land use, transportation, hazards, preservation and reuse, climate and natural resources, and healthy communities, energy, and more. There is so much to say about this resource, but if your community is interested in better planning and good model ordinances (no wheel inventing) for a wide array of topics, this site is worth exploring. While there are best practices from throughout the nation, much of the leadership of this forum is from Iowa. Most of the content is free and easy to use.

# Southern Iowa Council of Governments Executive Board

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dan Christensen | Decatur County | Chairperson |
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| Brooke Florea | Private Sector Representative | |
| William Trickey | Private Sector Representative | |
| Beth Waddle | Private Sector Representative | |
| Tom Lesan | Member – At - Large | |

*SICOG is a non-profit organization that provides and coordinates community and economic development services primarily through the delivery of planning services, technical program assistance, grant writing and administration to assist local governments and others in their efforts to improve the social and economic well-being of its eight county service area.*

**SOUTHERN IOWA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

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