

Regional Community Development News – September 20, 2006 [regions_work]

A weekly compilation of news links about and for regional communities pursuing local and regional development. Published on line since November 11, 2003.

1. Push mergers for efficiency, vibrancy - DesMoinesRegister.com - Des Moines, IA, USA

Elected officials who opposed merging city and county governments in Des Moines in 2004 insisted they supported mergers, just not that particular version. Following the voters' rejection of the proposed merger, city and county officials demonstrated their sincerity by discussing voluntarily merging city and county functions.

Two years later, there is virtually nothing to show for those discussions. It turns out merging government functions is not as easy as it might have seemed.

Reducing Iowa's redundant governments was the subject of an article in Governing magazine in July, "Little Mergers on the Prairie," which we excerpt below today. The Governing article offers valuable perspective on this issue, but it provides a more optimistic assessment of progress than perhaps is justified.

It is right to give credit to Gov. Tom Vilsack and state legislators for a bipartisan effort during the 2005 legislative session to propose some bold new ideas for encouraging local governments and schools to consolidate. Unfortunately, the proposals that emerged from that process - such as requiring all communities in the state to meet in regional groups and at least study the idea of mergers - went nowhere, and the bipartisan legislative group disbanded.

It would be a mistake for the Legislature to give up, ...

2. Apartments don't crowd classrooms, study says - Norwich Bulletin - Norwich, CT, USA

A recent study of the housing impact on local school districts has busted a longtime myth.

Jeff Sattler, executive director for the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance, was stunned to see proof increased multifamily housing construction has not caused significantly more students in local school districts.

"In fact, the places that allow the greatest density -- like Norwich, New London and Groton -- have the lowest percentage of children," Sattler said.

The study of school districts included in the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments showed 67 percent of Norwich homes, 70 percent of New London homes and nearly 63 percent of Groton homes do not have any school-age children. Salem recorded almost 49 percent of homes had children and almost 48 percent of Colchester homes have children, the study says.

...

3. Panel urged for study of bridge - St. Louis Post-Dispatch - MO, United States

The year-old impasse over how to pay for a new bridge between St. Louis and the Metro East area has the chairman of the St. Clair County Board pushing to get the project out of limbo.

Mark Kern is building support for an independent study to determine if a toll bridge approach makes financial sense, he said Monday, and he wants to convene a panel of national experts to review the project.

Kern asked St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay for his support on the recommendations, expected to be voted on at the Sept. 27 [East-West Gateway Council of Governments](#). East-West Gateway serves as the United Nations of transportation planning for the St. Louis area and its staff developed the recommendations. Slay serves as its board chairman.

...

4. a) [Regional marketing to use a 'brand' new name](#) - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review - Pittsburgh, PA,USA

Local leaders and economic development groups will present a marketing campaign today to tout the benefits of living and working in the region -- all in one message, with a logo.

"The object of the campaign is to send a single message," said J. Bracken Burns, chairman of the [Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission](#) and a Washington County commissioner.

"We're trying to bring this under one umbrella, so we're all on the same page" about local economic development and tourism opportunities, Burns said. Currently, the 10 counties in the region and the municipalities in them handle their own marketing.

Officials yesterday declined to discuss details of the project, but a request for proposals sent in March to advertising companies outlined a marketing effort to be done in three phases and projected to cost almost \$2 million. It's designed to brand a communications plan for the Pittsburgh region that will leverage the celebration of the city's 250th anniversary in 2008.

...

b) [Time will tell if regional marketing goal is reached](#) - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review - Pittsburgh, PA,USA

When regional leaders announced a multi-year, \$3 million marketing campaign for Western Pennsylvania on Sept. 8, they fulfilled a goal that was set more than 11 years ago.

In 1995, four economic development organizations -- the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, Penn's Southwest Association, the Regional Industrial Development Corp. and the World Trade Center of Pittsburgh -- announced an agreement to create the [Pittsburgh Regional Alliance](#).

The Alliance's main purpose was to be a kind of "one-stop shop" for businesses looking to expand or locate operations here.

One of its major priorities also was "to develop a unified regional marketing plan and a regional business retention strategy," said the 1995 annual report of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

The Regional Alliance now is an affiliate and the main marketing arm of the Allegheny Conference, a multi-county economic development agency traditionally led by the region's top corporate and community leaders.

And since that announcement 11 years ago, its efforts have aided at transforming the region's former steel-driven economy to one that is more diverse, led by segments such as health care, advanced materials and technology.

While the Regional Alliance and other groups have used various means to "pitch" the region's attributes, it's been tough to change the rust-belt, smoky city perceptions of the Pittsburgh area held by others.

That was one of the admissions during 2002's "Image Gap" initiative, a sometimes panned \$200,000 effort to craft a new identity for the region, designed to help change those persistent and outdated images.

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5. Regional summit good discussion, action planning - Aberdeen American News - Aberdeen, SD, USA

Northeast South Dakota has a tremendous number of assets, but we need to better utilize them to maximize their benefit for the region and show growth on the next census.

At least, that's the consensus of about 100 area leaders who gathered this week at a Regional Development Summit to determine how to best position the region for its future growth and development - and they are right.

Advancing as a region is good thing and it can be done, but it is a tough job that needs committed partners with diverse backgrounds and common interests.

Bernie Moran, director of South Dakota's Labor Market Information Center, said declining population trends can be reversed, but it will take a broad, sustained effort to do so.

Organizers of - and participants in - the Regional Development Summit say this is a long-term initiative, and they used the summit as a springboard for both discussion and action on a number of issues vital to ongoing regional growth.

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RC: Northeast Council of Governments

6. NH, Maine talk economic power - Portsmouth Herald News - Portsmouth, NH, USA

The governors of both New Hampshire and Maine pledged to encourage cross-border cooperation in the Seacoast at a two-state economic summit Tuesday.

Govs. John Lynch and John Baldacci joined former Maine Gov. Angus King and both states' top economists at the event, sponsored by a consortium of Maine and New Hampshire planning commissions, chambers of commerce and university systems.

The summit grew out of efforts last year to keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard open. Organizers said they wanted to start now creating sustained economic prosperity in the region before the next round of base closures begin.

"I strongly applaud your efforts, and that is why my administration has lent its strong support to this summit," said Baldacci. "In today's fast-paced global economy, state and regional boundaries are no longer impediments to the flow of capital and labor."

"Imagine what we can do if we work together. The region won't thrive if we don't," said Lynch, who added that for the first time in recent memory the governors of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont -- northern New England -- are getting along. "I'm committed to making this (regional cooperation) happen."

The governors suggested cooperation in areas such as higher education, broadband infrastructure, alternative energy sources, expanded transportation models and health care.

7. "Cohesion Policy 2007-2013: Supporting the competitiveness of mountain areas" - EUROPA (press release) - Brussels, Belgium

...

HOW TO PROMOTE MOUNTAIN AREAS IN THE NEW COHESION POLICY?

For the mountain areas, geography, climate and demography combine to present a particular set of challenges and opportunities to the Union's efforts to promote balanced development. The challenges and opportunities are not everywhere the same and we need to treat each mountain area according to circumstances. There is no one-size fits-all for mountain areas, nor for any other type of area.

Our studies conform what you yourselves know only too well. Many mountain areas, lack of easy physical access is compounded by the fact that populations are small and spread over relatively large areas. Consequently, residents in mountain areas often have to travel far to access basic services such as in education or health.

Many mountain areas have built much of their prosperity and identity on agriculture and forestry. Since production is often small-scale, and because producers have an interest in the long-term, it is generally very sensitive to the need to preserve unique ecosystems.

...

8. Expert Brings Insight to the Valley - WTWO - Indianapolis, IN, USA

Some very big ideas were presented Tuesday, as part of a regional conference on workforce and economic development.

One expert at the conference at Ivy Tech says rural economies will only succeed if they can band together and work at a regional level.

The Wabash Valley has done that for years with the inception of the West Central Indiana Economic Development District in 1965... but there is always room for change and improvement.

Doctor Mark Drabenstott addressed education leaders, small business owners, and area officials at Ivy Tech about banding together as a region to create a tough competitor in the global economy. He emphasizes growing entrepreneurs and answering one very big question: What is it that this region can do absolutely the best?

Many look instantly to the fields where Indiana's wealth is buried in farmland.

"We`ve got to grow our economic future in our own backyard," says Drabenstott.

...

9. a) Schwarzenegger guru says CO2 plan starts at border - Reuters AlertNet - London, England,UK

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's environmental adviser said his mission to change federal policy on global warming by getting vast regions of the United States to regulate greenhouse gas emissions will start with states on the Mexican border.

Terry Tamminen is working with Schwarzenegger, a Republican, and Gov. Janet Napolitano, a Democrat in neighboring Arizona, to spearhead an effort to spread rules like California's to cut greenhouse gases to other states.

In the absence of federal regulation on emissions of gases scientists link to global warming, the California legislature passed rules two weeks ago that require the state to reduce greenhouse gases about 25 percent by 2020.

b) Calif. climate registry seeks national expansion - Reuters - USA A California registry, which companies use to attempt to secure credit for voluntarily cutting greenhouse gas emissions ahead of laws limiting them, is seeking to expand in the United States, a source at the group said on Monday.

"We're in discussions with about 30 states in creating a multi-state greenhouse gas emissions reduction registry," the source told Reuters in a telephone interview. "We're only in discussion stages, but agreements are probably a year away."

The California Climate Action Registry was set up by the state in 2001 at the urging of companies that believed gases linked to global warming would at some point be regulated either on a state or federal level. ...

10. U.S. regional communities - sub-State, State or multi-State - in news articles. Highlighted words are Google search terms. In this and the following section, links to websites of organizations are added to the news excerpt when this is the first time an organization has been found. A goal of this newsletter is to find every regional council in the U.S. in a news story. In most cases, where a full name is present a Google search will quickly get one to that organization.

a) ALABAMA VOICES: Community colleges unite to strengthen region
Montgomery Advertiser - Montgomery, AL,USA

... Eight community and junior colleges in west Alabama and east Mississippi have joined together to get people to think differently about our **region**, our leaders ... An enterprise-ready region can have lots of competitive communities that work hard to support local initiatives and industry but know how to pull together and unite for the good of the region. ...

b) In eastern New York's 'Tech Valley,' collaboration pays off
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle - Rochester, NY,USA

... In upstate New York's history, collaboration has been a long, uphill battle because of our political, historical and geographic structure. The rise of corporate towns such as Schenectady with General Electric and Green Island with Ford did little to encourage regional thinking. ...

c) New geographic name is likely for Gateway

Arizona Republic – Phoenix, AZ, USA

Its not expected to play well in Mesa, but Williams Gateway Airport is likely to get a name change to reflect its proximity to Phoenix. ... A move to rename the airport in 2002 crash-landed after the authority failed to settle on a new handle amid protests in the community...

d) Master plan for Highlands may be hard to come by

Dailyrecord.com - Parsippany, NJ, USA

... work session of the New Jersey Highlands Council offered a glimpse of some of the protections being considered for the 800,000-acre region and how difficult it's likely to be to gain consensus on a master plan. ... A key point of contention is the question of how large the buffers -- areas that could not be developed -- around lakes, rivers and other water bodies should be. ...

e) 'Watch' keeping eye on TTC

Waxahachie Daily Light - Waxahachie, TX, USA

... Corridor Watch, which was founded by Linda and David Stall of Fayetteville, is "first and foremost an educational entity," said David Stall, who added that the group's "biggest concern is stopping the Trans-Texas Corridor."

f) They raise their kids' kids

Kentucky Post - Covington, KY, USA

... Jennings will share some of that acquired wisdom at the Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children conference ... Northern Kentucky Area Development District ... every other year since 2000. ... "The best part is you meet other grandparents who are doing the same thing. I just enjoy sharing with others and listening to others." ...

g) Roundtable committee to examine water, growth

Pueblo Chieftain - Pueblo, CO, USA

A committee to look at growth and mitigation for interbasin water transfers was formed Wednesday by the Arkansas Basin **Roundtable**. The committee is an outgrowth of Las Animas Mayor Lawrence Sena's comment three months ago that municipal growth should be tied to a city's ability to supply water. ...

h) Region's 4 bridges tighten up

Buffalo News - NY, United States

The Buffalo Niagara region's international border is a much tighter place for legal and illegal crossings than it was five years ago. And perhaps in part because of that, the Buffalo Niagara region - with its many potential targets - has not been the site of a single terrorist arrest involving a plot to harm the region. ...

i) Bluegill on Guard in Region's Water Supply

Washington Post - United States

... for water in the national capital region," said Stuart A. Freudberg, director of environmental programs for the Metropolitan Washington Council **of Governments**.

...

j) MAPC: Ethanol site plan leaves unanswered questions

Enid News & Eagle - Enid, OK,USA

A proposed site plan for Oklahoma Ethanol was tabled by the Metropolitan **Area Planning** Commission Monday because of some unanswered questions. ...

k) Purdue: Regional Collaboration Key to Major Midwest Economic Growth

MidwestBusiness.com – Chicago ,IL,USA

...more than 200 national, regional and local economic development professionals at the first-annual Purdue University conference entitled “Regional Development For Local Success: Innovations in Economic Development and Governance”. ...

l) Bangor council votes no on regional police plans

The Express Times - Easton, PA,USA

Borough council Monday pulled out of Slate Belt **regional** police plans. Council members say they will pursue contractual agreements with neighboring East Bangor and Roseto

m) Myregion org studies Polk

Orlando Sentinel - Orlando, FL,USA

If Polk County residents could decide where and how local growth occurs, high-**density** centers would be located along Interstate 4. ...

n) New Web site appeals to local geospatial industry

Rocky Mountain News - Denver, CO,USA

... getting tapped as a trial locale for a federally funded Internet site meant to shine a spotlight on jobs and other opportunities in the **geospatial** industry here

o) City & County Form Alliance To Keep Chargers In San Diego

KFMB - San Diego, CA,USA

A new **alliance** could keep the Chargers in the county, even if the team doesn't stay in San Diego. The city and county now plan to proceed with a joint Memorandum of Understanding. The partnership could help develop a new stadium for the Chargers, and keep them from leaving the area after 2008....

p) Voters to decide on Mountain Village merger of governments

Telluride Daily Planet - Telluride, CO,USA

... a town of roughly 1,000 souls, one gondola and no gas stations. And yet, it is governed by not one or two, but three entities. This unusual governing structure is the result of an evolution of a ski resort into a full-fledged town, ... A plan has been hatched to dissolve one of these entities, the Mountain Village Metro District, and merge its duties ...

q) Daily Briefing

Asheville Citizen-Times - NC,USA

The Land-of-Sky **Regional Council** is inviting all ABC permit holders in Buncombe, Madison, Henderson and Transylvania counties to a focus group ... to help address new legislation in North Carolina requiring all ABC permit holders to recycle beverage containers by January 2008. ...

r) ODOT Workforce Alliance Seeks To Expand Job Opportunities In ...

MedfordNews.com - Medford, OR, USA

The Oregon Department of Transportation's mid-Willamette Valley region is forming an active Regional Workforce Alliance to increase apprenticeship and training opportunities and boost the numbers of minorities and women in the highway construction trades. ...

s) Tuleyome celebrates achievements Saturday

Daily Democrat - Woodland, CA, USA

... Tuleyome was founded in 2002 as a volunteer advocacy-oriented nonprofit organization that is focused on protecting both the wild and agricultural heritages of the Putah-Cache bioregion, including all or parts of Yolo, Lake, Napa, Colusa and Solano counties. ...

t) Books and hills on fire

North Coast Journal - Arcata, CA, USA

... science of fire; how fire occurs across the state from **bioregion to bioregion**; and how people have dealt with fire ... "The role of fire changes over time, climate changes, technology changes and human use of fire changes. The thing that concerns me is, the decision makers may be looking for simplistic solutions to what is a complex problem."

11. Other in the news: Highlighted words are Google search terms.

a) Mapping the New Europe

Brussels Journal - Brussels, Belgium

... *European spatial development has increasingly gained in importance over the last years. The continuing European integration mandates a European vision for the concept of area development. In this context, a European spatial development concept has been worked out and has been passed into legislation by the informal Area Planning Ministerial Council in Potsdam in 1999. ...*

b) Tourism's Future

Guernsey Weekly Press - Vale, Guernsey, UK

THE States lacks the will to consolidate the tourist industry. Former States director of visitor economy Stuart Pinnell added that switching emphasis from quantity to quality was long overdue in the trade. Closing some hotels would enable others to upgrade, but he said that some politicians did not see it that way. ...

c) Alberta's boom starts to rival China's

Globe and Mail - Canada

Alberta is getting so rich that its boom-and-bust cycle could be a thing of the past, with forecasters saying even lower oil prices are unlikely to end its run of prosperity. A new study by Statistics Canada shows that Alberta's economic boom is unprecedented in Canada, and has put the province's expansion in a league with China's. ...

d) Regions host meetings over plan to burn trash

Lindsay This Week - Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

After months of studies and public meetings, Durham and York **regions** have completed work on the first phase of their joint plan to incinerate waste. ... For more information, visit www.durhamyorkwaste.ca

e) Market alternative to water rationing

Sydney Morning Herald - Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

... The emphasis of **governments** has long been on encouraging - or forcing - consumers to save water, rather than new sources of supply. ...

f) US academia can now talk rationally about 9/11

Toronto Star - Ontario, Canada

... win. No one, of course, thinks terrorism is a non-issue. It is the job of **governments** to protect us from threats of all kinds. But ...

g-1) Supercity: One for all ... and all for one

New Zealand Herald - New Zealand

Should Auckland become a single city? Brisbane is about the same size as Auckland and has had a single council for years. ... a vast enterprise unique in Australia, embracing most of the nation's third-largest city in one municipality with a single set of regulations, and planning, development and infrastructure policies. It is also a model ...

-2) Supersize my city - do you want politics with that?

New Zealand Herald - New Zealand

Brisbane City Council is local government on steroids. It rules over the single biggest population grouping in Queensland - by far - and an economy that dominates air, sea and land transport and provides 10 per cent of the state's jobs within 3km of the main downtown post office. With this has come real political power....

-3) Greater Auckland plan ditched

New Zealand Herald - New Zealand

A contentious plan to restructure Auckland into three enlarged cities under one greater council has been ditched only a week after being mooted by the region's four big-city mayors. The Auckland Mayoral Forum yesterday jettisoned the amalgamation plan - which Prime Minister Helen Clark welcomed last week - but agreed on a need to strengthen regional governance in time for next year's local body elections. ...

h) Unification gains strength

Biloxi Sun Herald - MS, USA

The Air Force, the only service opposed to the creation of a Unified Medical Command, saw its arguments rejected during Wednesday's meeting of the Defense Business Board, ... recommended ... immediately appoint a task force to oversee establishment of a Unified Medical Command by Jan. 1, a year sooner than Defense officials had planned. ...

i) High-rises only 'alternative'

Daily News & Analysis - Mumbai, India

... is very little that these residents can do to protect their **chawls**," said an official of the Mumbai Metropolitan **Regional Development** Authority, requesting ...

j) EU demands a £20m refund for 'botched' Highland projects

Scotsman - United Kingdom

... The Highlands and Islands area received about £100 million from the European **Regional Development** Fund between 1994 and 1999. After ...

k) Election buzz moves to 'burbs

Toronto Star - Ontario, Canada

Step aside, Toronto. The spotlight for this fall's municipal elections is shifting to the suburbs. And that's a good thing. The burgeoning cities and towns just outside Toronto hold the keys to solving many of the GTA's problems of traffic gridlock, garbage disposal, urban sprawl and immigrant settlement. ...

l) A European vision for the oceans and seas: Giving citizens a stake in the creation of a Maritime Policy for Europe

EUROPA (press release) - Brussels, Belgium

On 7 June 2006, the Commission issued a Green Paper entitled "Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas." [[Link to Green Paper PDF](#)] ... a one-year consultation ... to develop an all-embracing maritime policy aimed at enhancing Europe's maritime economy in an environmentally sustainable manner. ...

m) ScanBalt - new strategic partner of the Council of the Baltic Sea States

Informationsdienst Wissenschaft (Pressemitteilung) - Bayreuth, NRW, Germany

... ScanBalt takes an active involvement in the region and aims to build up a thorough knowledge in life sciences in the region, implemented through its project of ScanBalt BioRegion, to increase the competitiveness of the Baltic Sea region in the world. ... Council ... political forum for regional intergovernmental cooperation ...

n) Helsinki uses threats to pressure Sipoo to change boundaries

Helsingin Sanomat - Finland

Helsinki's highest leaders tried to use threats to push neighbouring Sipoo to allow Helsinki to annex part of its territory. ... if Sipoo does not agree voluntarily to relinquish an area of 25 square kilometres to the Finnish capital, Helsinki would go through the national government to get an area twice as big. ...

o) India and Geopolitics - Part I

India-Forum - USA

... Without controlling the Indian Ocean, no one can conquer the world. India considers itself as a **regional power** in the Indian Ocean region. ...

p) Kibaki promises self-sufficient metropolis

Standard - Nairobi, Kenya

... The Nairobi Metropolitan **Regional Development** Board would also coordinate planning, environmental management, enforcement compliance and promote the metropolis ...

q) UKOOA - Collaboration key to UK subsea expansion

Politics.co.uk - London, UK

Collaboration will be the key to expanding the UK's already dominant presence in the world's subsea markets, claimed a senior oil executive at UKOOA's ...

r) UN Ties Prosperity to Good Governance

Asian Tribune - Bangkok, Thailand

The economic success stories of the world's 50 poorest nations are also predicated on

"good governance", including multi-party democracy, rule of law, gender empowerment, respect for human rights and transparency and accountability, according to the United Nations. ...

s) Longevity Rates Differ Greatly in 'Eight Americas'

MedPage Today, NJ

... Depending on which of the eight Americas one inhabits can make the difference between the possibility of living until age 90 or dying at 55, according to an analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics by epidemiologists at Harvard and the University of California San Francisco....

t) The Copenhagen Region continues in the super league

Copenhagen Capacity - Denmark

The Danish Capital **Region** holds the position among the ten European city regions which receive most investment projects. ... With 50 international investment projects in 2005, Copenhagen ranks number seven among the European city regions. ... In 1999 the region ranked number 20. ...

u) Schoolkids shrug off enmities in Cyberspace

Reuters AlertNet - London, England, UK

Cyberspace get-togethers between schoolchildren in British-ruled Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic are helping break down decades of mistrust and could provide a model for young people in conflict zones elsewhere.... findings from the "Dissolving **Boundaries**" project, which has set up broadband computer collaborations ...

v) Internaut | Try real service to the citizen

GCN.com - Washington, DC, USA

Improving "service to the citizen" is the one of those catchphrases that show up in government project plans and press releases. It's tightly coupled with e-government initiatives, which promise to make government much more interactive and responsive. The trouble is, service to the citizen has no clear set of deliverables. ...

w) GM's Massive Outsourcing Deal Up And Running

VARBusiness - Manhasset, NY, USA

... GM announced in February the goal to create a single worldwide IT organization instead of having disparate regional processes.... "The issue is now no **regional boundaries**," GM CIO Ralph Szygenda said Monday at the InformationWeek 500 conference ...

12. Sub-State Regions - Iowa - U.S. Census – Midwest Region; West North Central Division, FIPS Code 19

Following is a selection of links relating to regional arrangements in Iowa. This year each issue features a State with links to maps of regions and regional related resources. The [Census Regions and Divisions of the United States map](#) (PDF) is being used going region by region from the Northeast to the South to the Midwest to the West.

a) Iowa Association of Regional Councils

- b) Iowa RPA & MPO - Regions Contact Info**
- c) IA Workforce Information Network Regions**
- d) Iowa Tourism Regions**
- e) Iowa NatureMapping - Regions**
- f) Landform Regions of Iowa**
- g) IA Integrated Crop Management Regions**
- h) IA Dept of Revenue Tax Classes - Regions**
- i) Iowa Prairie Network Regions**
- j) Iowa State Snowmobile Assn. - Regions**

13. Announcements & Links

a) Association of Religious Data Archives

The Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) recently created a new online feature called QuickStats. Drawing on a select group of nationally representative surveys, QuickStats provides easy-to-read tables and graphs with a single click on the topic of interest. The national surveys include a host of items from the recently released Baylor Religion Survey, the 2004 General Social Survey, the 2004 American National Studies, and many others. The topics include religious affiliation, beliefs, behaviors, attitudes, and experiences, and will continue to increase as more of the ARDA's holdings are integrated into the new program. <http://www.thearda.com/Quickstats/Qsdir.asp>

b) PLACEMATTERS06 - October 19-21 - Denver, Colorado

- Keynote presentations by Steven Berlin Johnson, author of “Emergence: The Connected Lives of Ants, Brains, Cities and Software” and a leading voice on the future of technology in society and Pam Houston, Western novelist and author of “Cowboys Are My Weakness.”
- Sessions and panels addressing key regional and national issues and showcasing innovative tools and approaches, including:
 - eParticipation technologies for enhanced civic engagement
 - Transportation solutions for a growing West
 - Tackling the big challenges of small town planning

- Tools and methods for integrating ecological and community planning
- A creative day of participant-driven “Open Space” collaboration where you and your colleagues drive the agenda forward.
- Use of eParticipation technologies throughout to gather feedback, capture ideas and package an agenda for ongoing collective action.
- Presentation of the inaugural PLACEMATTERS Innovator in Place Award with on-site award creation by artist Andrew Davis.

c) **CIA - The World Factbook -- Reference Maps** - JPG & PDF files

14. Subscription link story.

Counties full of inexperienced leaders - Atlanta Journal Constitution

(subscription) - GA, USA

If you're a top elected county official in metro Atlanta, you might not want to quit your day job.

Voters revel in throwing these folks out of office, loading up all their anger about traffic, growth and taxes, and taking aim at the most visible county official.

But this propensity to heave-ho the incumbent has left the region awash in new and often inexperienced leadership — by January, only two of 10 metro county leaders will have more than two years' experience — and that can bog down planning as new leaders learn their jobs.

But such things aren't on the minds of residents miffed with the way things are going in their backyards.

"People are frustrated, and the only way they can express it is at the ballot box," said Jerry Griffin, executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

In most cases, the county head is the chairman of the board of commissioners, though in DeKalb County it is CEO Vernon Jones. Many are part-time county officials — lawyers, businesspeople, retirees — but they are the ones often in the news explaining a tax increase or unpopular zoning decision.

In the wider 12-county metro area, only three of the county heads have finished a term and been re-elected to another.

This summer, four county heads lost in the primaries. Last year, five new ones took office.

...

15. Google News for “Regional Community”

Other menu sections available from this link include: Regional Development; Regional Council; Regional Commission; Regional America; Regional Asia; Regional Europe; Regional Competition; Regionalism; Intergovernmental and other search terms. They can be sorted by date or relevance. These are among the 50 search terms I use to produce this newsletter.

My name is Tom Christoffel. I've worked in the field of intergovernmental cooperation since 1973. As a consequence, "I see regions." *Regional Community Development News* is published weekly based on news reports as of Wednesday. Making visible analysis and actions at multi-jurisdictional regional scales is its purpose. "Think globally, act locally" was innovative in its time. Today the local scale is often too small to address today's needs and opportunities. "Think local planet, act regionally," is my candidate paradigm. (No one said we're only allowed one paradigm.) We can see that "regional communities" are organized locally and now act both to avoid tragedy in the commons and gain benefits. An effective multi-jurisdictional regional community has DNA: it is geographically Defined; has a common Name and its Alignment is inclusive of smaller communities and participatory in larger communities. So, by scanning this compilation, reading articles and checking organizations - you too will be able to see the regional communities that already exist. News references are found using the Google News search service. Media article links are "fair use" to transform globally scattered reports to make regional approaches visible. Links go to the publisher and do not compete with it. Such publishers are likely to have related stories and thus be seen by new customers. "Regional" is an emerging news category. There is no charge for this service and no profit is made from its use, though any user can become more aware of the topic itself.

To read and search previous issues go to:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/regions_work/messages The term "Development" was added to the name in January, 2006.

For a free subscription use this email link – no additional information required:

regions_work-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Questions, comments or items to feature in Regional Community Development News?

Please e-mail the editor: Tom.Christoffel@gmail.com

Thomas J. (Tom) Christoffel, AICP Making regions visible for Leaders and Problem-solvers.

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