



# THE LAND USE BULLETIN

Summer, 2001 / Issue 46    Published Quarterly by 1000 Friends of Iowa

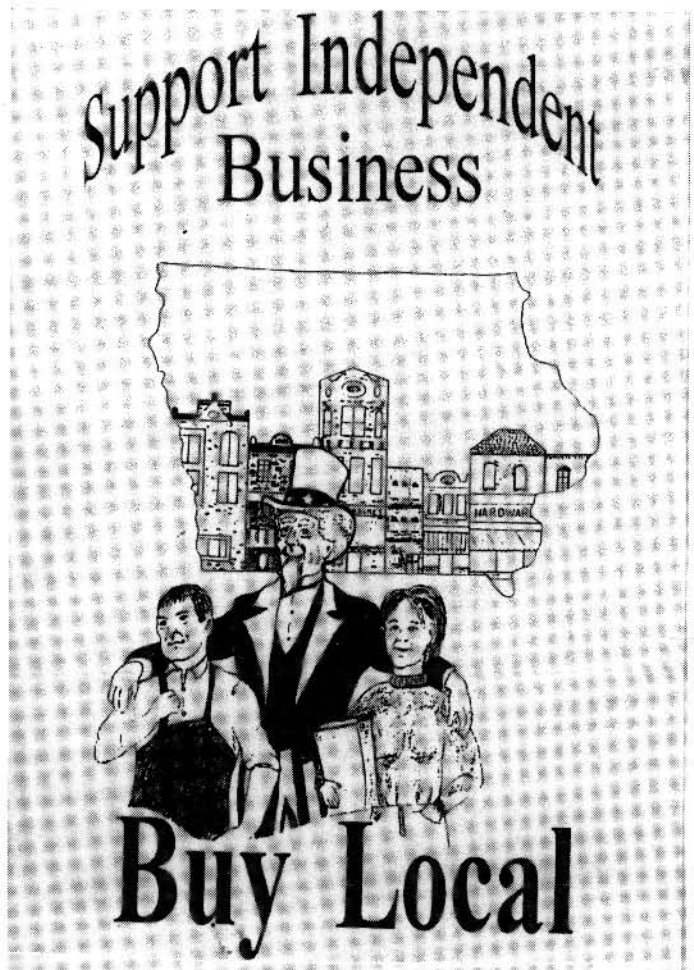
## An Alternative to Wally World

by Rose Winkeler

Our Buy Local campaign was a surprising success last November and many people have been wondering (as have we) what comes next. Well, we have begun planning for a permanent Buy Local program that will feature our successes from last year and the creative ideas that came from many of you.

The first priority of this Buy Local Program will be to produce three local business directories, the first of which will be in the Parks Area of Des Moines, where our office is located. The second will be Adel and the third area is yet to be determined. The purpose of these directories will be to educate residents on why it is important to shop at locally-owned businesses and enable them to easily find the independent shops in their neighborhood. On the surface, the directories will be like any other, with listings and advertisements making up most of its content. However, they will also contain several pages explaining the idea of buying locally and arguing the myth of convenience vs. cost. It will list local farmers that provide food to the community as well as neighborhood attractions and events. We expect the first directory to be finished and printed after the first of the year. Then, once the snow has melted away (hopefully earlier than April this year) we will be delivering them door-to-door throughout the Parks neighborhoods. With knowledgeable volunteers speaking directly with residents, we hope to instill the ethic of supporting their local economies with smart shopping decisions.

These plans and the directories are evolving as more and more interested members give us input. We are also still trying to decide where to base our third directory. If you have any suggestions for us, we would be happy to hear them.



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## THE BIG PICTURE

# BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR

by LaVon Griffieon

With 950 municipalities, Iowa has more cities than any other state in the nation, except Texas. And if all things were fair and equal that means our state's population divided evenly would place 3,158 people in each town!

Iowa, however, has 30 cities with populations over 10,000. We often hear, usually from Chambers of Commerce in larger cities, about the need to strengthen the 13 urban centers in Iowa to improve regional economies. However, it appears with 920 smaller towns the economic gain could be spread more equitably if we investigated improving the economies of small-town Main Street in addition to Iowa's largest metropolitan areas.

Often, in our panic to bring business to town, our leaders do exactly the wrong thing. I often hear Iowans praise their Main Street businesses and in the same sentence exclaim, "But we could sure use a Wal-Mart around here." What they fail to realize is that nearly all chain businesses are headquartered outside of Iowa. The money spent here is often wired out of state within two hours of deposit. That isn't helping Iowa. A majority of the jobs are part-time, minimum wage, with no benefits. That isn't helping Iowans. Studies show that chain stores usually locate outside of town, drawing business away from Main Street. Discount prices last just long enough to put small businesses (the competition) out of business and then chain store prices rise. One study indicates that only 10% of the prices in chain stores are actually lower than the local competition.

A trend that has recently been called to my attention is that Hy-Vee (one of the few chain stores based in Iowa) has been buying up downtown pharmacies in both small and large cities. They then close the pharmacy and open one in their own store. This has happened in Albia, Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. Hy-Vee essentially took a downtown business that was accessible by foot and made the "local" pharmacy a destination point for the automobile, usually located on the outskirts of town.

What do we lose when we allow these types of decisions? We lose downtown businesses and their independent owners and the civic responsibilities that they often shoulder. We lose the opportunity for our children, our elderly and others without a car to have the independence of accessible goods. We lose some quality of life each time an independent business leaves town or is replaced by a corporate chain where the faces waiting on you aren't always familiar. We lose the opportunity for our children to walk down their Main Street and see how different residents in their home towns make their living and engage in civic responsibilities.

That's why we have to be careful what we ask for!



## MY LIFE AS A CAB DRIVER

by Ed Fallon



I finally had it out with my two teenagers recently: "I am NOT a taxi service! Contrary to what you may believe, my life's meaning does not come from sitting around, waiting for you to call me for a ride! You have legs. Though it will take some training, you can probably learn to use them to walk or even ride a bike. And if that doesn't work, you can take the darn bus - just bring a good book to stave off boredom during delays and circuitous routing."

With my spouse out of town last week, I enjoyed all the pleasures of single parenting. And no parenting job grates me more than that of running taxi service for two busy teenagers. Here is yesterday's log:

- 7:15 - Drop off Kid #2 at middle school.
- 7:25 - Drop off Kid #1 at high school.
- 1:05 - En route to the office with co-worker after lunch meeting (in co-worker's car), pick up football gear that Kid #1 forgot at home.
- 3:00 - Pick up Kid #2 at school.
- 3:05 - Intend to drop off football gear with Kid #1 only to realize that - due to my frazzled, de tail-overwhelmed condition - I'd left the gear in co-worker's car.
- 3:05 - Call co-worker, who is now at home 15 miles away.
- 3:20 - Meet co-worker halfway between Des Moines and Ankeny to retrieve gear. Offer profuse thanks to co-worker, who is now late picking up her own kids.
- 3:35 - Drop off gear to Kid #1.
- 5:00 - Take Kid #2 to soccer practice.
- 6:00 - Pick up Kid #1 from football practice.
- 7:00 - Pick up Kid #2 from soccer practice.

Needless to say, I didn't bother to make a real supper that evening. But for "dessert", I got to wait at the airport from 11:00 until midnight for a spouse who never showed up due to flight delays.

In all fairness, the above report describes a slightly more hectic day than most. But this kind of "lifestyle" is par for the course - not just for me, but

for millions of American parents. Sure, part of the problem is that kids have come to expect to be driven everywhere, even when busses are available, even when they're only a half hour walk from home, even when there's a bike sitting in the basement.

But the main culprit is poor land-use planning. When I was a kid (I used to hate that expression - but I find myself using

***Big box stores - usually accessible only by car - have supplanted a whole handful of neighborhood businesses that kids used to walk to on their own.***

it more and more often), I took a metro bus to school every day for 10 out of 12 years. I thought nothing of walking a couple miles. And there was always a bike. Of course - and here's the real issue - schools, shops, friends, the ball field, woods to play in were all within walking/biking distance or easily accessible by bus.

Nowadays, there is no concentration of community amenities. Urban and rural kids alike often go to schools far from home. Soccer complexes on the edge of town have replaced the neighborhood park. Big box stores - usually accessible only by car - have supplanted a whole handful of neighborhood businesses that kids used to walk to on their own.

In the absence of their mother, my offspring have had quite a harrowing week. But when I look at the big picture, it is hardly the kids' fault. The real monsters we've created aren't the ones constantly hounding us for a ride; they are our communities which, in many ways, have become unlivable and unmanageable.



## NEWS FROM FRIENDS ACROSS IOWA

### CITY HELPS FINANCE DEVELOPMENT



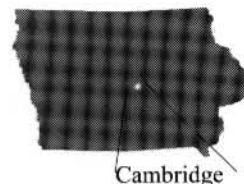
It's not affordable housing, but the Dubuque City Council is supporting it by covering the cost of a sewer system for 44 acres of new housing. They are lending the Harvest Development Group \$426,000 interest free which developers will pay back as the lots are sold. On the positive side, the construction does not constitute a recent loss of farmland because it has been set aside for development for a long time. It is also within the city limits. Although there are mixed feelings among local citizens, the City of Dubuque considers this smart growth. They point out that in a city of 60,000 people, only 40 homes were built in the last year (most outside the city). Housing construction has gone down 36% since 1990 and single family home construction fell 64% in the last 10 years.

### ANOTHER HISTORIC HOUSE SAVED



One of the things that makes old houses worth saving is the old growth timber with which they're constructed. The house recently bought by Larry & Jen James (at right) still contains the fir that built it in 1889. Sitting amidst the changing Drake University campus, the house is listed on the National Register and was set to be torn down in favor of more green space. Instead, the University sold it to the James Development Group, Inc. "We started the company to save houses. Each time you tear down a house, you lose history, tax base, and superior building products and materials," said Larry. The house was moved 5 blocks during the night of July 5 from 1318 27<sup>th</sup> St. to 1056 26<sup>th</sup> St. Once the house is fixed up—after several months, many contractors and about \$100,000—Larry & Jen will be moving in. Another historic house was set to be torn down by Drake in order to make room for the Walgreen's at 31st and University. James Development purchased and relocated that one last year.

### PROCESSING PLANT BLOCKED



An Excel meat processing plant has been blocked from locating in Cambridge in southern Story County. The plant would have used 3 million gallons of water per day, as well as threatened the nearby South Skunk River and the quality of life in Cambridge. Many residents felt the plant would better fit into a larger town, and imagined theirs would be radically changed if the plant were built. On top of the success of stopping the processing plant, 1000 Friends board member Wende Elliot is working to create an organic meat co-op, which would use small family processing lockers and operate on a smaller scale than the Excel plant.

### ANNEXATION PROPOSED AGAIN



Tiffin is back with another annexation proposal despite being previously rejected by the City Development Board. Neighboring town Coralville is stretching out in Tiffin's direction and many of the residents in its path prefer to be absorbed by Tiffin. The location is a critical freeway junction and both cities want a part of the industrial and commercial tax base that is likely to occur. Tiffin has recently grown from 700 to 1200 people and is now looking at the possibility of a population of 3,000.

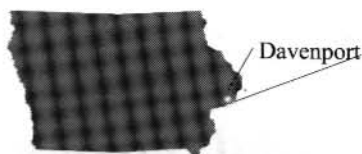
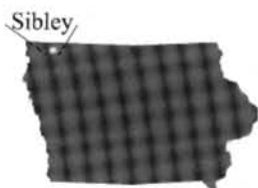


## WAL-MART GIVEN GO AHEAD FOR SUPERCENTER IN DAVENPORT

Despite the city's Comprehensive Plan, the Davenport City Council voted 9 to 1 for a zoning change in order to allow the construction of a Super Wal-Mart. The discounting giant will abandon its current store on the south side of Elmore Street at 53<sup>rd</sup>. If, within 2 years, Wal-Mart has not sold its vacant store (unlikely, considering its size) then the city has the option to list the store and sell it for them. After another two years, if the building is still unsold, it will go back to Wal-Mart. Also, Wal-Mart originally agreed not to protest an assessed tax increase up to \$10,000. However, a new agreement dropped that amount to \$7,000. The developer, THF, is owned by the Kronche Group, a Walton owned company. The outlook on the situation is not good considering no feasibility study has been done on how the local economy would be affected. Wal-Mart has more than 300 abandoned stores throughout the US. This practice is common because, with subsidies and the increased market share that superstores create, it is actually cost-effective for the company.

## RAILROAD ASSOCIATION HAS PROBLEMS WITH UNION PACIFIC

The Dickinson-Osceola Railroad Association, a local non-profit, purchased 37.3 miles of track from Union Pacific earlier this year. UP had proposed to abandon the line because they said they didn't need the track. The intent of the Railroad Association was to maintain the line to help preserve the viability of small towns and the local economy and use it for shipping freight, storage of empty cars during the winter and tourism activities. Problems arose when the line was ready to ship 75 carloads of grain and UP refused to let them use the tracks beyond the purchased 37.3 miles. This control enables UP to force grain to flow only to specified destinations, affecting price and preventing farmers from having a choice. The Department of Transportation has yet to get involved in the situation and does not want to construct an under- or over-pass for the track around Highway 60.

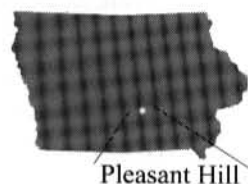


### Facts on Wal-Mart

from [www.walmartwatch.com](http://www.walmartwatch.com)

- Wal-Mart has 600 Super Centers and it is predicted there will be 1400 in operation by 2005.
- Three existing jobs are lost for every 2 jobs created by Wal-Mart.
- Wal-Mart employees pay close to 50% of their total health plan expense through premium co-pays. The national average is 28%.
- 62% of Wal-Mart employees cannot afford health insurance.
- 80% of Wal-Mart's garments are imports. The national average is 55%.

## OFF-ROAD VEHICLES RAISING PROBLEMS



Off Road Vehicles (ORV) are a rapidly growing form of outdoor recreation as dirt bikes, all terrain vehicles and the more familiar 4-wheel drive pickup and SUV. They all have the capability of traveling off the roadway and bringing many problems into the countryside. Many consider the explosive growth of ORVs to be a land-use and private property issue that needs to be addressed as such. ORVs can and do have significant environmental impacts especially in fragile environments such as steeply sloping land, woodlands, wetlands and riparian areas. They also can impact wildlife through direct mortality, noise, and habitat destruction. Iowa has less publicly owned open space than most states and the lack of suitable areas to ride has resulted in increasing conflicts between recreational riders and public land managers, law enforcement personnel, private landowners and other user groups. ORVs have been recognized for many years as tremendous tools for accomplishing work away from paved roads, on the farm or in wildlife areas. However, the use of an ORV as a recreational toy has become increasingly common and has consequences far beyond the enjoyment that a user derives from the activity.

## **Identifying and Solving Land-Use Challenges in Van Buren County**

After two years of work, our study circle project "Identifying and Solving Land-Use Challenges in Van Buren County" is completed. Van Buren County is one of Iowa's most untouched counties. Beautiful rolling hills, expansive timberland, fertile farmland, flowing rivers, small towns and villages with historic Main Streets are the norm (see photo below). A county that has no stoplights or chain stores is truly an oddity in the twenty-first century, like taking a step back in time.

Yet the natural beauty of the land, the charm and friendliness of the villages coupled with low land values make it a county ripe for residential, commercial and industrial development. Growth in Van Buren County seems inevitable. In fact, it is already happening.

1000 Friends of Iowa was invited to Van Buren County in September 1999 to give a presentation about land use to a diverse group of concerned citizens. The beauty of the land was apparent as we rolled into Keosauqua, the county seat. The underlying turmoil about land-use issues, while not obvious, became nearly palpable by the end of the day. We later learned that nearly eight years earlier, the county had been embroiled in a debate over zoning. However, the conflict was never mentioned and those attending the meeting seemed eager to skirt the issue.

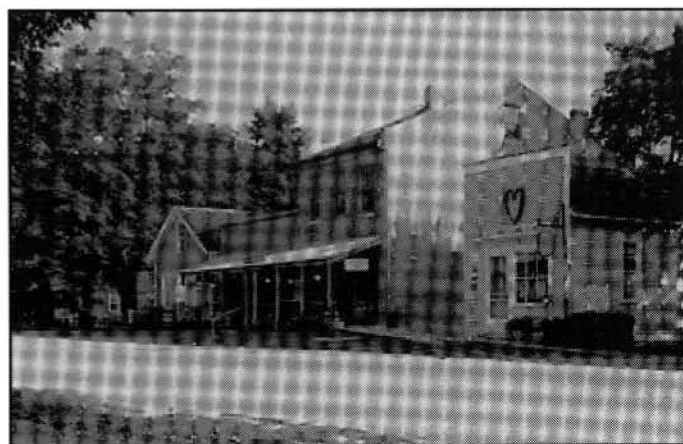
When 1000 Friends of Iowa received funding to conduct land-use study circles in any county in Iowa, Van Buren County was an obvious choice. In October 1999 we received \$3,000 from Vision 2020 to execute the program, and we promptly got to work. Ed Fallon and LaVon Griffieon met with political leaders, civic leaders, organizations, and over thirty individuals to discuss our idea of facilitated dialogue. The members of the Board of Supervisors were all in agreement that this was a timely and good discussion to have. Certain civic

leaders, still bearing scars of the past zoning battles, didn't want to be involved. But overall, the reception was positive and we decided to move forward.

Participants discussed what they liked and disliked about their county. They were asked what they saw happening in the future. The dialogues were facilitated to keep everything on track. The groups met individually three times, and three times as one large group as well. This allowed them to discuss their concerns and consider practical recommendations with each other and with their county and city leaders.

At the last meeting, some of the citizens decided to continue the study circles to educate themselves on local issues and to work toward positive solutions to keep their county developing in a way that is pleasing to everyone.

The majority of participants felt that the study circles were the first successful model used to accomplish civil dialogue about land-use issues in the county. We are grateful to the hospitality and civility of the people of Van Buren County. Hopefully, we have provided citizens with a vehicle that will generate county-wide participation toward a better future.





# Revitalization Project Moves Forward

Our residential revitalization project in Des Moines' inner city continues to move forward. As we go to press, five nearby older homes are being prepared to be moved to sites on the east side of the 1300 block of 7<sup>th</sup> Street. This is an exciting development that is sure to anchor positive changes on a block that has seen mostly trouble and decay over the past few decades.

Building partnerships is what is really moving this project forward. Here are several examples:

- Community Housing Development Corporation (the organization moving the five houses) needs help with landscaping. We have identified four partners willing to assist in a variety of capacities.



- The Catholic Worker House celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ministry in the community. In August, we helped organize a neighborhood celebration that brought over 100 people together for food, fellowship and music. We also helped purchase scaffolding so the Catholic Workers could paint their house.
- A Baptist church on the block, hoping to rebuild after their church was destroyed by arson four years ago, needs many types of



assistance. We have identified a Lutheran fellowship willing to help.

- Existing and new homeowners need help with lawns and gardens. We are working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on a backyard conservation project that will provide trees, shrubs, birdhouses, and perhaps a small pond. A busload of neighborhood residents recently traveled to Corning to learn how residents of that community have benefited from backyard conservation. (see photos on this page taken on tour)

This project runs through 2003. To date, things have gone swimmingly. A major transformation is in place that may well serve as a model to communities across the state. Stay tuned for periodic updates!



## PROGRAM UPDATE

### Meet our Newest Volunteer!

Tom Peterson is a new volunteer with 1000 Friends of Iowa. The advice of a friend and a 1000 Friends member, Sally Diane, prompted Tom to call and offer to volunteer with us. Tom's interest in sustainable growth began, unknown to him, during the annual family vacations to Upper Michigan when he was growing up during the 60s in suburban Chicago. The continued exposure to the contrast between the sprawl of new developments and the peacefulness of a northern lake home retreat eventually kindled his concern for better land-use practices. The life of a volunteer at 1000 Friends is, according to Tom, about 90% phone contact with members giving event updates or reminders and 10% lively conversation with office staff.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

#### *From Recent Articles*

"Neighborhoods are the basis of urban revival. Retail commerce is the key to neighborhood success—but it has to happen very slowly: one fence, one sign, one supermarket at a time."

**Governing Alan Ehrenhalt July, 2001. The article discusses Boston mayor, Tom Menino, and how his emphasis on neighborhood revitalization through retail commerce is catching on across the US.**

"By most accounts nothing moved the suburbs so efficiently toward sprawl as a certain stroke of President Dwight Eisenhower's pen, signing into law the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, which launched a 41,000-mile interstate highway system. Among other things, the interstates would grease the skids for commerce, industry, and a burgeoning roster of fast-food emporiums to roll off the exit ramps into a countryside previously reserved for corn."

**National Geographic John G. Mitchell July, 2001. The article thoroughly covers urban sprawl from its beginnings to our current situation, and what the future might look like.**

### Best Development Awards 2001 Winners

#### **Best Commercial Redevelopment:**

Albia Downtown Restoration—Albia Area Chamber of Commerce—Albia, Monroe County

#### **Best Residential Redevelopment:**

Arlington-Hallet Apartments—Leslie Gearhart, Metro Properties—Des Moines, Polk County

#### **Best New Commercial Development (Western Iowa):**

Green Building—Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development—Oakland, Pottawatomie, County

#### **Best New Commercial Development (Central Iowa):**

Royal Amsterdam Molengracht—Farver, Kreykes, Boomsma, De Waard, De Vries—Pella, Marion County

Thank you to all those who sent in nominations. Thank you to those on our selection committee who helped determine the winners: Evan Oster, Tom Dunbar, Jodi Beavers, Ed Fallon and LaVon Griffeeon. And special thanks to Tom Peterson for all his work on the project.

### WEBSITES OF INTEREST

1000 Friends of Iowa: [www.kfoi.org](http://www.kfoi.org)

Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy: [www.brook.edu](http://www.brook.edu)

Competitive Enterprise Institute: [www.cei.org](http://www.cei.org)

For news on land use in Decorah: [www.decorahnews.com](http://www.decorahnews.com)

Drake Neighborhood Assoc.: [www.drakeneighborhood.org](http://www.drakeneighborhood.org)

Inst. for Cultural Landscape Studies: [www.icls.harvard.edu](http://www.icls.harvard.edu)

Institute for Local Self-Reliance: [www.ilsr.org](http://www.ilsr.org)

Iowa Environmental Council: [www.earthweshare.org](http://www.earthweshare.org)

For information on campaign finances: [www.mapiowa.org](http://www.mapiowa.org)

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy: [www.lincolninst.edu](http://www.lincolninst.edu)

Nat'l Trust for Historic Preservation: [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org)

Sierra Club Sprawl Campaign: [www.sierraclub.org/sprawl](http://www.sierraclub.org/sprawl)

Sprawl Watch: [www.sprawlwatch.org](http://www.sprawlwatch.org)



We are now hiring for a new position. Please post this in newspapers and on billboards in your community. The application deadline is October 11, 2001.

## **1000 Friends of Iowa Office Manager**

**Hours:** Permanent full-time position

**Pay:** \$32,000

**Benefits:** Health insurance, full premium paid for by 1000 Friends if you desire. Dental benefits are picked up by the employee, but through a group plan.

**Holidays:** New Years Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day & the day after, Christmas Day & the day before or after.

**Vacation:** Ten working days of vacation with pay after one year of consecutive employment, 15 working days of vacation after five years of continuous employment.

**Job Review:** Reviews will occur after six weeks, then every six months thereafter

### **Responsibilities:**

1. Be responsible for office bookkeeping and filing
2. Manage the database
3. Send out renewal notices to members
4. Assemble mailings
5. Greet visitors to the office and be in charge of refreshments
6. Run errands
7. Open mail & conduct correspondence
8. Maintain an attractive, well-organized office
9. Write and edit the quarterly newsletter
10. Coordinate volunteers
11. Work closely with the Executive Director
12. Other duties as assigned

### **Primary Qualifications:**

1. Strong written and verbal communication skills
2. Excellent organizational abilities
3. Excellent interpersonal skills
4. Demonstrated ability to prioritize, manage and coordinate multiple tasks
5. Proficient computer and data base skills
6. Desire and ambition to see land-use education issues promoted

**Accepting applications through October 11, 2001**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: (515) 288-5364 or [kfoi@kfoi.org](mailto:kfoi@kfoi.org)**

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### HOW MANY FRIENDS ARE WE?

- As of September 10, 2001...  
.000000015% of the world's population is a member of 1000 Friends of Iowa, up from .000000014% in June.
- We are 550 Founding Friends (members who have on at least one occasion contributed \$100 or more)
- We are now 920 paying members in 65 Iowa counties, 25 states and 2 countries.
- 1000 Friends members have hosted 9 house parties this year in order to share food and music and to discuss land use issues across Iowa. Through these parties we have gained many new members.

### THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

**Much gratitude goes out to our many volunteers these past few months:**

Chris Breitbach for help in the office

Paul Schermann for hauling signs in from Dubuque

Tom Peterson for work on the Best Development Awards

Martin Victor and Laurie Jones help freezing the sweet corn for the commercial kitchen project

Clark McMullen and Al Seiptker for computer help

Rev. Cunningham from Community Baptist Church for encouraging his parishioners to join our tour

to Corning

**And for the Spring Land Use Bulletin mailing:**

Ellie Phillips, Jan Gerrington, Martin Victor, Jim Wheeler, Jean Bodensadt, and Kristin, Ben and Fionna Fallon

**Also for our 7th street Party on August 25th:**

Kristin Fallon for organizing the music

Katherine Spencer for a whole lot of help

Hazel and Maury Glenn, Ted Walker, and Jason Nelson for leafletting

Jerry DeWitt, Rod Swoboda and Ben Fallon for taking photos and video of the event



## World Premiere *A Special Invitation to*

The World Food Prize 15th Anniversary Celebration  
*in honor of*

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Norman E. Borlaug

Civic Center of Greater Des Moines

Thursday, October 18, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

**Tickets are free, but limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.**

### TICKET REQUEST

Fax to: 515-245-3785

Mail to: The World Food Prize Foundation, 1700 Ruan Center, 666 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if your party will require wheelchair seating ☐ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Call The World Food Prize Foundation at 515-245-3783 or e-mail: [wfp@worldfoodprize.org](mailto:wfp@worldfoodprize.org)

## CONNECTIONS

### FOR SALE!

**T-Shirts:** Short sleeve are \$15 and come in sizes M through XXL. Long sleeve (just in time for the inevitable cold weather) are \$20 and available in sizes L through XXL.

**Buy Local Posters:** A great way to spread the idea of shopping Main Street and support our growing program. They're \$1 each and cheaper if you want a bunch.

**Videos:** "Cornerstones" and "A Letter from Iowa" for \$5 each. Use them for educational tools at schools, meetings, classes to facilitate dialogue about land use in Iowa.

### FOR LOAN!

**FARMASAVE Signs:** Call or write us for a complete listing. We're already looking for wintering homes for each of our seven sets of signs. (see one example at right.)

**Business Plan for a Grocery Store:** If your town needs a grocery store, there may well be ideas in here that could jump start your effort. We're very happy to share it, free of charge.

## Iowa's Best Kept Global Secret

The World Food Prize will celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, honoring Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and native Iowan Dr. Norman Borlaug. The Prize was established to honor a person who has worked to improve the quality, quantity or availability of food for the world. The World Food Prize was established in 1987. Iowan John Ruan II assumed its sponsorship in 1990 and endowed it in 1997. Mr. Ruan has been a strong supporter of 1000 Friends since its inception and recently won the Iowa Award for his respect for soils, agriculture, stewardship and wise use of our land.



## TRANSPORTATION NUMBERS

from *World Watch* Sept/Oct 2000

**70:** Percent of surface area in the city of Los Angeles dedicated in some way to the automobile (roads, parking garages, etc.)

**5:** Percent of surface area in Los Angeles devoted to parks and open space

**Fewer than 100:** Number of people killed in Amtrak passenger train accidents in the United States since 1971

**More than 40,000:** Number of people killed every year in automobile accidents in the United States

**8:** Number of deaths in the United States due to airline accidents in 1997

**6,100:** Number of pedestrians and cyclists killed in the United States by motor vehicles in 1997

**100,000:** Number of people displaced each year in the United States by new highway construction

**100,000:** Number of Croats displaced by war in 1997

**\$415:** Cost of fuel in the United States to drive 15,000 miles in Honda's 2000 Insight, which gets 65 mpg

**\$1,800:** Cost of driving that same distance in Land Rover's 2000 Range Rover, which gets 15 mpg





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## Two Fine Iowa Fellows!

Iowans LaVon Griffieon and Denise O'Brien were recently awarded two of twelve fellowships from across the United States. Out of over 90 candidates, they were selected through a partnership of the WK Kellogg Foundation, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and The Jefferson Institute. They will be Food and Society Policy Fellows for the next two years.

These fellows will work both individually and collectively. The group is quite diverse, with specialists from all walks of life: organic farming, human nutrition, ag communications, rural development, large scale trends in farming, public health, agricultural economics, environmental entomology, farm policy, aquaculture and women and ag.

Together, they hope to create a larger message to help the average consumer understand more about agriculture, where it seems to be heading, how it af-

fects people's lives and what federal and state farm policy means to the average consumer.

The group will be traveling to the Netherlands and Belgium Oct 1-7 to study the European Union, sustainable farming and trade policies. LaVon will continue on to France until October 10th, where she will be meeting with farm activists, the media and elected officials.

The two women are looking forward to the challenge of learning more about federal farm policy and international trade. LaVon is pleased to have this "kick in the seat of the pants to write articles that try to explain farming to consumers. I feel passionately about soils, food, globalization and the little folks around the world who constantly get trampled on. And you know how it is when I feel passionately about stuff!"