

# Keep Iowa Beautiful®

Summer 2019

## KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Keep Iowa Beautiful Board of Directors has appointed Kevin W. Techau as the new Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful. He was re-elected to the KIB Board in 2017 and served as Vice-Chair in 2018. He was originally elected to the Board in 2005 and served as Chair from 2006-2013.

“Kevin is a servant leader, giving back to the state of Iowa and our nation in everything he does,” says Reo Menning, Chair of KIB’s Board of Directors. “KIB will benefit from his steadfast leadership, relationships and long-time commitment to the mission of the organization. He will continue to grow KIB’s positive impact throughout the state.”

“I am very honored to have the opportunity to lead Keep Iowa Beautiful. I look forward to working with the Board to build on the legacy of Keep Iowa Beautiful’s Founders, Governor Bob Ray and Don Lamberti and longtime Executive Director Gerry Schnepf,” said Techau. “At 20 years old, Keep Iowa Beautiful has a great history of partnerships with other organizations and volunteers. Keep Iowa Beautiful provides leadership across Iowa for collective action and individual responsibility to make Iowa a cleaner, more vibrant and beautiful place to live, visit, and conduct business,” he added.

Techau is an attorney with Smith, Mills & Schrock with offices in Cedar Rapids, Des Moines and Omaha. He served as the presidentially appointed United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa 2014-2017. His 35-year public/private career includes service as Commissioner of the Iowa Department of Public Safety and Director of the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals and seven years as Associate General Counsel at American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company. Kevin served as a Judge Advocate with the United States Air Force for seven years. After leaving active duty, he served with the Iowa Air National Guard for twenty years. He retired from the Iowa Air National Guard as a Colonel with 27 years of military service. He was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal. Kevin has received the Iowa Public Health Heroes Award, University of Iowa, College of Public Health, 2016; Safe Kids Iowa Leadership Award, Blank Children’s Hospital, 2007 and Government Leadership Award, Greater Des Moines Partnership, 2006.

Techau is a graduate of the University of Iowa College of Business and College of Law. He completed the Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. Past service includes Boards of the Des Moines Public Library, Des Moines Area Religious Council, and the Iowa National Guard Officer’s Association. He currently serves on the Board of America’s Job Honors Award.

Techau assumed his new duties on June 1 replacing founding Executive Director Gerald Schnepf who resigned on May 31st. Techau and his wife, Stephanie, have two children and currently reside in Cedar Rapids.



Kevin W. Techau

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### Board of Directors

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Vice-Chairman

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**Inky Westfall**

### Staff/Consultants

**Kevin Techau**  
Executive Director  
515-979-0142

**William H. Jackson**  
Executive Assistant  
515-323-6537

**Heather Staebell**  
Education Consultant

### Hometown Pride Coaches

**Francis Boggus** - Clinton County  
515-822-1434

**Jeff Davidson** - Jasper County  
319-541-7048

**Lorin Ditzler** - Warren County  
515-442-0723

**Kathy Evert** - Sac County  
712-260-8746

**Doug Friedli** - Fremont County  
402-873-2215

**David Heiar** - GWMRR Counties  
563-599-1223

**Margo Underwood** - Pocahontas County  
641-420-3896

[www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com](http://www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com)

## 10 POINT SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAM

**By Heather Staebell, KIB Education Consultant**



Heather Staebell

It's summer in Iowa. A time of swimming pools, festivals, and warm weather. Kids are off school and parents are scrambling for ways to keep the youngsters busy. While teachers enjoy summers as much as kids, the three months of June, July, and August can mean the onset of the "summer slide", a time when educational efforts regress and students lose essential skills taught throughout the school year. An average student in the elementary years can lose between 2-6 months of reading and math skills, which correlates to four months of reteaching by the classroom teacher. As a result, there have been multiple companies come forth with the solutions, almost all consisting of worksheets to complete. While those worksheets can be beneficial, kids don't tend to be enthusiastic about them and parents often come to dread the educational efforts.

At Keep Iowa Beautiful, we would like to encourage you to use this summer freedom to step outside the classroom and learn. Nature provides the backdrop, you provide the experience, and kids don't even realize they are learning...now that sounds like a win-win situation. There are countless ways to combat the "summer slide" just by walking outside your front door and enjoying the value of the experience. It's important to note, experiences can cost money, but they don't have to. Take a walk, hike in the woods, or lie on your back and watch the clouds, just being outside and active can lend itself to learning.

Not sure where to start? Here are some ideas...

1. Go outside and take a walk. Look for interesting animals or plants. Go home and investigate.
2. Visit your grandparents or an elderly neighbor. While sharing a cup of lemonade talk about what life was like when they were your age. What summer traditions did they have? Try out one of their favorites.
3. Visit a park, take some pictures of the kids playing. Go home and make an advertisement on why someone should visit that park or make a YouTube video explaining what amenities the park has to offer.
4. Go swimming at the local pool or lake. Talk about what it takes to run a pool. Challenge the kids to answer math problems about costs of snacks or volume of water in the pool.
5. As you are driving around town pose trivia questions for the kids to answer...What county are we in? How many counties are in Iowa? What state is to the North of us?
6. Go fishing. Learn how to tie a knot, predict how long it will take to catch a fish, catch tadpoles and examine their changing bodies, talk about life cycle and natural habitats.
7. Put your GPS away and practice reading a map. Better yet, go for a drive, at each turn, roll a dice to determine where to go. Keep going until you find somewhere fun to visit.
8. Visit a museum or zoo. Take time to read the signs and learn about the animals/artifacts.
9. Play a game of basketball. Keep score with sidewalk chalk and tally marks. Practice counting by 2's and 3's.
10. Visit the library, get a good book, and find a quiet place to read. Get lost in the story. Enjoy the time of reading just for fun! If you like the book, recommend it to friends. If you don't, return the book and pick out another!

Regardless of what you do this summer, take time to be outside. Relax and renew in the sunshine. Put down the electronics, throw away the worksheets, be in the moment and enjoy the art of the experience!



# SUMMERTIME

## GREAT TIME TO ENTER KIB'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

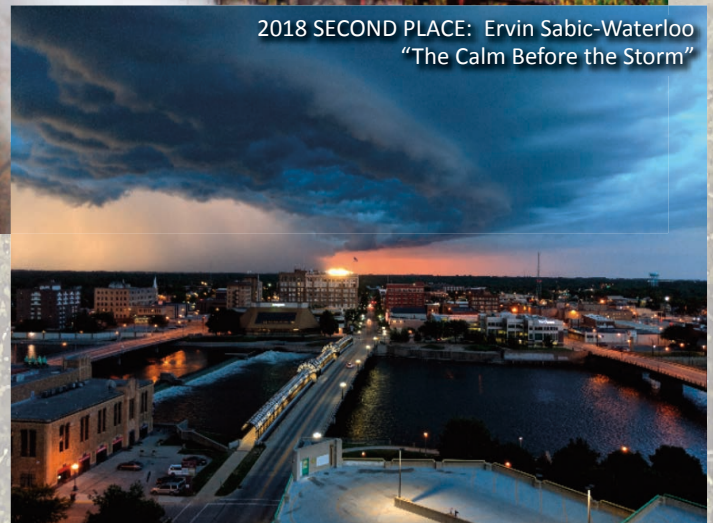


2018 FIRST PLACE: Justin Rogers-Ankeny  
Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad Steam Engine

Have you taken a photo of your favorite place in Iowa? If you have not, summertime is a great time to grab your camera and take that shot and enter it in Keep Iowa Beautiful's 10th Photography Contest aimed at raising awareness of Iowa's rural and urban beauty. This photo contest offers both amateur and experienced photographers an opportunity to tell Iowa's story in a fun, engaging way during your favorite season.

"This is a great way for 'Iowa fans' to share what they like about Iowa," said Kevin Techau, KIB Executive Director. "First place will receive \$50, second place \$40 and third \$30." Each winner will also receive a one-year subscription to Our Iowa magazine.

The deadline is December 13, 2019 and entries must be submitted as high resolution JPEG electronically to [bjackson@keepiowabeautiful.com](mailto:bjackson@keepiowabeautiful.com). \$5 entry fee, contest rules and payment can be made at <https://www.keepiowabeautiful.org/photography-contest-entry/>



2018 SECOND PLACE: Ervin Sabic-Waterloo  
"The Calm Before the Storm"



2018 THIRD PLACE: Willard Sharp-Madrid  
"Summer Thunderstorm Near Parkersburg"



# IOWA GROCERS

## AWARD 15 BUILD WITH BAGS GRANTS

City parks and schools throughout Iowa will soon have new park benches, planters or picnic tables courtesy of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association's Build with Bags program.

Fifteen Iowa communities have received grants of up to \$2,000 to purchase items made from recycled plastic bags. Items include park benches made by Plastic Recycling of Iowa Falls. One park bench represents approximately 10,600 bags that won't end up in the landfill.

"We are excited to announce the winners of the Build with Bags grant program," says Michelle Hurd, president of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association. "Now in its 10th year, the Build with Bags program continues to encourage individuals to recycle their plastic bags so those bags can be turned into products that beautify our communities. This year's grant winners are reaping the rewards of their recycling efforts, and we hope other communities will follow suit and expand their recycling efforts."

Encouraging purchases of furniture and equipment made from recycled plastic for parks and schools through its grant program is one of four goals established by Build with Bags partners. The other three include increasing the amount of plastic bags recycled, reducing consumption of plastic bags and increasing the safe use of reusable bags.

Build with Bags, a cooperative effort of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association, Keep Iowa Beautiful, Metro Waste Authority in Des Moines and Iowa Department of Natural Resources, was originally launched in August 2009. Now in its tenth year, the Build with Bags Grant program has awarded \$312,224.22 in grants to more than 200 Iowa communities.

For more information on Build with Bags or its grant program opportunities, visit [www.iowagrocers.com](http://www.iowagrocers.com).



Grant Recipient	City	Grant Amount
Brookview Elementary School PTO	West Des Moines	\$2,000
Central College	Pella	\$2,000
Friends of Mahaska County Conservation	Oskaloosa	\$2,000
Hanawalt Elementary School	Des Moines	\$2,000
City of Havelock's Hometown Pride Committee	Havelock	\$1,530
City of Hills	Hills	\$2,000
Johnston Community School Foundation	Johnston	\$2,000
City of Manchester	Manchester	\$2,000
Miller Middle School TOP Students	Marshalltown	\$2,000
Monona Chamber & Economic Dev	Monona	\$2,000
Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center	Decorah	\$2,000



# HOMETOWN PRIDE COACHES CORNER

***Building Stronger Communities – Developing Sustainable Futures***

## **Fremont County - Hometown Pride**

June 10 marked the 86th day of the 2019 flood waters covering the western part of Fremont County. The Missouri River is still 3 feet above flood stage...still flowing through homes and farms and communities...still flowing over damaged roads. Interstate 29 is closed for 108 miles from Glenwood, Iowa to St. Joseph, Missouri. All six river bridges on that stretch remain closed. A typical 10 minute commute across the river to work or school or shopping or doctor has turned into a 2 hour detour.

Hometown Pride volunteers from across the County have generously been sharing their labor, their food, their clothing, their support and their prayers for families who have been displaced. Events like a Crawfish Boil and a Floodstock music concert have helped to raise a little money and to lift spirits.

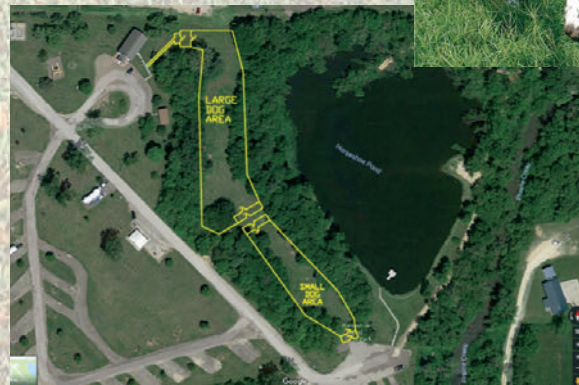


## **Jackson, Jones & Dubuque Counties – MAQUOKETA - Hometown Pride**

The Maquoketa Hometown Pride Dog Park Committee has a home for its pet project, but now needs the money to make the project happen.

Committee members must raise about \$120,000 to build and equip a dog park, committee member Scott Warren said. The committee will raise these startup funds, and the city will pay for ongoing operating costs and future capital expenses at the park, which will be located at Horseshoe Pond Park.

“Our target is spring 2020,” Warren said. He noted that while contractors will complete specialized work, there will be plenty of tasks requiring volunteer assistance.





# HOMETOWN PRIDE COACHES CORNER

*Building Stronger Communities – Developing Sustainable Futures*

## Jasper County-Monroe — Hometown Pride

Monroe Hometown Pride was excited the week of June 3 to see the contractor paving the parking lot at the Red Rock Prairie Trail Monroe Trailhead. This project is being funded through 2 grants that were procured by Monroe Hometown Pride from the Prairie Meadows Community Betterment program, and the Jasper Community Foundation. The 20 space lot is directly across the street from the Monroe Trailhead. The first phase of the Red Rock Prairie Trail will be constructed between Monroe and Prairie City in spring of 2020. \$2.2 million in funding has been assembled for the 9 mile trail, through the partnership of Monroe and Prairie City Hometown Pride, the Jasper County Conservation Department, and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The Red Rock Prairie Trail will eventually be extended from Prairie City into the Des Moines metro trail system.



## Pocahontas-Palmer — Hometown Pride

The Palmer Hometown Pride Committee was selected as a 2019 winner of a \$2,500 donation from the America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Bayer Fund. (pictured L to R are Steve Trimble, Taylor Anderson and Amanda Korte). This program offers farmers the chance to direct a \$2,500 donation to a non-profit of their choice. The Palmer Hometown Pride Committee was thrilled to be nominated for this nation-wide award by a local farmer. These funds will be used by the Hometown Pride Committee to renovate and enhance ADA accessibility in the Palmer Community Center's men's restroom.





# KIB AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR

Keep Iowa Beautiful needs your help staffing the booth at the Iowa State Fair. Once again we are in the air-conditioned Varied Industries Building. August 8-18, 2019. Shifts available are: 9:00AM-1:00PM, 1:00-5:00PM and 5:00-9:00PM. Two people per shift. KIB will provide \$10 gate admission and a T-Shirt. Sign up is on the internet, fast and simple!

1. Simply go online at <http://bit.ly/IowaStateFair>
2. Scroll down and select your preferred shift(s) on the white box after "sign up"
3. Scroll to the end and click on "submit and sign in" button
4. Complete the contact information asked for including T-Shirt size.
5. Hit "Submit" and a confirmation will come to your email.

A reminder with ticket(s), T-Shirt and booth activities will be sent around Aug. 1. If you have questions or are having trouble signing up on the internet, e-mail [bjackson@keepiowabeautiful.com](mailto:bjackson@keepiowabeautiful.com)







300 East Locust • Suite 100  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309



**Return Service Requested**

Nonprofit Org.  
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Waterloo, IA  
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## DOLL DISTRIBUTING NO LITTER DECALS

Mark Doll (R) has purchased and is putting "No Litter" decals on all Doll Distributing trucks that travel the state. In the photo is Mark and his daughter - Lauren Doll-Sheeder. Former Executive Director Gerry Schnepf is on the left. (The photo shows the decal on the side of the truck, actual placement will be on the rear of the trucks.)



**Report Littering**  
**1-888-N**  **LITTR**  
*Keep Iowa Beautiful*   
[ 6 6 5 - 4 8 8 7 ]