The Update

SWIPCO
A Bright Look Ahead™

October 2026

Serving the Counties of Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Montgomery, Mills, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby

Atlantic Home Repair Project Greatly Improves Efficiency and Earns Beautification Award

ATLANTIC- The home repair program through the Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund is a pillar of the work that is done through Southwest Iowa Planning Council. Creating safe and more efficient spaces for area residents to thrive.

A recent project in Atlantic turned out so well the home received a Community Beautification Award. Laura Jurchen said she knew about SWIPCO's program because her parents got some help about 15 years ago. When she bought her current home at 801 Walnut Street in Atlantic, she called SWIPCO to get on the waiting list. After a few years she made it to the top of the list and went through the application process to get assistance.



Homeowner Laura Jurchen stands on her new porch in Atlantic on October 28, 2026

In this Issue

Home Repair Helps Atlantic Resident Improve Efficiency and Curb Appeal.....1-2
SWIPCO Receives NADO Impact Award for Trail Mapping Project.....3
October is Community Planning Month.....4
Atlantic Celebrates Opening of New EV Chargers.....5
Birthdays & Anniversaries; Grant Opportunities.....7
SWITA Drivers Wanted.....8

Through grant funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank Jurchen's home was able to be updated with new siding, gutters, some windows, new porch, and HVAC upgrades.

Jurchen is overjoyed with the results, "I'm very thankful for the program, I wouldn't have been able to do these things without it. I sometimes still come home and can't believe this is my house!"

Continued..

Home Repair Continued....

According to Jurchen the process was smooth, simple, and accommodating, "The application process was simple and everyone was great to work with. Nicole and Ann in the office were awesome to work with. The Inspector, Matthew, was great, working to get me the most out of my updates. The contractor, Fusselman, communicated very well with me and did great work. I couldn't have asked for anything to go any better."



Before and After Repair Updates at 801 Walnut Street in Atlantic

Energy efficiency is always an emphasis of the repair program and with some updated windows and new HVAC system, Jurchen said she has already seen a dramatic decrease in energy usage and costs. She plans to keep working on the home with staining and foundation repainting on her short list. A favorite of the repairs for her so far is the front porch. She immediately got some string lights put up and enjoys spending time on it almost every evening. She said she would and already has been recommending the program to others she knows.



If you are a resident of Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, or Shelby County and are in need of home repair assistance; please contact the SWIPCO housing team at 712-243-4196 to get on the waiting list. Applicants must be income verified to receive assistance, and the team will work to place individuals in the most appropriate grant program.

SWIPCO Receives NADO Impact Award for Trail Mapping Project with Golden Hills RC&D

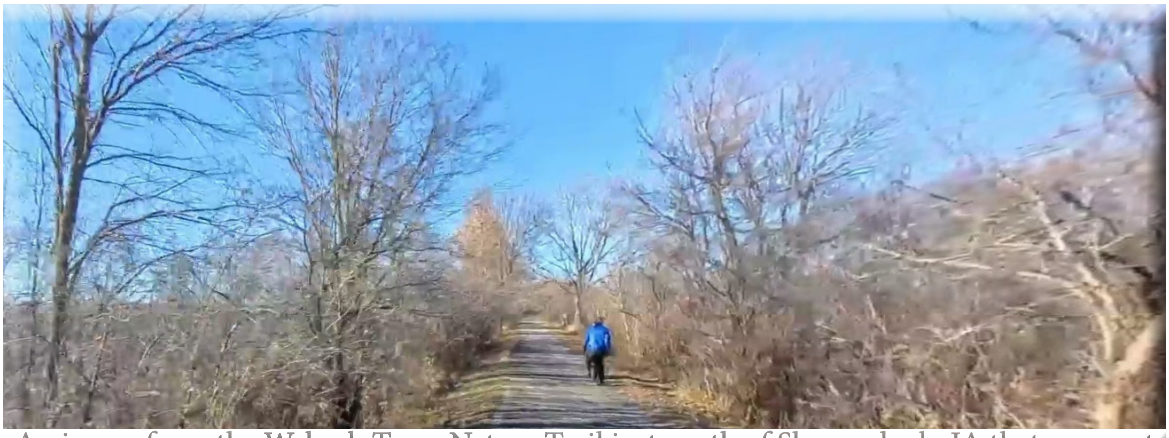
RENO, NV- Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) was recognized with a National Association of Development Organizations 2026 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award for an extensive trail mapping project in collaboration with Golden Hills RC&D.



SWIPCO Executive Director John McCurdy and Community Developement Grants Manager Tammy DeBord accept the NADO Impact Award at the NADO Annual Conference in Reno, NV on October 21, 2026.

As part of the project SWIPCO sought to map every trail in the region, no matter size, use, or jurisdiction. The region's trail system has previously been a mix of state, county, and city managed trails without one comprehensive resource to show trail details such as type, condition, and amenities. SWIPCO developed the project scope, secured grant funding, and contracted with Golden Hills RC&D to make the information available. Trails in the region were mapped by using a 360 camera across each trail and then loading that data into Google's Street View for free access to residents and visitors. This availability can help folks better plan their exploration of all the trails available in the region.

All NADO Impact Award recipients were recognized and presented with their awards at the Annual NADO Training Conference in Reno, NV on October 21, 2026. You can read about this project award and all others on NADO's website https://www.nado.org/2026-impact-award-recipients/


An image from the Wabash Trace Nature Trail just north of Shenandoah, IA that was part of the trail mapping project.

SWIPCO Planning Department Helps Communities Move Forward

.ATLANTIC- October is National Community Planning Month and SWIPCO would like to celebrate our Planning team which works to improve the well-being of all people living in our communities. Planning can range from creating comprehensive and hazard mitigation plans, to water and sewer grant projects, to community facility projects and more.

Lead Planner Dani Briggs started as an intern in 2017, right out of graduating with a bachelor degree in community and regional planning from Iowa State. She then spent some time with MIDAS in Fort Dodge before a full-time position opened up at SWIPCO in 2018.

Noah Hirayama recently joined the Planning team as a Community Development Specialist I. Hirayama came to SWIPCO after recently graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in Community and Regional Planning. He had previous experience interning with Paces, the Iowa DOT, and Polk County Housing Trust Fund.

Interestingly enough both Briggs and Hirayama mentioned playing video games as something that drew them into the idea of planning as a career. They both enjoyed playing games like Sim City and City Skylines. Those planning concepts have a chance to come to life with their careers now. Briggs said she always was interested in design as well and you can combine that practice with planning elements. Hirayama has a strong interest in maps and data, things that also play a key role in the planning field.

Others that play a role in the SWIPCO Planning Department are Executive Director John McCurdy, Community Development Grants Manager Tammy DeBord and Grants Specialist I Barb Boggs.

Planning can help cities and counties with a wide range of behind the scenes or document oriented tasks but there are also many tangible things that exist throughout the region resulting from that work. Briggs, DeBord, and Boggs have all been involved in securing and managing the $600,000 Community Development Block Grant for the Play Haven Child Care facility in Walnut that just recently broke ground. It's those type of projects that really shine and bring a visible impact to communities in our region.

Ribbon Cutting Held for Atlantic EV Chargers



Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors gather to celebrate the opening of Atlantic EV chargers

ATLANTIC- The Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors gathered on Thursday, October 22nd in the City of Atlantic parking lot off Poplar Street between 3rd and 4th Streets in Downtown Atlantic to cut the ribbon on six new Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. The project was a collaborative effort between the City of Atlantic, Cass-Atlantic Development Corporation, Atlantic Municipal Utilities, Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce, and SWIPCO. SWIPCO helped administer the grant.

The City of Atlantic was awarded an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for #121,718 in November of 2025 for replacement of street lights to LED bulbs and AMU became a sub-recipient for the EV charger project with a matching contribution of $38,750.



The new station includes four Level 2 chargers and two DC fast chargers. The Level 2 chargers are intended for longer charging stops and the DC fast chargers can charge vehicles from approximately 20% to 80% full in 25 to 30 minutes.

Continued..

Atlantic EV Chargers Continued...

The chargers were placed in the downtown location to encourage individuals that stop for charging to visit nearby restaurants, retailers, and other amenities.

The Chamber has created a webpage with charging instructions, rates, and suggestions for nearby amenities. That site is www.AtlanticIowaEV.com.





Birthdays & Anniversaries



Daurine Petersen

Administrative Services Director

Birthday Month

SWITA by the Numbers

	August 2026	YTD (Since July 1)
Total Miles	160,840	338,646
Total Hours	6,306	14,095
Total Rides	43,148	89,308

August Rides by Service		August Rides by Demographic	
Workforce Rides	7,611	Disabled	22,830
Taxi Rides	4,819	Elderly	1,361
Student Rides	7,400	Other Gen. Public	18,957
Other	23,318		

Upcoming Grant Information:

- IDOT Federal Airport Improvement Program
  November 19, 2026
- Wastewater & Drinking Water Treatment Financial Assistance
  November
- USDA Solid Waste Management Grant
  December 31, 2026
- Community Catalyst
  Pre-Apps Due in January
- Small Business Energy Audit Program
  May 1, 2029 (Ongoing, first-come basis until funds exhausted)
- EDA Public Works Program
  Ongoing
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
  Ongoing
- IDNR Food Storage Capacity Grant
  Ongoing

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