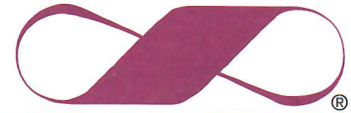


New Sidwell address effective Monday, July 19, 1999. For details, see article on page 2!

# NEWS FROM SIDWELL



PROVIDER OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY, MAPPING SERVICES AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Users Conferences Held



Pictured at right: During a hands-on session at the Iowa conference Sidwell GIS Project Manager Karen Fouts assists Carolyn Johnston of the Dallas County, Iowa, Assessor's Office.

Sidwell hosted its 17<sup>th</sup> annual users conferences on April 20, 1999, at the Holiday Inn-Bloomington/Normal, in Normal, Ill., and on April 28, 1999, at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines.

During these two days, Sidwell technical staff members delivered presentations on a variety of mapping and geographic information system (GIS)-related topics through a conference program that comprised two tracks of sessions and offered hands-on learning opportunities.

"All of the sessions that I attended were excellent and I could tell that the presenters

spent considerable time putting together their presentations," commented Clay County, Iowa Assessor Larry Rozeboom, who attended the conference held in Iowa.

Another participant in the Iowa conference was Jeannette Thanupakorn, assessor in Webster County, Iowa, who stated, "I found the recent GIS user's conference in Des Moines to be a very rewarding experience. These conferences give the users the opportunity to not only take advantage of the education side of GIS but also the ability to connect with other users and share ideas and difficulties."

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## Sidwell Awarded Contracts for Services

Sidwell was awarded a contract by **Bremer County, Iowa**, for development of a GIS containing cadastral map data and digital orthophotography. The process of developing the GIS will include securing aerial photography of the county; performing analytic aerial triangulation to supplement a basic horizontal control network; developing the digital orthophoto imagery; and developing a digital cadastral map database delineating real parcels of property within the county. Sidwell is also to integrate the GIS with the county's existing tax cycle administration and appraisal systems.

Additionally, the contract calls for Sidwell to perform acreage computations for agricultural parcels in the county. The computations will be compared to soil productivity indexes to determine valuations for tax assessment. In connection with these services, Sidwell is to implement a GIS application developed by the company to support conversion and maintenance of digital map layers for use in assessing agricultural land parcels. The application, called FARMS (for *F*armland Assessment and *R*eport Management System), relies on Bentley Systems, Inc. MicroStation GeoGraphics® software to create topology, and can be used to generate reports detailing computed valuations based on soil types and acreage, as well as to create thematic maps portraying soil types, land use, productivity indexes or valuation.

**Marshall County, Iowa**, awarded a contract to Sidwell for the company to provide services to support further development of an existing single-page-format cadastral map system. This project involves the acquisition of new aerial photography, analytic aerial triangulation and creation of digital orthophotos, and the conversion of the current automated cadastral map system into a contiguous geographic information system database.

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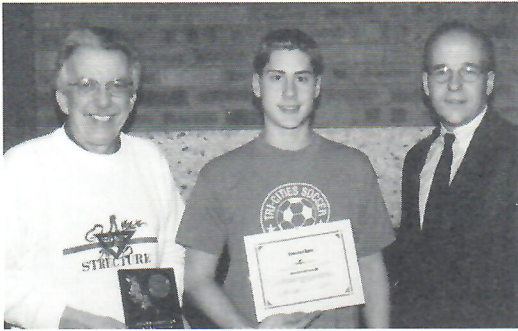


Pictured above: Ken Boatwright and Bob Kirby of the City of Des Moines Property Management Department work on an exercise during a session at the Iowa conference.

# Sidwell Awards Scholarships in CAD Competition

Sidwell recently presented scholarship awards to two area high school students participating in a computer-aided design (CAD) competition sponsored by the Illinois Drafting Educators Association. The competition, which was held in March at Elgin Community College, Elgin, Ill., featured participation by more than 50 students representing six area high schools.

Sidwell presented a \$250 scholarship to Todd Maughan, a senior at St. Charles High School who placed first in the Advanced Architectural CAD category of the competition; and a \$250 scholarship to Jim Simmons, a junior at Streamwood High School who placed first in the Advanced Machine CAD category.



*Sidwell Vice President of Operations Neal Carpenter (at right) with scholarship winner Todd Maughan (center) and Jim Holderfield, department chair, Family & Consumer Sciences, and Technology Education at St. Charles High School.*

“Sidwell’s contribution to promoting education in the engineering and design field is really appreciated,” stated William Kolton, program coordinator, CAD, Drafting, Engineering at Elgin Community College, and coordinator of the competition. Said Sidwell Vice President of Operations Neal Carpenter, who presented the scholarship awards, “The Sidwell Company takes an active interest in promoting CAD curricula in our community both at the high school and college levels, and I was delighted to recognize the skill and talent of these winning competition participants.”



*Sidwell Vice President Neal Carpenter with scholarship winner Jim Simmons (center) and Streamwood High School Industrial Technology Instructor Bob Thomson.*

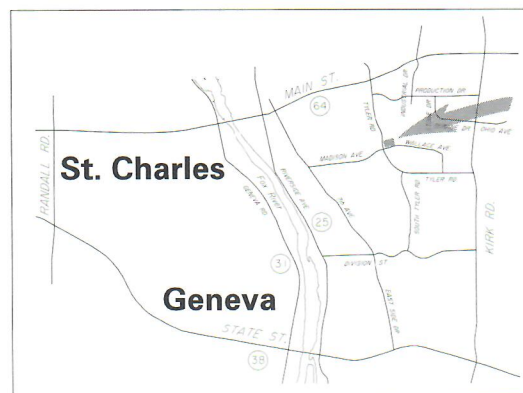
*Meet Sidwell  
Customer Service  
Representative  
Margaret Triplett*



Earlier this year, **Margaret Triplett** joined Sidwell’s Customer Service Department, where she is employed as a customer service representative. She is responsible for responding to inquiries about Sidwell maps and related products, as well as assisting customers with product orders. Margaret, who works alongside Senior Sidwell Customer Service Representative **Tom Collins**, previously worked in a customer service capacity for a cabinet company.

## Move to New Building Scheduled for July 1999

Sidwell is scheduled to move into its new headquarters during the week of July 12-16, following completion of a new 27,000-square-foot building, which during recent months has been under construction in St. Charles, Ill.



*Map showing the location of Sidwell’s new headquarters.*

The new facility, which is to house administrative offices, GIS compilation operations and other functions, including a customer service area to accommodate sales of maps and related products, is located at **675 Sidwell Court, St. Charles, IL 60174**. Effective Monday, July 19, the new phone number for the company’s administrative offices will be **(630) 549-1000**; the new Customer Service phone number will be **(630) 549-1100**.

Current company e-mail addresses, which include **info@sidwellco.com** for general inquiries, **customerservice@sidwellco.com**, and **sales@info.com**, will continue to be operational following the relocation. The remittance address will remain **P. O. Box 72168, Chicago, IL 60678-2168**. Sidwell’s web site is located at **http://www.sidwellco.com**.

## The Tech Desk

*Sidwell's Project Management Department has provided this column to offer information about mapping techniques, GIS applications and related topics.*

### File Management

File management is often overlooked in the day-to-day operation of mapping and GIS projects. There often comes a time when we realize our system has become cluttered with files that are no longer pertinent to the project.

There may be old files used for training purposes that are no longer relevant. Map files might exist that are outdated and no longer needed. There are temporary files created by the operating system or the mapping and GIS software that can be deleted. Periodic "housecleaning" of a system can resolve these issues.

Following are guidelines to keep a Windows®-based GIS operating at peak efficiency and maximize available hard-disk capacity.

1. Examine and empty your "Recycle Bin" on a regular basis — at least every two weeks.
2. Use Windows Explorer to examine all the folders that contain map and related project files. After careful review, delete those files that are no longer pertinent to the project. Check for files that have been duplicated in two or more folders. Delete the copies that are not needed.
3. Apply this same procedure to other computer program files to eliminate items that no longer apply.
4. Use the diagnostic tools in Windows to analyze the performance of your system. Two powerful tools are "Scan Disk" and "Defrag." Scan Disk will review your hard drive(s), report bad spots (sectors), and determine whether the disk(s) should be defragmented. Defrag will remove fragmented areas of your drive(s). This process enhances the performance of a system and can free up additional storage capacity.

Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

## Conferences *From page 1*

During the opening address at the Iowa conference, Sidwell Vice President of Operations Neal Carpenter spoke about the level of participation in the 1999 conferences. "We have record attendance," he said. "We had record attendance in Illinois [including] a significant contingent from the state of Indiana," he continued, adding that there was also more attendance from municipalities.

"Traditionally and still, the vast majority of our visitors are from county government," Carpenter noted. "But, we're seeing more and more from cities and villages, and I think that speaks to what's happening to GIS," he stated, later elaborating that, "Ideally, GIS is a solution for all local governments."

One participant representing municipal government was Mary Ann Hirschman, chief clerk in the Sioux City Assessor's Office, who commented on her experience at this year's Iowa conference. "I just recently acquired the office duty of splits and combinations, therefore I felt the schooling in reading legals was very beneficial," she indicated.

"What is so unique about the users conferences," according to Clay County's Rozeboom, "is that the conferences are always constructed and presented to benefit the novice as well as the experienced." Declared Webster County's Thanupakorn, "I feel that Sidwell people go out of their way to be as informative and helpful as we need them to be."

## Contracts *From page 1*

Sidwell won a contract from **Henry County, Ill.**, for GIS development and implementation services. The contract calls for the acquisition of aerial photography and the development of digital orthophotography, as well as conversion of the county's existing cadastral mapping system to a digital cadastral map database. Sidwell is also to perform acreage computations for agricultural land parcels, compare the computations to soil productivity tables to determine valuations; and implement Sidwell's FARMS application.

**Piatt County, Ill.**, awarded Sidwell a contract for GIS development and implementation services. Sidwell is to create a GIS containing cadastral map data and digital orthophotography.

Bentley, MicroStation and MicroStation GeoGraphics are registered trademarks of Bentley Systems, Inc.



*Sidwell VP Neal Carpenter addresses attendees at the Iowa conference.*



*During a session at the Iowa conference Sidwell Sr. GIS Technician Don Dieckmann presents on the topic of Sidwell maps.*

  
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## Conference Calendar

Look for a Sidwell representative at the company's exhibit on the following dates at these events:

**June 21-24, 1999**, Iowa Emergency Management Division 1999 Annual Conference, Des Moines.

**July 15, 1999**, Iowa Certified Assessors Technology Fair, Grundy Center.

**July 18-20, 1999**, 64th Annual National Association of Counties Conference and Exposition, St. Louis.

**July 28-29, 1999**, Iowa Geographic Information Council 1999 Iowa GIS Users' Conference, Storm Lake.

**August 23-25, 1999**, 1999 URISA [Urban and Regional Information Systems Association] Annual Conference & Exposition, Chicago.

**September 17-18, 1999**, Illinois Municipal League 86th Annual Conference, Chicago.

## Lee County, Ill. 'Composite' Atlas Now Available

Now available from Sidwell is a parcel map atlas covering real estate in Lee County, Ill. A desktop reference for obtaining property information, the atlas contains parcel maps that have been superimposed over aerial photo imagery to create 'composites.' Printed on 11 in. x 17 in.-size pages, the maps display parcel dimensions and parcel identification numbers, as well as other tax map elements, including subdivision names and block numbers; street names; lot dimensions; and section, township and range identification.

For more information about this or other map atlases available from Sidwell, contact:

  
**THE SIDWELL COMPANY**

(630) 231-8200; FAX (630) 231-6848  
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