



THE DUPAGE REVIEW

WHEATON, IL

The DuPage County Board approved the 2005-2009 **Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development** (ConPlan) this past Tuesday, which summarizes and prioritizes the County's needs in the areas of housing, homelessness, and human services. **Kyle Gilgis** (District 3), Chairwoman of the County's Development Committees notes that the plan addresses special needs populations including persons with disabilities, seniors, substance abuse issues and mental illness. ConPlan was prepared for the 2005 program year and is updated every year with a new list of activities. Funds are allocated from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI) programs to specific activities.

Identifying new and innovative sources of revenue, as well as reducing the County's reliance on property taxes, is the aim of the County's **Financial Forecast Committee** which held their first two meetings recently. Chairman **James Zay** (District 6) says the committee will analyze County revenue sources, conduct revenue analyses, estimate future revenue trends and explore other potential revenue sources. The goal of the committee is not to make recommendations, but rather to provide a comprehensive list of revenue options that the Strategic Planning, and County Finance, Committees can look to as it explores future County needs. The Committee also notes that over the past ten years the County has continued to maintain its commitment to public safety, and other vital services, while at the same time reducing the overall budget. However, as the County continues to grow the need to explore new and innovative sources of revenue is paramount.

County Board Chairman **Robert Schillerstrom** recently announced that all three national bond rating agencies have reaffirmed the County's superior **AAA rating**. The rating, the highest possible, has been achieved by less than 1% of the counties in the United States. The announcement came as the County was concluding a \$51.9 million General Obligation Limited Tax Series 2006 Courthouse Project bond issue. The issue advance refunds the 2001 Series Courthouse bonds and yields in excess of \$3 million in additional monies over the next 18 months to be used for renovations and other capital projects. The County was successful in hitting a very narrow market

DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD

Robert J. Schillerstrom
Chairman

District 1

Yolanda Campuzano
Paul Fichtner
Donald Puchalski

District 2

Patrick O'Shea
Brien Sheahan
Irene Stone

District 3

Thomas Bennington, Jr.
Kyle Gilgis
Michael McMahon

District 4

Grant Eckhoff
John Noel
Debra Olson

District 5

James Healy
Robert Heap
Robert Schroeder

District 6

Linda Kurzawa
Pamela Rion
James Zay, Jr.

www.dupageco.org

window to achieve its refunding target. Chairman Schillerstrom noted that the Finance Committee had structured the sale authorization period in the bond resolution to give the County great flexibility in looking for the best bond market opportunities. Although the resolution was passed November 8, 2005, the County had until October 31, 2006 to sell the bonds. The rating agencies, Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch's in reaffirming the County's ratings, all noted the county's extremely low debt obligations, healthy cash fund balances, and excellent financial and management controls.

As the result of working proactively with area rescue groups, increasing their adoption hours, and engaging in off-site adoptions at the new Wheaton PetSmart, DuPage County Animal Care and Control is pleased to announce a 100 percent adoption rate of all healthy, adoptable animals for the month of January. DCACC works with new pet owners to help them understand the commitment and responsibility of their decision, as we truly believe that all that you give to a pet will be returned a thousand times over by the love and joy they will bring your family. With the coming of spring comes kitten season, notes DCACC. As a result, the facility is home to a larger number of adoptable animals that are in need of a good home. Also, on **Saturday February 18th**, DCACC will be partnering with the new PetSmart in Wheaton's Danada Square in an off-site adoption event. Those looking to add a new four-legged friend to their family are encouraged to attend between 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.