



THE DUPAGE REVIEW

WHEATON, IL

- DuPage County Board Chairman **Robert Schillerstrom** presented the proposed **FY 2006 County budget** at this week's County Board meeting. The Chairman outlined the County's financial position, saying that the budget was fiscally disciplined, held the line on spending and conservatively estimated 2006 revenue. He also noted that the County had undergone major restructuring in the last few years, greatly increasing operational efficiencies and increasing accountability. However, the Chairman recommend the County levy at the full level allowed by statute saying this is the only mechanism available to DuPage County to increase revenue. The increase is expected to raise approximately \$2.5 million for the 2006 budget. The DuPage County portion of the property tax bill is 3% of the total property tax bill and the increase is will cost the average homeowner about \$7.00 per year. Schillerstrom noted that the budget maintains vital County services, such as security and infrastructure needs, health care and needed capital improvements.

- In an effort to create a clear definition of what constitutes an attached and detached accessory building to an existing home in DuPage County, the County Board has approved an amendment to the current ordinance that establishes clear definitions and guidelines regarding the construction of new garages. **Kyle Gilgis** (District 3), Chairwoman of the County's Development committee says the intent of these new regulations is to "ensure that accessory buildings and uses which are attached to the principal building do not become so remote from the principal building that they are perceived to be detached and practically function as a detached building. The new regulations will also ensure that all accessory buildings, whether attached or detached, will always be subordinate in use, size and scope to the principal building."

- County Board Members **Thomas Bennington** (District 3) and **James Healy** (District 5) led bikers on Monday in opening the **DuPage Southern Regional Trail** at the Greene Valley Forest Preserve. This new trail initiative is the largest undertaken by the County in the last ten years since the Great Western Trail in the mid-eighties. This extensive 46-mile regional trail links to trails and bikeways in several communities and six DuPage County Forest Preserves. The trail contains a mixture of bikeway facility types including off-road paths, on-street designated bicycle lanes and on-street signed bicycle routes. It is within easy access of 54 schools and 52 local parks. Congresswoman **Judy Biggert** presented two **\$80,000** checks to Schillerstrom, Bennington and Healy to fund continuing construction and engineering on the southern trail and the East Branch Trail. You can view a brief six minute video of the trail dedication by visiting the County's website at: www.dupageco.org

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