



THE DUPAGE REVIEW

WHEATON, IL



SEASON'S GREETINGS



- The DuPage County Board overwhelmingly approved a measure this week that will seek to avail first time, low-income, homebuyers in DuPage County with below-market mortgage financing. The measure authorizes the County to seek to obtain \$15 million of bond cap money from the State, which can be converted into mortgages for qualified homebuyers. This unique initiative, depending on the amount in bond cap eventually awarded to the County, would offer below-market mortgage financing to low and middle-income first time homebuyers. Bond proceeds are specifically allocated to DuPage County for housing initiatives and programs in partnership with local not-for-profits and lenders. The County last used this method of ceding bond cap to the IHDA in 2002, and it brought in over \$6 million in mortgage financing to DuPage.
- The County announced this week the Corporate Fund, its primary operating fund, ended the fiscal year with the highest cash balance in seven years. The November 30, 2005 Corporate Fund cash balance, as stated by the Treasurer's Office, was just under \$28.6 million. The healthy ending balance also marks the first time in a decade that the Corporate Fund cash balance increased in two consecutive years. The fund cash balance has increased nearly 37% from the FY2003 ending cash balance of \$20.9 million.
- DuPage County Animal Care and Control is pleased to announce that Dr. Jessa J. Ovitt, DVM, has been hired as the facilities new veterinary administrator. Dr. Ovitt, who has been on contract, earned her degree from the University of Illinois' College of Veterinary Medicine in 2003.
- The County received the 'Storm Ready' Award from the National Weather Service at this week's County Board meeting. The award is given to communities who pass rigorous certification requirements and have demonstrated that they have an action plan that clearly addresses all severe weather scenarios possible for their area.

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- The County's Convalescent Center has been cited by the Illinois Foundation for Quality Health Care (IFQHC) as among the top Medicare certified nursing homes in Illinois. Being named an IFQHC partner offers the Convalescent Center expanded opportunities to share resources and experiences with other nursing home partners to explore ways to improve services and increase efficiencies. The Convalescent Center will work in partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to look at programs that can improve the quality of life for residents as well as increase staff satisfaction.
- It was announced this week that nearly \$6 million has been earmarked for DuPage County initiatives as the result of recent spending bills that have been approved by Congress. The success in securing this needed funding is the direct result of Illinois' dedicated Congressional delegation. It's important to note that if you take the amount received from the federal transportation bill that was signed this past summer, and couple it with the \$5.9 million in federal appropriations, the County was very successful in terms of obtaining funding for local projects.
- The first phase of the County's strategic planning process began on Tuesday with a special meeting of County Board members, elected officials and the facilitators from Northern Illinois University's (NIU) Regional Development Institute Team. During the strategy session the facilitators provided attendees with; a review of the concept of strategic planning; a description of the components of the process that will be utilized in DuPage County, and established a working timetable. This partnership with NIU is the result of the County's announcement earlier this fall that they were going to undertake a strategic planning process that will help guide operations and refine programs.