



# THE DUPAGE REVIEW

WHEATON, IL

Welcome to the first edition of the “*DuPage Review*.” This bi-weekly newsletter will provide a brief synopsis of the important issues being discussed by the members of the DuPage County Board, each of whom are hard at work ensuring the our County remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

## Development

The County Board approved dollars that will go toward the purchase and renovation of two single family homes in Aurora. Upon completion of the rehabilitation, the homes will be sold to local families in need of attainable housing. “I am thrilled that this project is now moving forward, and that it will make a difference for families in DuPage County,” said Kyle Gilgis (District 3), Chairwoman of the County’s Development Committee. “This is part of our continuing effort to ensure attainable housing in DuPage County, as outlined in the 2005-2009 DuPage County Consolidated Plan, which we submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.”

## Environment

The County released it’s 2004 Solid Waste Report, which details the implementation and review of the County’s Solid Waste Management Plan. According to Environmental Committee Chairman Michael McMahon (District 3), “the report highlights the County’s recycling rate, which is above what the state mandates. This report is a testament to the County and municipalities’ commitment to reducing waste generated and increasing recycling rates in communities throughout our County.”

## Finance

In order to expand and enhance the County’s Geographic Information System (GIS), the Board authorized increasing GIS fees to \$15 per recordation of deed and other information recordings performed through the County Recorder’s Office. GIS is an electronically-based County mapping and addressing system widely used by public safety and emergency personnel, construction and survey engineers, municipalities, land developers, real estate agents, and land title companies, among others. “This increase will help defray the cost of implementing and maintaining the County’s GIS system, which is considered to be one of the most advanced operations in the State”, said Robert Heap (District 5), Chairman of the County’s Finance Committee.

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### **Health & Human Services**

Under the leadership of County Board Member Linda Kurzawa, the County Board approved \$200,000 —which will go to community agencies —in order to expand access to mental healthcare for low-income individuals through the County’s Department of Human Services. The money approved by the Board is a pass through of funds to Access DuPage, a non-profit organization that provides basic medical coverage to the low-income uninsured. Kurzawa says this approval, “continues the collaboration between County and private health care providers to provide more access to basic mental health service in the County, particularly to those individuals who currently have very little access to such services.”

### **Judicial and Public Safety**

Completing an extensive nationwide recruitment and interview process, the County has hired a new Executive Director for its Animal Care and Control facility. Kerry Vinkler, formerly a shelter manager in Chicago Ridge for five years, and the Director of Public Relations and Humane Education at the Montgomery County (Maryland) Humane Society for three years, began work on July 13<sup>th</sup>. “Kerry Vinkler has demonstrated that she has the credentials to handle a large facility, and her experience will serve our County well,” said O’Shea. If you would like to adopt an animal, please visit: [www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol](http://www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol)

### **Stormwater**

Stormwater Chairman Jim Zay (District 6) announced the County was poised to complete the final phase of the Steeple Run Watershed , which is designed to protect Naperville homes near the DuPage River from the dangers of flooding. The County is earmarking \$3.2 million to the City of Naperville to provide flood-relief for 32 homes along Huffman Street. This project will consist of the construction of a floodwall to protect homes near the DuPage River. “The completion of this project will help eliminate structural and flooding damages, should they occur, to those homes along Huffman and Julian Streets,” said Zay.

### **Transportation**

Pam Rion (District 6), Chairwoman of the County’s Transportation Committee, announced that motorists can begin traveling on Medinah Rd (between Irving Park Rd. to Lake St.). “Medinah Road is a major artery in our transportation system, and I’m pleased to announce that this phase of the project is complete and open to the public,” said Rion (District – 6). Rion noted the closure was necessary so that the bridge over Springbrook Creek could be reconstructed.

### **Technology**

Have a question regarding the laws that govern DuPage County? Finding the answer is a mouse click away says Technology Chairman James Healy (District 5). Residents can now find the County’s entire Code online and at their fingertips. “Having the County Code online in a user-friendly format continues our efforts to provide the best quality, most efficient services possible to the residents of DuPage County,” said Healy. “In addition, this continues our commitment to moving forward and expanding the role of e-government services in DuPage.”

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