

DuPage Review

DUPAGE COUNTY: A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND RAISE A FAMILY

Robert J. Schillerstrom

Chairman

District 1

Yolanda Campuzano
Paul Fichtner
Donald Puchalski

District 2

Patrick O'Shea
Jeff Redick
Brien Sheahan

District 3

Thomas Bennington, Jr.
Kyle Gilgis
Michael McMahon

District 4

Grant Eckhoff
JR McBride
Debra Olson

District 5

Michael Connelly
James Healy
Robert Schroeder

District 6

Linda Kurzawa
Pamela Rion
James Zay, Jr.

DuPage County

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LEGISLATION SUPPORTING ACCESS DUPAGE WOULD PROVIDE GREATER ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IN DUPAGE COUNTY

DuPage County Board Chairman **Robert J. Schillerstrom** is pleased a bill that would expand access to health care in DuPage County is one step closer to becoming law. The measure, which has passed the Illinois General Assembly, would enhance community based programs like **Access DuPage**, which provides quality medical services to those DuPage residents who lack access due to economic reasons

House Bill 4869, which now awaits final action by the Governor, provides tort immunity for those doctors or specialists who deliver donated medical services in their own offices, in addition to providing the free medical care on-site at a medical clinic. Today, the majority of office visits occur in the physician's offices and in the client's own community versus at a medical clinic, thus eliminating transportation barriers and the stigma of visiting a "free medical clinic." This legislation allows for medical providers to not be held liable for the charity medical care they provide with the exception of any illegal or unethical medical practices.

"This measure takes the intent of the existing law and applies it to innovative, new models of delivering care like Access DuPage," says Schillerstrom. "It increases the likelihood that volunteer physicians and specialists, as well as other providers, will be available to serve a population that historically have fallen through the cracks of our health care system."

Due to the fact that many clients referred to Access DuPage have complex medical issues, an increasing number of specialists are needed, many of whom are unwilling to take referrals from Access DuPage without this stated protection. Currently, there are over 300 physicians who participate in Access DuPage, and this measure will help increase that number.

Last year, hospitals and physicians provided over \$25 million in donated care to Access DuPage clients. This public-private partnership provides medical care to over 10,000 low-income, uninsured county residents and we must work to ensure this program's continued viability."

"I would like to extend my appreciation to State Representative **Patti Bellock** and State Senator **Kirk Dillard** for their leadership and diligence over the past several years to secure passage of this legislation," said Schillerstrom. "County Governments are increasingly becoming a safety net for many unmet needs in our community, most notably health care. House Bill 4869 is needed in order to continue to attract the medical professionals we require to deliver basic medical care to our uninsured residents."

To view House Bill 4869, please visit www.ilga.gov. To learn more about Access DuPage, go to www.accessdupage.org.

FICHTNER ASKS COMMONWEALTH EDISON TO SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES BY PAYING THEIR PROPERTY TAXES

DuPage County Board Member **Paul Fichtner** is calling on Commonwealth Edison (Com Ed) to continue paying their property taxes in DuPage County, rather than increasing property taxes on area homeowners.

Fichtner said he is concerned with a plan by Com Ed to challenge DuPage County's property tax assessment on hundreds of parcels of land that they own in the county. Com Ed is asking for a 90% reduction on the nearly \$2 million in property taxes they are currently paying. They are also asking for millions more in property tax relief from previous years. If successful, this would mean homeowners would see an increase in their property tax bill because all other property tax payers in the county must make up the multi million-dollar reduction. This would come on the heels of residents already seeing a 26 percent increase on their Com Ed bills over the past year plus another 10 percent increase requested for next year.

"It's disappointing that an organization that prides itself on being a 'good corporate citizen' would turn out to be such a bad neighbor," said Fichtner (District 1). "Com Ed's desire to reduce their property tax bill by 90 percent means a greater burden will be put on DuPage property tax payers. That is simply not acceptable."

Echoing Fichtner's disappointment with Com Ed is County Board member **Yolanda Campuzano** (District 1). "Fichtner's right. Residents are already paying their share of property taxes and it's simply unacceptable for Com Ed to not do the same," said Campuzano.

During their May 27th Board meeting, members approved a resolution supporting Fichtner's call to Com Ed.

BURNING LANDSCAPE WASTE NOT ALLOWED IN UNINCORPORATED DUPAGE COUNTY

FINES BETWEEN \$500 AND \$1,000

Jeff Redick (District 2) wants to remind residents that burning landscape waste in unincorporated DuPage County is not allowed under a County ordinance passed in 1990.

The ordinance was adopted to protect the health, welfare and safety of DuPage County residents as well as to maintain acceptable ambient air quality. Residents are prohibited from burning landscape waste such as leaves, shrubs and grass clippings and tree limbs.



Exceptions to the ordinance include recreational burning such as barbecues, campfires and fire pits, which are allowed provided only clean, dry firewood is burned. Additionally, special event bonfires

may require approval from your local fire department.

"Spring outdoor clean-up, including the trimming of trees and shrubs, can produce a good deal of landscape waste," commented Redick, Chairman of DuPage County's Environmental Committee. "It is important to remember however, that burning is not the proper way to safely dispose of your landscape waste. To properly dispose of your landscape waste, contact your waste hauler, local municipality or township and ask about their brush pickup program."

Open burning is considered a misdemeanor offense and is punishable by a fine of between \$500 and \$1,000.

IN THE NEWS

LACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIVES GRANT FROM DUPAGE COUNTY

The DuPage County Stormwater Division has awarded Lace Elementary School (Darien Public School District 61) with a grant that will help with the creation of a Green Roof Rain Garden Project. The grant, totaling \$90,154, is part of the County's Water Quality Grant Program.

The construction of the Green Roof will allow for various environmental educational opportunities, and will provide a visual demonstration for students that will lead to classroom discussions on water quality and its importance to maintaining life and the hydrological cycle.

"All grade levels of the science arena will become stronger due to the design and construction of the green roof and rain garden project," **Jim Zay** (District 6), Chairman of the County's Stormwater Committee. "This project will provide Lace School's "go-green" after school environmental club with additional opportunities for environmental learning and stewardship."

The overall intent of this project, says Board Member **Michael McMahon** (District 3), is "to create a positive, visual representation of rainwater attenuation while providing students the opportunity to learn about plants, soil, and the cycle of hydrology patterns in nature".

The Green Roof and Rain Garden Project will provide students with a chance to see how rainwater can be treated as a resource and not a waste product.

For more information, please contact Veronica Valladolid, DuPage County Stormwater Management, at 630.407.6698 or veronica.valladolid@dupageco.org.

GOLFERS SET TO HIT THE TEES FOR CONVALESCENT CENTER RESIDENTS

More than 100 business and community leaders will tee off on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 in support of DuPage Convalescent Center residents at the **DPCC Foundation Golf Outing** at Klein Creek Golf Club in Winfield.

Featuring a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start, a \$10,000 Hole-In-One Contest, a variety of men's and women's contests and a buffet luncheon, this annual fundraising event provides funding for quality-of-life programs and services that help to enhance the lives of those who call the Convalescent Center "home."

The DPCC Foundation is especially excited about this year's golf outing, as 2008 marks the 120th Anniversary of the Convalescent Center. The DPCC Foundation Board is celebrating the Center's 120 years of service to the community with a variety of events. To recognize the special occasion, the Foundation is offering a 120th Anniversary sponsorship level for this year's golf outing.

Openings for golfers are still available. Fees are \$150 per individual golfer and \$600 per foursome. Registration includes a round of golf with cart, breakfast and buffet lunch. Not a golfer? Sponsorship opportunities are available and raffle prize donations are currently being sought. All proceeds from the event benefit residents of the DuPage Convalescent Center.

For more information or to register for the DPCC Foundation Golf Outing, please call the DuPage Convalescent Center Foundation at (630) 784-4495 or visit the Foundation Web site at www.dpccfoundation.org.

BOARD APPROVES NO-RAISE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR MEMBERS

DuPage County Board Chairman **Robert J. Schillerstrom** proposed, and the County Board approved, a no-raise pay schedule for Board Members. Schillerstrom put forth the proposal noting that he and the members of the Board must remain good stewards of the taxpayer's money.

"While we are fortunate to have secured a new revenue source we must first address the critical needs facing our County, such as the need to help alleviate traffic congestion, as well as ensure our human service programs are available to those in need," said Schillerstrom. "These are the issues that we must be addressing, and that is why I put forth this no-raise pay schedule. I applaud the Board for their support and leadership on this important matter."

According to State Statute, the County Board must establish the salary basis, and salary amount, at least 180 days prior to the beginning of their terms. Therefore, under this resolution, the no-raise pay schedule will be effective December 1, 2008 through November 30, 2012.

DuPage County Board Member **James Zay** (District 6), who voted in support of the no-raise salary schedule, notes that the needs of residents must, and always, come first as the county looks to begin work on the next budget cycle.

"We have a great opportunity during our next budget cycle to bring both our strategic plan and new revenue source together to help address the changing demographics and needs in our County," said Zay. "It is imperative that all resources go

toward that end, which is why I supported this no-raise salary schedule for Board Members."

The resolution approved by the Board also formally eliminates stipends for Committee Chairman (\$3,000) and Vice-Chairman (\$1,000), which is consistent with the County Board rules that were changed in February of 2007.

Patrick O'Shea (District 2), Chairman of the County's Finance Committee, notes that "it is important for the County Board to lead by example during the coming budget cycle and this evening's actions are an important step in that process."

The resolution approved Tuesday only affects those Board Members who will be sworn in on December 1, 2008.

UPCOMING DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, June 10th
10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 24th
10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, July 22nd
10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, August 12th
10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, August 26th
7:30 p.m.