

# Name recognition

8-5-04  
Republican

## Kane Forest District rededicates South Elgin preserve after former executive director

By Meghan C. Smith  
Staff writer

It has been five weeks since Jon J. Duerr retired as executive director of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County.

Aside from a little bit of traveling, Duerr said he has been spending his days doing yard work and bird watching.

"I get out to the forest preserves about every morning. I do a little bird watching and see nature," he said.

Now Duerr can spend his days observing nature in a forest preserve that bears his name.

On Aug. 2, Kane County Forest Preserve District officials remained and rededicated Blackhawk Forest Preserve after Duerr. The 287-acre forest preserve is located on Route 31, one-mile north of McLean Boulevard in South Elgin.

John Hoscheit, president of the Forest Preserve District Board, said the dedication was in honor of Duerr's tenure with the district. Duerr had been with the Forest Preserve District for 19 years, serving as landscape designer, field director, superintendent and executive director.

But Sleepy Hollow resident Mark Peterson said renaming the forest preserve was a disgrace to Chief Blackhawk. Peterson and his son, Dane, protested the ceremony Monday morning.

"Blackhawk was an American hero. He fought to defend this land from foreign invaders," Peterson said. He said the protest was not a personal attack on Duerr, but felt the ceremony was a dishonor to Chief Blackhawk by removing his only remaining namesake.

"I have no problem with this fine gentleman (Duerr)," Peterson said.

Peterson and his son handed out fliers that said, "If the County Board wants to honor a career employee of the forest preserve for his years of service to Kane County, then rename a building in his honor, such as the Kane County Government Center (in Geneva)."

Choosing to rename Blackhawk Forest Preserve after Duerr was not a difficult decision for district staff as it is one of Duerr's favorite preserves for its rich plant and bird diversity, said Hoscheit.

See **PRESERVE**, Page 5



Staff photo by Steve Blasinger

Former Kane County Forest Preserve District Executive Director Jon Duerr unveils the sign naming a forest preserve in his honor in South Elgin Aug. 2. The preserve was formerly known as Blackhawk Forest Preserve. Duerr is a resident of St. Charles.

Local news

# PRESERVE

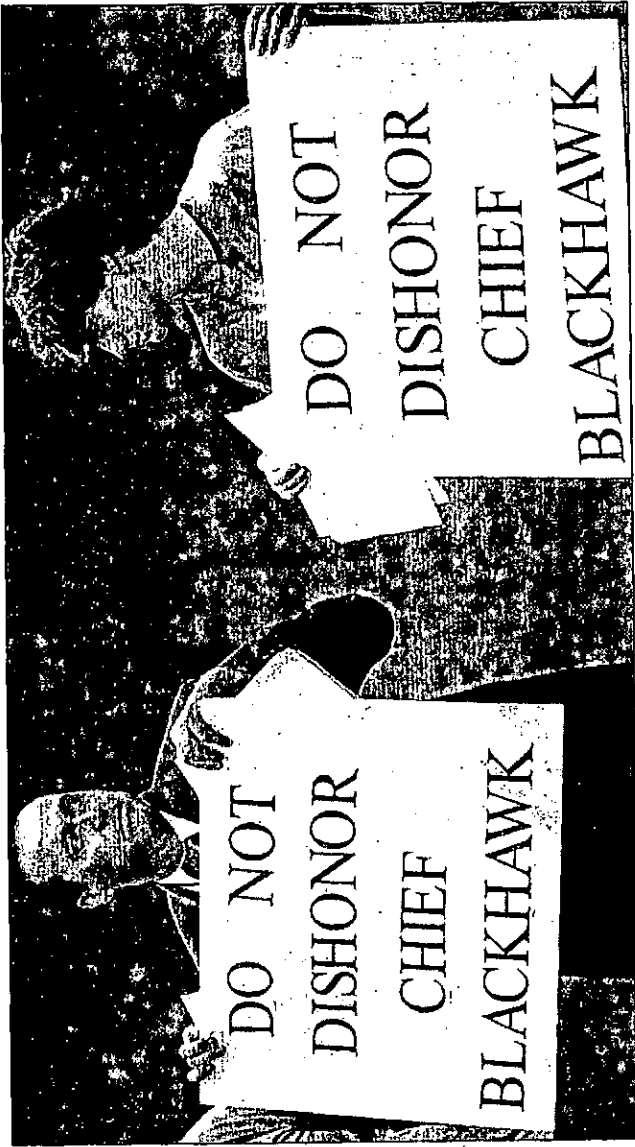
Continued from Page 1

It is also a historical site purportedly where unknown soldiers of Army General Winfield Scott are buried. At the creek in the Fox River, the preserve includes woods and places to fish, watch birds and picnic.

"(Duerr) spends quite a bit of time out here. Jon is an avid bird watcher and he will tell you that there are many interesting species that tend to nest here either permanently or temporarily," Hoscheit said.

The preserve is also close to home as Duerr is a third generation St. Charles resident. He also has served as a St. Charles 4th Ward alderman from 1985 to 91 and president of the St. Charles Public Library Foundation.

According to Forest Preserve District officials, Duerr is responsible for coordinating the grant acquisition of more than \$2 million for the district. He is also credited for developing the land acquisition process, including selection and negotiation for many preserves. Duerr said when he joined the Forest Preserve District in 1985, the district oversaw 4,000 acres of land. Today, the district now owns more than 58 properties consisting of more than 13,500 acres. Duerr's leadership provided the citizens of Kane County with additional land, bicycle trails, campgrounds, and a reforestation



Staff photo by Steve Bringer

Sleepy Hollow resident Mark Peterson (left) and his son, Dane, protest Aug. 2 the Kane County Forest Preserve District renaming Blackhawk Forest Preserve in South Elgin after Jon Duerr, the district's former executive director. Mark Peterson said the district is dishonoring Chief Blackhawk by removing his only remaining namesake.

program, district officials said.

"We don't take enough time to recognize the hard work people put in," Hoscheit said. "A lot of that work is done behind the scenes and as people go to forest preserves

like this one now they will see Jon's name here and maybe think of him, congratulate him and thank him."

"This truly is an honor," Duerr added. "But I think the more important thing is the

forest preserve continuing to buy land and continue to expand the system because certainly the culture is expanding and the society is expanding."

# Who should control the sludge in Sugar Grove?



JOE BRIER/DAILY HERALD

Erik Marter, an employee of Organic Sediment Removal Systems of Wisconsin, examines sludge that has collected at the Windstone community lake in Sugar Grove late last month.

## Homeowners tell builders, keep our lake clean or we'll fine you

**BY LESLIE HAGUE**  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

People fishing in the body of water in the Windstone subdivision this summer have been reeling in fish with sores on them. Sometimes the area smells like sewage, residents say.

Last week, a potentially toxic bacteria was found in the lake and had to be treated.

The Sugar Grove subdivision's homeowners association says area builders are flouting village

ordinances regarding construction runoff and polluting their lake. They also think the village is not enforcing related ordinances.

So the association responded by instituting its own rules and fee structure and plans to start charging contractors up to \$25,000 or more next month for repeated violations.

But the village and area builders say the area is meant to accumulate sediment and the group is overreacting to the situation. The homeowners

association in the Windstone subdivision, located off Bliss Road east of Route 47, has disagreed with the village for years regarding sediment and erosion control from construction sediment that runs into the 9-acre lake from several storm sewers.

The lake is part of the Blackberry Creek watershed and eventually runs into the Fox River.

Last month the association hired Organic Sediment Removal Systems, based in Wisconsin, to remove extra

sediment from the bottom of the lake.

The company cleaned a portion of the lake for \$10,000. The estimated bill for cleaning the entire lake is \$225,000.

Richard Kohutko, who owns the company, said algae growth was being "superstarved" because the lake was being made more shallow by all the sediment that had gathered at the bottom.

He said there were several

See **SLUDGE** on PAGE 2

# Sludge: Association says fines are a last resort

Continued from Page 1

layers of sediment on the bottom of the lake to remove, including clay, sand and gravel.

"There is no way possible we caused this," said Vivian Porretto, vice president of the Windstone Community Association. "We didn't put gravel in there; we didn't put clay."

The lake has also been treated several times for cyanobacteria, which can release toxins into water when the cells die.

Village Administrator Brent Eichelberger said that when the subdivision plan was approved the water was intended primarily for stormwater detention, not as a recreational lake.

Village employees do check

construction sites but can't spend all their time there, village officials said.

"It's like you're not going to catch every speeder," Eichelberger said.

Builders have contacted the village about the association's ability to levy fines on its own, but unless the new rules conflict with a village ordinance, the village doesn't have a say, Eichelberger said.

The homeowners association said the subdivision's annexation papers and the association's covenants give it the right to levy fines.

It plans to start charging fines of up to \$5,000 for a first offense of their rules, \$10,000 for a second offense, and up to or

more than \$25,000 for continued offenses. Plus, the association's rules allow it to levy additional fines if the problems are not fixed within a week.

"We feel it's unreasonable," said Bob Schulz, vice president of Oliver-Hoffmann Corp., which owns many of the lots in the area. He said he hasn't heard of any other homeowners association using similar tactics.

Village President Sean Michels, who lives in Windstone and works for a builder in the area, said the association could work with builders before imposing the fines.

Because of the high water table, builders will often have to deal with extra groundwater, he

said. "How do you prevent that?" he said. "It's groundwater, it's coming from the ground, and it's dirty. It's got mud and sand in it."

The village has worked with builders to try to lessen the sediment going into the storm sewers, he said.

The association's rules include requiring builders to put sit fencing around building sites to reduce erosion and prevent filter papers in storm sewers to catch excess sediment, two things the association says are not being done properly now.

Leonard Dreas of Richard Dreas and Associates in Aurora worked on the engineering of the subdivision. He said the houses were designed as lake lots but that some sediment coming from the storm sewers is normal.

Some contractors could consider going to court rather than paying the high fine, Michels said.

"It's just how stormwater laws operate," he said. "You can't prevent water from a higher elevation from flowing into your waterway."

The homeowners association said some is normal, but the amount of construction runoff that comes into the lake is excessive. Vegetation is growing.

In some storm sewers because they are so backed up, they said.

Residents said they paid premium dollars for lakefront property and want it to be treated that way.

The homeowners association has talked with village and county officials, representatives from the state and federal Environmental Protection Agency, and builders about the situation. The fines are a last resort, they said.

"We've tried it all," said Marilee Bielski, president of the homeowners association. "Nothing has worked. What are we supposed to do? Let it happen?"

The association is scheduled to meet with several builders today to try to work out a deal that doesn't include the fines.



# 85-04 Daily Herald County closer to tax system solution

BY PATRICK WALDRON

Daily Herald Staff Writer

The months-long dispute over Kane County's tax extension computer system, which some have called little more than a turf war, seems to be at an end.

A panel of county board leaders Wednesday recommended hiring a DeKalb company to install a new computer system that streamlines the process of moving from property assessments to final tax bills.

"Technically this is the right solution for the county," said Roger Fahnestock, the county's information technology director. "I'm optimistic."

Part of that optimism is aimed at Sallie Huber, the county's supervisor of assessments, who, in a letter to the county's 16 township assessors, didn't give the solution a keen endorsement.

"It is a shame that a system that has worked so effectively and efficiently for all of us for the past six years is now being aborted," Huber wrote to the assessors last week.

Huber wrote that she is happy her office is finally working together with the county treasurer and county clerk's tax extension office but fears the changes could lead to a drop-off in service and new work problems for her staff and the assessors.

One of those changes is the elimination of the computer setup now used in her office, called Visual Property Assessment Management System Pro, which is also used by 15 of the 16 township assessors.

On Wednesday, Fahnestock presented Huber's letter to the

county board's executive committee, along with a second letter from the new tax system vendor, Devnet Inc., outlining answers to all Huber's concerns.

Devnet and county information technologies officials are confident the changes in the supervisor of assessments office will not handicap that office's ability to do its job and move data between the townships and the county.

Huber did not attend Wednesday's meeting and could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

The executive committee unanimously approved the new system, and the county board is expected to formally hire Devnet on Tuesday.

8-5-04 Daily Herald  
**Local case draws Canadian interest**

**BY TONA KUNZ**  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

Canada plans to throw its two cents into a Kane County drug trafficking case involving one of its citizens.

Officials at the Canadian Consulate General in Chicago said they were never notified when Thi Kim Phuong Huynh, 33, of Toronto was arrested in Geneva.

Had they been contacted, consulate officials would have

told her not to speak without an attorney.

Instead, Huynh had to maneuver a foreign legal system alone. "I don't think, No. 1, she understood her rights or could waive them," said Kathleen Colton, a Batavia attorney who eventually was retained to defend Huynh. "It's clear she didn't know what Miranda rights are or how to get a lawyer."

Colton has filed a motion

with the court stating Huynh's rights were violated because of a failure to notify the consulate, which violates the Vienna Conventions. She plans to argue the point in court Friday where Huynh faces charges of drug trafficking.

Huynh was arrested March 26, 2003, for allegedly selling an undercover FBI agent 4,500 pills in a nail salon in the 1400 block

See **ARREST** on **PAGE 5**

## **Arrest: Similar notification cases seen in other states**

*Continued from Page 1*

of Commons Drive in Geneva. According to court documents, Huynh had another 100 pills on her. Prosecutors allege that Huynh and Hoahic Hoang Nguyen, 28, of Mishawaka, Ind., brought the drugs down from Detroit and met up with My Hanh T. Nguyen, 35, of St. Charles and Ryan Do, 23, of Berwyn.

Nguyen and Do are being charged in federal court.

According to police reports, the state police who arrested Huynh back in March knew she was a foreign national, but failed to call Canadian officials, said Tony Brown, senior counselor program officer.

The U.S. Department of State has published a guide to consulate notification for local and state officials that makes it the responsibility of the arresting

officers to determine whether someone is a foreign national and notify a consulate if it's required by that country or requested by the person.

Brown said his office didn't know about the arrest until months later when Huynh called the consulate in July.

The consulate leaves it up to attorneys to argue whether the failure to notify a consulate voids any statements or constitutes an illegal arrest.

According to the state department, some foreign nationals have sought new trials, sentencing hearings or excessive clemency orders based on notification failure.

Brown said he's never seen it work in his territory of Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri, but it has succeeded elsewhere.

"It's a good ploy, and it could work," he said.

# Detour duel marks valley construction

■ **Two projects set to start:**  
Route 56, Sullivan Road will be closed starting next week

By Dave Parro  
STAFF WRITER

8-6-04  
Beacon news

If you're confused about all the detour signs posted along the Fox River between Aurora and North Aurora, we'll try to clear things up for you.

Some of them near Route 56 in North Aurora are for regular traffic to bypass the intersection work that will start at Route 25 next week. Noncommercial traffic on Route 56 will use Grant Street as a detour, which runs along the river and comes out on Route 25 south of downtown.

Others near Route 56 are for trucks because the two-lane Grant Street can't handle commercial traffic. The truck detour uses Routes 25 and 31, Indian Trail, and Farnsworth and Kirk roads.

As for some of the other detour signs posted on Route 31, those are for a different project altogether. Sullivan Road on the border of the two cities will be closed for about two months starting next week because of work related to a long-awaited bridge project, and that detour includes Route 31, Indian Trail and Highland Avenue.

Got it?

The two projects are both scheduled to start next week, and the closings will affect traffic along the Fox River into the fall. The Route 56-25 intersection work in North Aurora is expected to wrap up by the end of November, while Sullivan Road between Route 31 and Highland Avenue on the Aurora-North Aurora border will be closed for eight weeks.

Both at times could cause temporary lane closures on Routes 25 and 31, respectively, in addition to the long-term closures.

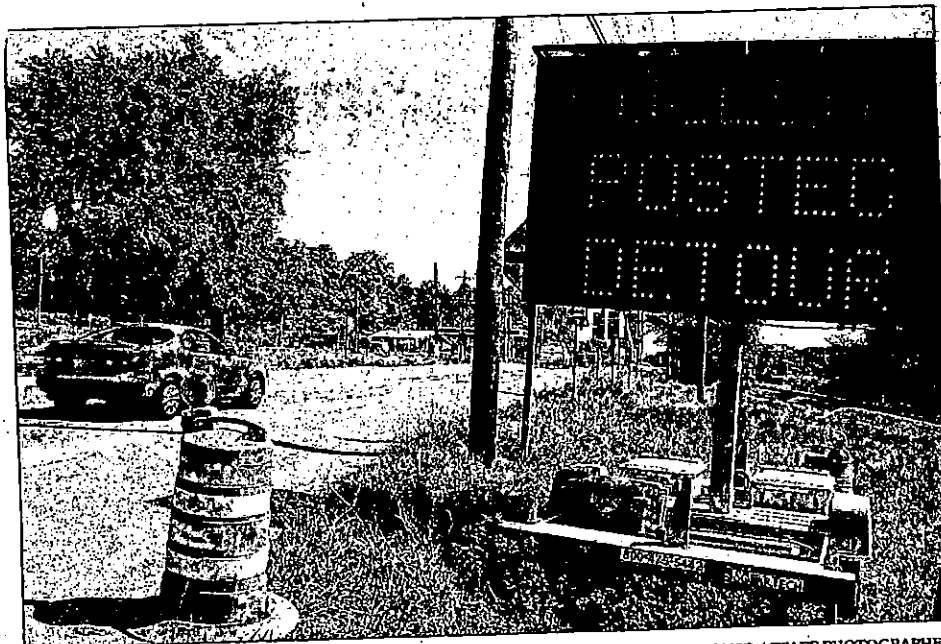
## Congestion and inconvenience

Despite the overlap, officials hope the projects won't cause anything more than some inconvenience. Chris Lirot, an engineer with the city of Aurora, said because part of the Route 56 truck detour route overlaps with the Sullivan Road detour, there could be congested areas at times.

The state's Route 56 work originally was scheduled for earlier this summer, and it's just a bad coincidence that it's getting started now at the same time as Sullivan Road, he said.

"I guess we're going to be sharing the same detour routes, but at this point, I don't think we're going to be stopping the Sullivan Road project because they're getting started now (on

◆ Turn to **ROADWORK, A2**



JONATHAN HOUSE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An electronic sign warns of an upcoming detour on Route 25 at its intersection with Route 56 in North Aurora.

## ROADWORK

From Page A1

Route 56), Lirot said. "Did we luck out? No, but that's road construction."

Gene Joynt, area construction supervisor for the Illinois Department of Transportation, said the Route 56 work will finally fix the terrible jog at Route 25, which includes a sharp turn and steep hill over railroad tracks near North Aurora's Village Hall that makes for a dangerous intersection.

The \$3 million project includes realigning Route 56, lowering the grade of the road, and adding left

turn lanes, new signals and new storm sewers. Route 56 will be closed at the railroad tracks during construction, so non-truck traffic will use Grant Street as a detour. Temporary stoplights will be erected at Grant and Route 25.

### Closing begins Monday

Joynt said the road could be closed as early as Monday, but because the work is contained on Route 56 between Route 25 and Grant, it shouldn't cause too much congestion. Trucks will not be allowed on Grant and will have to use major roads as a detour.

"It just goes around the curve there by city hall," Joynt said. "I don't expect any big delays."

The work on Sullivan Road is

being done in anticipation of the new \$13.8 million Fox River bridge. Monday, Sullivan will be closed between Route 31 and Highland Avenue as crews widen the road to four lanes and install storm sewers. Only local traffic will have access onto Sullivan.

Despite the multitude of detour signs, Lirot is confident drivers will figure it all out within a couple days.

"Initially, there may be some confusion, but people ultimately find alternative routes that are good for them," he said.

Contact staff writer Dave Parro at (630) 801-5495 or [dparro@scn1.com](mailto:dparro@scn1.com).

# short on judges

BY TONA KUNZ  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

People in Kane County will continue to face longer and longer waits in the courthouse without more judges, warned the county's top magistrate.

"With our population and caseload, we should have more judges than we do," said Philip DiMarzio, chief judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit, which includes Kane, Kendall and DeKalb counties.

Nearly a half million people live in Kane County with about 18,000 moving in each year. And Kendall and DeKalb counties, which belong to the same judicial circuit, are expected to grow even faster.

All those people bring with them crime and a litigious nature.

The 16th Judicial Circuit is ranked fourth in the state for the number of cases filed per judge and has a 30 percent higher caseload than the state average because misdemeanor and civil cases keep pouring in.

Even more troublesome is the fact that Kane County has the highest level of criminal cases, even though the number of violent crimes per person

See JUDGE on PAGE 12

## Judge: Cases will take longer to get through court

Continued from Page 1

dropped 20 percent between 2002 and 2003, the latest figures available.

"We do get more murders and those cases take up more time," DiMarzio said. "We have a lot more serious, violent crime."

A death-penalty case, which Kane County has three pending right now, can take up to 1½ years before it even reaches the jury stage, occupying valuable courtroom space as it creeps through the judicial process.

"People that come to court have to wait longer to get their cases called," DiMarzio said. So do innocent bystanders pulled into the court system such as witnesses, victims and jury

members.

Figuring out how much the court system backup is costing the county in lost man hours, prisoner transports and the anguish of a victim called again and again into court to relive an attack and face the accused is nearly impossible.

DiMarzio, along with judges in neighboring circuits and counties, has been lobbying the state for money to hire more judges, but officials expect little help until the state budget improves.

According to the state's annual court report, fiscal shortages have left 9 percent of judicial positions vacant even though Illinois has the heaviest case load in the nation with 4.3 million cases completed in

### Busy courtrooms

County	cases filed per judge	Felonies pending
Will	7,272	10%
DuPage	7,775	13%
McHenry/Lake	7,645	18%
Kane	6,501	23%
Cook	4,540	5%
State average	4,907	2%

Source: 2003 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts

2002 alone.

Trying to do more with less is further stretching judicial resources. Kane opened courtrooms specifically for domestic violence and drugs during the last four years without any new judges to head those courts.

With domestic violence the No. 1 crime in the county and drugs at the root of many crimes, officials say those courtrooms are too valuable to do away with.

But that means sacrifices elsewhere.

"Presently, we have no backup at all," DiMarzio said.

That means often courtrooms are closed and caseloads double in the few that remain,

especially now with two judges out sick, a third on assignment with the appellate court and several more squeezing in vacation time.

DiMarzio said judges will just continue to work overtime and court patrons will have to continue to wait.

And officials worry it may only get worse.

The slowdown is likely to start impacting judicial proceedings at all levels. Kane, McHenry, the 2nd District Appellate Courts, has four of the most overburdened circuit courts funneling into it with cases from Kendall, DeKalb, Kane, DuPage, Lake and McHenry.

8-6-04  
Chicago Tribune METR

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before November. The project also includes building an east-west road, Woodward Drive, through the middle of the property.

On the commercial side, Benchmark Bank, with assets of \$160 million and four branches, would serve Remington Glen's future residents. The bank also would be located across the road from Renaux Manor, a subdivision of about 500 households.

The 3,400-square-foot bank with four drive-through lanes could be in operation next spring, pending approval by the City Council and granting of permits, bank officials said.

The development of the site, owned by Northbrook-based Roy Gottlieb & Associates, further fulfills the city's grand plan for its western gateway.

In June, the commission responded positively to a concept plan for an adjacent 60-acre project also with mixed residential and commercial uses. That project, which could involve some environment and city financing issues, faces still more Plan Commission review before it reaches the City Council for a vote.

Warren Moulds

## ST. CHARLES

### Town home plan wins panel OK

The St. Charles Plan Commission voted unanimously this week to recommend plans to build 103 townhouses and a banking facility on 29 acres at the northeast corner of Peck Road and U.S. Highway 64.

Planned as a 27-building complex, the townhouses would offer 82 two-bedroom units and 21 three-bedroom units priced in the high \$200,000s and above, according to Nate Wynsma of Elgin-based developer Remington Homes. Remington Glen is to be the name of the development.

Depending on City Council approval, Wynsma expressed hope construction could begin

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8-6-04  
**Beacon News**  
**Hughes Creek,  
Elburn in accord  
on road expense**

**By Linda Glardi**  
SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

ELBURN — Hughes Creek subdivision residents and the Elburn Village Board have reached an agreement transferring ownership of private roads to the village.

Members of the Hughes Creek Homeowners Association approached Elburn last year about taking over full responsibility of maintaining the 1.5 miles of private road system.

The 29-lot subdivision is on the village's southeast side, backing the Hughes Creek Golf Course. The homes have market values from \$575,000 to more than \$1 million.

The subdivision's residents were adamantly opposed to the village establishing a special service area taxing them for the costs of road resurfacing. But after meeting with representatives of the village, both sides worked out an agreement, where the residents would cover the expense of resurfacing the roads.

"That's what make this a good deal for the village and the homeowners," said Mayor Jim Willey this week. "It's a win/win situation."

Hughes Creek residents handed over \$32,640 for their share of the cost to resurface the roads. The Kane County Forest Preserve District will cover the other one-third. The title for the road will be transferred at closing.

**Do more for Kane housing**

The Kane County 2030 Land and Resource Management Plan dedicates 15 pages to housing; a small amount of coverage for what they admit is "one of the major challenges facing the county and municipalities over the next 2½ decades."

The plan reports that from 1990 to 2000, Kane County lost 500 rental housing units. It is ironic that in the 1990s, a decade in which

our area saw tremendous population growth and rapid real-estate development, that Kane County's housing options actually became less diverse.

Imagine a family with a mom, dad, two kids. Dad works in a printing factory making \$15 an hour. This family won't be able to afford an ordinary two-bedroom apartment anywhere in the Chicago area. A person needs to make more than \$17 an hour to afford an average two-bedroom apartment. Our area has seen a huge swell in service-sector jobs. A minimum-wage worker would have to work at 3.5 jobs for 140 hours a week to get that apartment, that is if he/she can find one.

Additionally, nowhere in the plan does it

address housing needs on the very low income.

We commend the county for identifying the need and recognizing that a variety of housing types are needed to meet the profound changes and shift in the social-demographic profile of Kane County residents. However, we feel that more must be done.

Elected officials at both the county and municipal level need to explore creative ways to expand the supply of housing for citizens at every income level, from those holding down service jobs to seniors living on fixed incomes in their communities.

**Darlene Balk**  
Facilitator, Kane County Housing Action Coalition

8-6-04 Beacon News

8-6-04

Beacon news

## Election watch

Aurora mayoral candidate **Bill Wyatt** will host a Kid Card event from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 13 at his headquarters, 22 E. Downer Place, Aurora.

Parents may bring their children to have a free child ID card made. The card includes emergency contact information, known allergies and a brief medical history. The program is designed to aid in the identification of infants and young children in the event they become lost or involved in an auto crash.

The service is provided by the Kane County Sheriff's Fraternal Order of Police on a first-come, first-served basis. Call (630) 906-7996.

Local

8-6-04 Beacon news

# Animal shelter vote will be Tuesday

By Nathaniel Zimmer  
STAFF WRITER

GENEVA — Kane County Board members say they are unsure whether plans for a new county animal shelter will survive a key vote on Tuesday.

This week, the board's Executive Committee discussed plans to build a new animal-control facility at Kaneville and Peck roads in Geneva. It's been more than a year since the board voted 15-10 to build a new animal shelter to relieve crowding at the privately owned facility that handles many of the county's strays. But board members on both sides of the issue say they are unsure how

a vote Tuesday will come out. Board Chairman Mike McCoy, who supports the \$1.5 million project, said he could not predict the outcome of next week's vote on whether to hire a contractor to build the facility. He accused critics of the plan of indulging in "irresponsible management" and "campaign rhetoric."

Board member Lee Barrett, R-East Dundee, another shelter proponent, said he suspected the 10 who voted against the shelter last year still oppose it and they could yet turn the tide.

"Ten people could do a lot of damage," he said. Several board members who op-

pose the project on the grounds that the money should be reserved for the county's proposed new jail — which is expected to cost \$47 million — declined to speculate on whether the shelter would find more friends than foes next week.

"It's going to be interesting. I don't know," board member Robert McConnaughay, R-Geneva, said. "We'll just have to wait until Tuesday."

Karen McConnaughay, R-St. Charles, who is running to succeed McCoy as board chairman, said a new shelter likely will need to be built, but that the municipalities it serves ought to bear some of the cost.

Aug. 1, 2004 *Chronicle* Kane County Faces

# Red Cross director a hero in her own right

By GAIL JARDINE  
Shaw News Service

Kay Catlin's father once told her that "If you have a strong voice, you have an obligation to speak up for those who can't or won't."

It's the motto by which she has lived her life. Whether educating women on having mammograms or working for the American Red Cross, Catlin is willing to take a stand for other people's needs.

Growing up in Glenview, Catlin felt privileged to attend Maine East High School.

"It was very competitive," she said. "Many of the teachers had doctorates, and the kids went on to the best schools."

Fellow students included Hillary Rodham and songwriter Steve Goodman. They also included her twin brother, Kim Fischer.

"I grew up thinking people came in sets," she said. "People tended to call us 'the twins,' without using our names. It made me strive even harder

## Make the call

Women who meet certain requirements can call Kay Catlin or Sharon Lough and receive a voucher for a mammogram from Two Women, For Women. To inquire about obtaining a voucher, call (630) 377-3883 or (630) 584-5376.

to be an individual."

Catlin admits her grades weren't the best because there were too many other things she felt were important. She always was involved in some crusade, often through student government.

After graduating from Western Illinois University, Catlin taught junior high school English in Oswego.

"That was a big culture shock," she recalled. "I would be talking about 'the ei' and 'the Loop,' and no one knew what I meant."

See FACES, page 2



Wayne Ratzlaff — Chronicle photo staff

As development director for the Fox River Chapter of the American Red Cross, Kay Catlin coordinates the Hometown Heroes event, which honors dozens of exemplary people in the community each year.



# Faces: Catlin promotes mammograms for women

## A special word of thanks ...

One year ago, on Aug. 3, the Kane County Chronicle published its first Sunday edition, and the first "Kane County Faces" appeared in the Lifestyle section. Just a word of thanks to all of the people who have graciously and enthusiastically,

many who have been integral in its success. Thanks to 52 people who have taken time to share their life stories. Thanks to all of the people who have suggested the names of neighbors and friends who merited a moment in the spotlight. Also, thank you to all the readers who have offered kind comments. With you, I've learned about local theater and sports teams. I've learned about some of the fantastic artists we have in this area, and I've been inspired by several individuals who have found unique ways to help of themselves and better their communities. Your suggestions for people to be featured in the column are always welcome. I keep a nice, fat file and if they aren't used immediately, they probably will be somewhere in the future. It's been a great year — and we're just beginning to learn about all of the fascinating people who live here in the Fox Valley.

—Gail Jardine  
Mail Lifestyles

Department about another need she recognized. With the department's help and funding from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, she put together a 36-page book, "Mammograms & More," listing providers of free and low cost health care services, including their addresses and Web sites. This comprehensive book gives information about services ranging from breast health, cardiac wellness and depression to chocolate fountain.

The next major community event will be a Summer Steak Fry from 1 to 8 p.m. Aug. 8 at Silverado Grill, 41W379 Route 64, Mascot. The picnic will be built around a spectacular chocolate fountain into which people can dip strawberries, pretzels, marshmallows and more.



American Red Cross

Liberace impersonator Wayne Pickard will appear from Aug. 16-19 the Hotel Baker in St. Charles in a dinner concert with dinner priced at just \$19.28 to commemorate the hotel's founding. Pickard has appeared with Andy Williams, Bob Hope, Dick Van Dyke, Phyllis Diller and more. Concerts are free in exchange for a donation to the local Red Cross. For information on these two events, call (630) 443-8844, Ext. 20.

With Steve, her husband of 33 years, retired, their children grown and gone, and the house paid off, Catlin became tired of the demands of writing. She wanted a change. "All I ever really wanted to do was save the world," she said, smiling. She found a position that meets her need to serve her community. As development director for the local chapter of the American Red Cross, she stages events, solicits grants and works in public relations.

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friends be destroyed." With two babies to care for and still reeling from her parents' deaths, Kay felt she had little control over her life. "I could control a pen, however, so I just started writing, about my parents, about being young mom, anything," she said. A friend read her material and sent it to a magazine. Catlin's piece was published and she received a check. Her writing career had begun. For 10 years, she wrote for trade and consumer magazines, educational publishers Scott Foresman and other companies. Catlin then pursued advertising. For 15 years, she subcontracted for ad agencies, writing ads, speeches, point-of-purchase displays, press releases and brochures. In the mid-90s, she started asking her to do their brochures and direct mail pieces. "I was working day and night," she said. "It got ridiculous, so I started charging for my services. Oddly, the more I charged, the more work I got. So I just gave in.

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## Upcoming events

The next major community event will be a Summer Steak Fry from 1 to 8 p.m. Aug. 8 at Silverado Grill, 41W379 Route 64, Mascot. The picnic will be built around a spectacular chocolate fountain.

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Continued from page 1

"The kids' essays were about bush hoggers, or how they ate their pet steer lanky for lunch yesterday. That blew my mind."

Five years after she began teaching, Catlin faced several challenges in her life, both good and bad. Her first daughter, Jessica, was born, and six weeks later, her mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Her mother lived about 18 months, during which Catlin's second daughter, Janelle, was born. Three weeks later, her mother died. A year later, her father died of a heart attack.

"It changed my life," she said. "I'd always felt if you tried harder, you could fix anything, but my moms' disease were just discovered and my dad's heart just and my dad's heart disease were just discovered. Catlin attended Make Today Count, a self-help group for families of people with life-threatening illnesses. She worked with a nurse Donna Krueger and Rep. John Groberg to help lay the groundwork for an organization that would later become Fox Valley Hospice. "Power of the pen

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Department about another need she recognized. With the department's help and funding from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, she put together a 36-page book, "Mammograms & More," listing providers of free and low cost health care services, including their addresses and Web sites. This comprehensive book gives information about services ranging from breast health, cardiac wellness and depression to chocolate fountain.

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8-1-04 Daily Herald

# Grant helps Red Cross improve shelter aid

The Fox River Chapter of the American Red Cross has received a \$10,000 grant from the Alfred Bersted Foundation to expand the agency's sheltering capacity.

The grant will be used to complete a 2-year-old project to develop off-site shelters, says Blythe McDuffee, disaster service coordinator for the chapter.

According to McDuffee, the chapter purchased two shelter trucks in 2002, using funds donated by the Kane County Board and a former board member. One of those trucks was equipped with 200 cots,

blankets, comfort kits and other supplies to set up a complete shelter for use as emergency housing following a disaster.

The Alfred Bersted Foundation's grant will be used to equip the second truck for the same purposes. Both trucks will be available for use in DeKalb, DuPage and McHenry counties, in addition to Kane County.

For more information about the chapter's disaster services and educational programming, call (630) 443-8844 or visit the agency's Web site at [www.redcross.org/il/foxriver](http://www.redcross.org/il/foxriver).



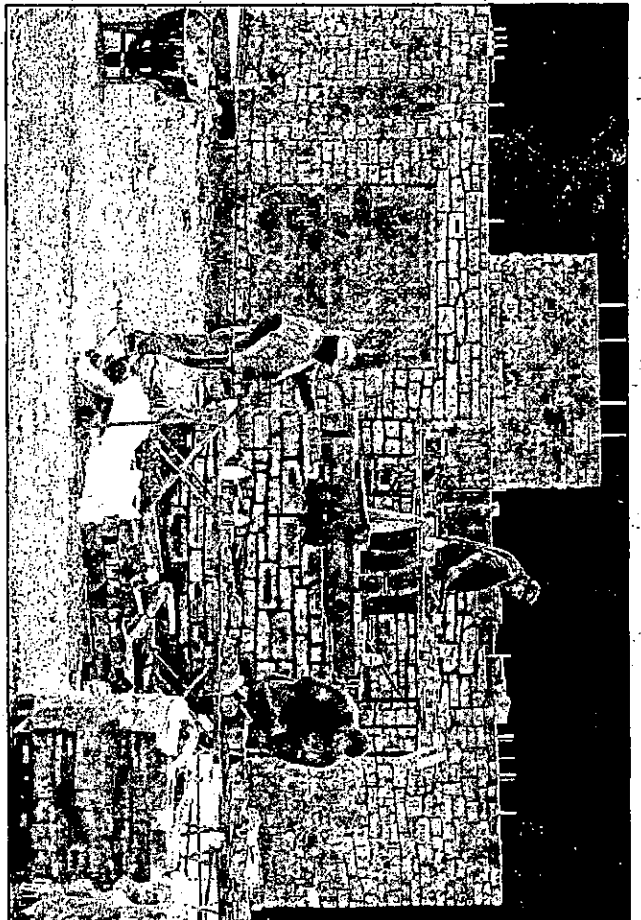
The Fox Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross will use the grant from the Alfred Bersted Foundation to equip this truck with supplies for relief in a natural disaster situation.

*8-1-04 Beacon news*  
**VETERAN'S MEMORIAL**

**TAKING SHAPE**

Stonework is under way at the Kane County Veteran's Memorial, under construction in front of the Kane County Government Center in Geneva. Workers are preparing the memorial to county residents who died while serving in the military during the conflicts of the 20th century, getting ready for a dedication ceremony on Veteran's Day Nov. 11. County officials have said by October, the memorial's stonework — here being placed by workers from Ross Midwest of Carol Stream — and brick pavers will be in place, and the central statue of the citizen soldier will be placed on the large pedestal in the center of the statue.

STEVE ROSENBERG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



**Confusing roles?**

Kane County Board member Deborah Allen of Elgin has always been confused about the role of a county board member, often advocating on issues more suitably in the realm of municipalities. Thus, her

recent proposal to have the county take up architectural salvaging might have been as predictable as it apparently sounded strange to other board members. Maybe she can make the idea work with the forest preserve district, which actually does own some older buildings. But she would be better off making her pitch to city councils or village boards.

**Don't mix your day in Senator:**

7-31-04  
Daily  
Herald

# Former N. Aurora mayor says he will run for post again

7-31-04 Daily Herald

By JOHN JOHNSTON  
*Daily Herald Correspondent*

North Aurora Trustee Dale Berman hopes his bid for mayor will start the political debate early.

Berman, a mayor in the late 1980s, announced his candidacy for the April 2005 mayoral election this week. The mayor's seat will be vacant as current Mayor Mark Ruby is not seeking re-election for personal reasons, and Berman is the first candidate to toss his hat in the ring.

Although he admits to not having a stated agenda yet, Berman said he wants to spark political interest in as many new residents as possible in a village that has seen its population grow by more than 20 percent in four years.

"I want to get the 30-to-50 year-old people involved; get them to understand what's going on and what it takes to make things happen," Berman said.

He said he was against increasing taxes without a referendum. He also said he was open to public input, including the possibility of an ad hoc committee, on what the village should do with the activities center on Route 31.

Berman has served North Aurora since the early 1960s on several committees and elected boards. He was on the village board for eight years before serving as mayor from 1985-89; then he served on the park district board during the 1990s before being elected to the village board last April.

"I have the desire for the job and the time to do it. I'm retired now and can put in the time to do a bang-up job," Berman said.

He said his previous experience, at a time when the village had less staff, gives him an edge in the race. Fellow trustees said the announcement came a little early, saying that most candidates hold off until the election is closer.

"I thought that was something we did in the fall," trustee Mike Herlihy said.

Candidates are not officially in the race until they file their petitions with the village in December. Candidates may put signs out only 30 days before the election.

Berman defended his announcement by arguing Aurora already has five candidates running for mayor.

He said the earlier the debate starts, the better chance residents have to hear the issues.

# Sullivan Road lane closures scheduled for next 2 weeks

By ERIC SCHELKOPF  
*Kane County Chronicle*

AURORA — Motorists will encounter periodic lane closures on Sullivan Road in the next two weeks as part of a bridge project that will connect Routes 25 and 31.

Workers are constructing an underground sewer on Sullivan Road west of Route 31. The work is related to a \$13.8 million project to build a bridge along the Aurora-North Aurora border.

Sullivan Road periodically will be reduced from two lanes to one lane in the next two weeks to accommodate the work, said Chris Liriot, the project's resident engineer.

After that work is done, Sullivan Road will be closed west of Route 31 for three to four weeks to widen the road to four lanes as part of the project.

While Sullivan Road is closed, motorists will be advised to take Route 31 to Indian Trail to Highland

Avenue as a detour.

The four-lane bridge is expected to open by summer 2006. Workers this year will start building the five piers for the bridge.

"You can start to see where the bridge is going to be set up because of the tree removal," Liriot said.

Planning for the Sullivan Road bridge began in 1985.

The project includes turn lanes, crossing gates and traffic signals where the bridge will meet the railroad tracks along Route 25. Liriot said the bridge will span four lanes until just west of Route 31, when it will reduce to two lanes.

North Aurora Village Administrator Sue McLaughlin said the bridge is needed as the area continues to grow.

The bridge will provide another Fox River crossing. Motorists now must drive north to the State Street bridge in North Aurora or south to Indian Trail in Aurora to cross the Fox River.

# Forest preserve, dog club discuss property use

By TOM SCHLUTER  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Discussions continue between the forest preserve and the Cardinal Obedience Dog Training Club for the use of the Schweitzer property. The dog club has shown the most interest in following the tenets of the former owners will, which says the buildings on the property must be used by a nonprofit group for the benefit of animals. Officials from Anderson Animal Shelter showed initial interest in the property, but the strict provisions of Emily Schweitzer's will precluded the shelter from pursuing the idea, come a dilemma. The 160-acre farm on Route 72 in Dundee Township has a model the barn) would be several hundred thousands of dollars," Carlson said. "The work they are looking at (to remodel the barn) would be several hundred thousands of dollars," Carlson said. "That does not meet our needs," Davies said. Schweitzer's will states that no new buildings can be constructed and no additions can be made to existing buildings. She wanted the land to remain in open space, but she also wanted her legacy to benefit the canine community. The house has been described as "upscale" and is in good condition. However, forest preserve officials have not yet figured out what to do with it. Forest preserve Director of Operations Mike Holan has recommended that the house and outbuildings be demolished. "The cost to rehab the house for offices would be prohibitive," Carlson said.

Anderson's Executive Director Deanna Davies said. Schweitzer raised prize Irish setters while she was alive and had no heirs to take the property. She wanted the land to remain in open space, but she also wanted her legacy to benefit the canine community. The house has been described as "upscale" and is in good condition. However, forest preserve officials have not yet figured out what to do with it. Forest preserve Director of Operations Mike Holan has recommended that the house and outbuildings be demolished. "The cost to rehab the house for offices would be prohibitive," Carlson said.

7-31-04 Chronicle

8-24  
Chronicle  
Cougars  
commended  
for honoring  
veterans  
To the Editor:  
Everyone appreciates a thank you, an acknowledgment of a job well done. I believe Emmet Broderick of the Kane County Cougars and the rest of the organization so deserve. On June 6, 2004, the 60th anniversary of the Normandy invasion, it was my privilege to join in honoring my dad, 2nd

## Letters

Battalion Ranger James R. Taff, and several other "beach boys" at the Cougars game. I want to thank everyone involved for the wonderful day that morning. Thank you for caring enough to make these veterans feel appreciated and honored. You were most thoughtful in attending to each of them, from their salute on the field to the comfortable air-conditioned suite, food, gifts and constant attention you provided throughout the game. It has only been in the most recent years that my dad has begun to share his war memories

with his family. He has always been my hero, long before I learned of his duties as a ranger landing on Pointe Du Hoc beach that morning. Thank you for acknowledging and thanking each of the special "beach boys" on their 60th anniversary. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I wanted to let the community know how much Mr. Broderick and the Cougars organization did for my father, the other veterans and their families. Thank you for remembering!

Patricia M. Crowley  
St. Charles

# Kane County Notebook New parking lot is McCoy's surprise

**BY TOM SCHLUETER**  
Kane County Chronicle

Visitors to the government center have noticed the construction going on. Two projects were started simultaneously — the veterans memorial and the added parking.

Once complete, the memorial will speak for itself. The parking lot is using ecologically-friendly bricks that allow stormwater to seep through them.

Chairman Mike McCoy saw that the project was going along faster than planned in the form the bill now is in, there is no funding for the Prairie Parkway.

However, the groups decided on his own to expand the project.

Last week, staff and board members were surprised to see the main driveway-parking lot torn up when they showed up for work one morning.

McCoy simply amended the original contract to include the main parking area without seeking board approval or staff input.

The re-paved lot will be of bricks, but not the eco-bricks, the grooves that allow the water to seep through would make it difficult to negotiate with a wheelchair.

Some grumbles were heard in the hallways, complaining that McCoy was acting like Mayor Richard Daley, who in 2003 had his crews sneak into Milegs Field to rip up the runways.

The parking lot did need a curb surrounded it and prevented stormwater from running off freely.

The veterans memorial was budgeted at \$800,000, and the parking lot another \$200,000.

"I can still be within \$50,000 to \$100,000 under budget," McCoy said.

Citizens Against the Sprawl, the group fighting the proposed Prairie Parkway, sent a letter to Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Timothy Martin, requesting that the department not lobby federal officials to include funding for the parkway in the next federal transportation bill.

In the form the bill now is in, there is no funding for the Prairie Parkway.

However, the groups chairman, Jan Susarna, notes that no funds have yet been allocated for projects of national and regional significance.

The group maintains that no more funding should be set aside for the highway until IDOT completes its Prairie Parkway study.

Former Kane County coroner David Moore said he is endorsing Democratic candidate for coroner Robert Moore (no relation). Robert Moore of Aurora is challenging Republican incumbent Chuck West in the Nov. 2 election.

David Moore, a Democrat from Aurora, was appointed by McCoy to finish the term of Mary Lou Kearns, who stepped down in 1998.

Tom Schlueter is the county reporter for the Kane County Chronicle. He may be reached at (630) 845-5380 or at [tschlueter@kccchronicle.com](mailto:tschlueter@kccchronicle.com).

# Aurora to get help with health care for the homeless

**By Anne Marie Apollo and Angela Fornelli STAFF WRITERS**

AURORA — Providing basic health care to the homeless isn't always easy for doctors, who often hear from such patients that they are unable to pay or have more pressing bills to pay or are unable to come into a medical center.

Federal cash infused into a local agency is aimed at eliminating both problems, providing free care to the homeless and the basis to take it into the places where they gather.

Chicago-based Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center received \$650,000 this year from the U.S. Bureau of Primary Health Care to address health care for the homeless, and more cash is coming. Aunt Martha's was the only agency in the state to receive the three-year grant for a new program, according to the agency.

The money will be spent in Aurora and Elgin, both of which are federally designated as medically underserved.

Robert Tanner, manager of Aunt Martha's comprehensive services division, said the program is expected eventually to care for 3,200 patients recently was at risk of losing teeth over a mouth infection that — once the man was seen at the Greater Elgin Family Health Center — was easily treated with penicillin.

In many cases, homeless people will put off seeing a doctor not only because of financial concerns but also a general uneasiness with the process, Hewitt said.

Stressing the importance of the outreach that will take place under the new program, Hewitt said that PADS just a handful of times but the Aurora mobile team will visit each agency once a week beginning in mid-August.

Doctors will provide primary health care including check-ups, asking them directly if they needed physical and immunizations. They also will provide some needed medical services for people who need specialized care, Tanner said.

In addition to the mobile health team, Aunt Martha's Youth Services doctors. "Having somebody there in Aurora will use the grant to open

a new clinic specifically to serve the homeless or those in transitional living. The clinic is expected to open in January or February 2005; a location has not yet been determined. Tanner said.

People who are homeless or in transitional living situations are likely to put off medical care, especially because often they are uninsured, Tanner said.

More than other groups, these populations are less likely to have had consistent medical care and may have transportation difficulties or other concerns impacting their ability to see a physician, he said.

Worries about getting a job or making sure they have enough to eat often takes precedence over routine health care, Tanner said.

"When you're homeless, you're thinking about your next meal," Tanner said. "Health care is not one of the first things you think about."

Dentistry is a particular concern, Tanner said. Homelessness can aggravate normal oral health care problems or be the reason that patients when left untreated.

Robert Tanner, manager of Aunt Martha's comprehensive services division, said the program is expected eventually to care for 3,200 patients regionally each year.

In Aurora, it will serve about 1,500 people in its first year, Tanner said.

The grant will allow a mobile health team to take its services to other agencies that house or provide care for the homeless. Participating agencies in Aurora are Wayside Cross Ministries, Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS), Community Counseling Center, Mutual Aid Army and the Aurora Salvation Army.

The Aurora mobile team will visit each agency once a week beginning in mid-August.

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# 82-04 Chicago Tribune Kane to offer flexibility when jury duty calls

By William Presacky  
Tribune staff reporter

Kane County is set to provide prospective Circuit Court jurors with a new electronic service beginning Monday that will allow them to negotiate an alternative reporting date via the Internet.

The county has had the user-friendly system, dubbed I-Juror,

in development for nearly a year and is among the first in Illinois to have it, according to Circuit Court Administrator Doug Naughton.

Arizona's Maricopa County has been using a similar system for about a year, he said.

I-Juror was developed by Jury Systems Inc. of Tyler, Texas. In addition to allowing prospective jurors to respond to the du-

by summons they receive by mail, it provides them with the opportunity to ask to be excused or to defer service to one of four later dates.

Confirmation of the new date is immediate, Naughton said.

"Anything we can do to make it easier or more convenient for the people called to come in for jury duty is a good thing," Naughton said. "The biggest conflict is timing. It's never a good time for jury duty, but we try to make it the least inconvenient as possible."

The system is expected to substantially alleviate the burden on the county Jury Commission's two-person staff to respond directly to the hundreds of requests it gets annually for deferrals in service dates.

"Most of our phone calls are people trying to renegotiate when they are going to serve," Naughton said. "With this new system, once you get your summons, you will be able to go back online and pick a new date, provided it is not less than 10 days before your [scheduled] date of service," he said.

In Kane, jurors are summoned at least 30 days before their scheduled reporting date. The Internet system does not eliminate the continued ability of jurors to fill out a qualification questionnaire or request a deferral by mail or telephone.

The I-Juror system is accessible directly at [www.ijuror.co.kane.il.us](http://www.ijuror.co.kane.il.us) or by linking through the county's Web site at [www.co.kane.il.us](http://www.co.kane.il.us).

NEWS / T

RE

Commercial Kitchen

# Work on N. Aurora intersection set to begin

8-20-04 Daily Herald

BY AARON SEIDLITZ  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After a six-week delay caused by a paperwork mix-up, construction on the intersection of routes 25 and 56 in North Aurora finally has a start date.

On Aug. 9, construction will begin on the intersection in an effort to widen lanes, add turn lanes and free up traffic flow. The construction will also lower the level of the intersection so it is even with the

railroad tracks.

The paperwork confusion dealt with the agreement between Burlington Northern Railroad and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Because the construction plan called for the railroad crossing at the intersection to be worked on as well, a right-of-entry contract to work underneath the railroad tracks needed to be processed, taking about six weeks.

Officials plan to construct a

new storm-sewer crossing and water-main crossing underneath the railroad crossing.

According to Gene Joynt of IDOT, the confusion began when the railroad asked for another application for the right of entry.

By the time that application was processed, IDOT realized it had been filed and approved previously and wasn't needed again. But weeks had passed before this discovery.

Once construction starts, the

detour will begin.

The main detour will be concentrated around Grant Street, which is south of Route 56. Grant Street runs parallel to the Fox River just west of Route 25.

Trucks will not be allowed on the Grant Street detour due to concerns about traffic flow.

But possible alternate routes for trucks include Route 31, Indian Trail Road, Farnsworth Avenue and Fabyan Parkway.

The one concern this delay raised for public works supervisor Mike Glock was the time constraints for the construction, as he expects work to continue through the early weeks of November.

"I know that Nov. 5 is usually the time when backlogging is no longer allowed," Glock said. "I would hope that the roads would be done by then, so that we wouldn't run into any problems with that deadline."

However, IDOT officials

understood that the concrete base they will be using for the roads eliminated backlogging as a concern when the construction is reaching its finish in early November.

"Our designers are looking into that right now, but we do not foresee it being a problem for that work," Joynt said.

"Without that concern being a restriction as far as time is concerned, we are expecting the work to be done very close to Thanksgiving."

## Paperwork mistake nearly puts wrong man in court

### 7-31-04 Chronicle

### Drunken driving suspect mistaken for man charged with murder with same name

By DAN CAMPANA  
Kane County Chronicle

**ST. CHARLES** — An apparent paperwork snafu nearly put a drunken driving suspect in court Friday on a murder charge.

A hearing scheduled for 21-year-old murder suspect Gustavo Martinez, who

last lived at 1827 Moore Ave., St. Charles, was pushed back to Aug. 20 when Assistant Public Defender Regina Harris realized that her client had not made it to court.

Instead of Harris' client, an older Gustavo Martinez was transported to the Kane County Judicial Center.

"There's two of them," Kane County

Undersheriff Mike Anderson said, noting that 17 years and different middle names distinguish the two Martinezes.

The Gustavo Martinez charged with murder is accused of stabbing to death 21-year-old Ruben Martinez, to whom he



**Martinez**

is not related, during a January 2003 fight at Fox Run Apartments. He has been held in the jail since shortly after the incident.

While inmates with the same name is "very prominent" at the jail, Anderson said the transporting mistake was "all clerical."

"Someone just wrote down the wrong cell block," he said. "It's pretty uncommon."

Anderson said jail personnel review court papers a day in advance to compile a list of inmates needing to be transported for hearings.

The county is looking at purchasing a new computer filing system that would help reduce the chance of similar mistakes.



"Our aim:  
To fear God,  
tell the truth  
and make money."

H.C. Paddock  
1852-1935

# Opinion

8-1-04 Daily Herald

**Daily Herald** Founded 1872  
**Paddock Publications Inc.**

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## Design should look to the future

Lifelong Elburn residents remember it as "Four Corners."

It was the intersection on the outskirts of town, where Leonard Anderson operated a service station and farmers moved machinery and crops all across western Kane County.

Today, that same intersection at routes 38 and 47 stands as a symbol of the transition from Elburn's past to its present.

For nearly 40 years, that service station, changing hands from the Andersons to the Swift family and finally to the Albert family, was the only business greeting travelers at those four corners.

Albert's Corner graced the key spot on the southwest corner in the 1960s and 1970s and gave Elburn its rural identity for those passing through.

Eventually, Elburn's growth resulted in a modern service station to replace Albert's and, on the southeast corner, a McDonald's, strip mall, Delnor medical office and new subdivision.

With development continuing to roll west of the Tri-Cities, Elburn finds itself in a critical decision stage for what may arguably turn into the

### Our View

It would be a bonus to put a stamp on Four Corners development design that says, "This is and always will be Elburn."

most important retail intersection of the future.

A future plan for the Prairie Valley North commercial area on the northeast corner is before village trustees.

In the aftermath of a Jewel food store backing out at that intersection, architect Peter Theodore has introduced a proposal calling for a bank, restaurant, drugstore, two other retail outlets and pedestrian plazas.

Theodore appears to have the best interests of the village at heart when he says he is designing this retail area with a "neighborhood" feel.

He is wise to not conjure up visions of another Randall Road, which is a retail mecca, but one plagued with small parking lots and poor traffic patterns in key locations, and periods of traffic

gridlock. It will be natural for Elburn residents to use Randall to illustrate what they don't want on Route 47 any time soon.

But they can't hide the fact that this intersection is a key to the future of the entire Route 47 corridor, which will surely change when a Prairie Parkway or Fox Valley Freeway takes hold west of it and truck traffic on Route 47 diminishes.

Elburn trustees are giving Theodore's proposal a fair hearing. While considering approval, their decision should include a vision of a vibrant intersection 20 to 30 years from now.

It is noble to be true to Elburn's small-town character, but trustees should envision a time when it will be important for Elburn to compete on a grander stage with other communities vying for a piece of retail pie.

The key question has to be: What can be done to this intersection that will make it easy to adapt to future changes to the Route 47 corridor?

It would be a bonus if it can be done while also putting a stamp on it that says, "This is and always will be Elburn."

# Pieces of *Chronicle* 8-2-04 the past come down

Company to store limestone  
from Campana Co. building

By TOM SCHLUETER  
Knox County Chronicle

BATAVIA — The last remnant of the 1922 Campana Co. building came down Sunday morning, but that does not mean history is lost forever.

Dennis Kintop, owner of MIC Construction, and workers to save the vestibule and even nudging combined with a little brute force to bring down the vestibule without crushing some of the valuable limestone.

"I hope someone sometime will be able to use it on an old building in Batavia," Kintop said.

Kintop said he will store the sections of limestone until someone wants them.

Three sections of the hand-carved Indiana limestone doorway arch were removed simultaneously as Kintop lifted them out of their brick foundation with straps and a back hoe.

"I think it would be totally cool to put them in another building," Kintop said.

The lot on which the building stood is owned by the Congregational Church of Batavia, which plans an expansion and a parking lot for parishioners.

The work was scheduled on Sunday to take advantage of less traffic on Route 31, Kintop said.

The vestibule appeared to sway as Smith climbed on it to attach the heavy-duty straps. One section of the brick wall came crashing down in a cloud of dust, after Smith climbed safely down.

Some city officials wanted to save the vestibule and even kicked around the idea of spending \$20,000 in tax-incentive financing. Kintop spruce it up with some hand-scaping.

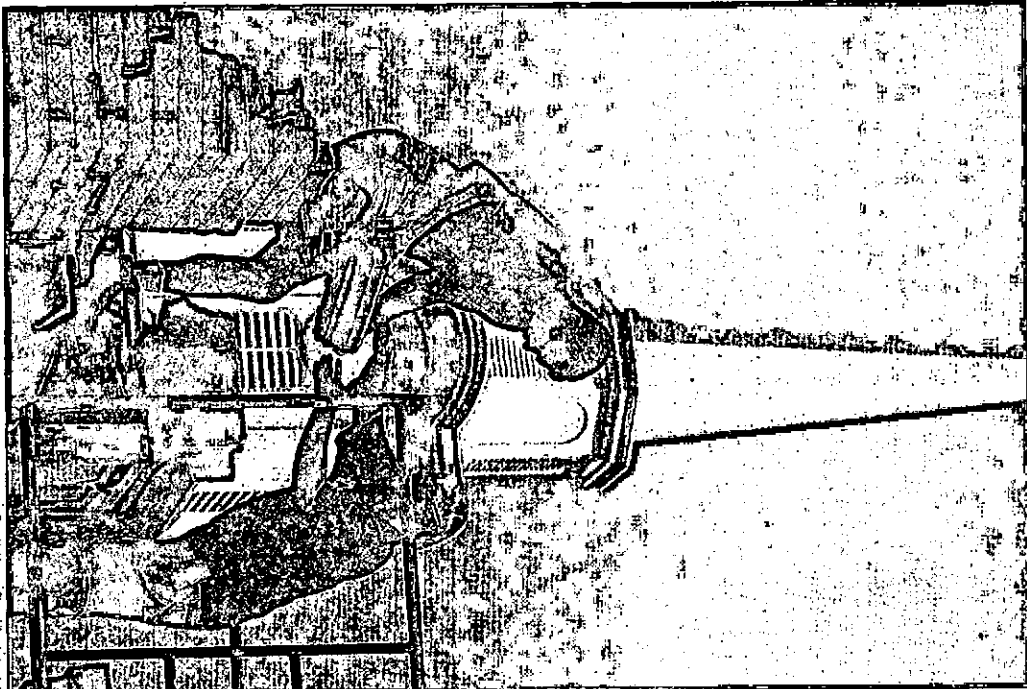
The idea split the council, with some members wanting to save a piece of Batavia's history, while others thought it a waste of money.

Mayor Jeffrey Schielke broke a 6-6 tie on the council floor last month by voting against the TIF proposal. He said it would set a precedent that the council might not be able to follow.

Not to be confused with the Campana Building at Paduan Parkway and Route 31, the Campana Co. building recently housed Parkway Press.

Kintop said if the limestone work were to be replicated today, it would cost \$25,000 to \$40,000.

"The city is going to know I have it available," he said. "You can't get the past back."



Ben Jankin — Chronicle photo staff

Dennis Kintop hands Ted Smith a portion of the now-demolished Campana Co. building's limestone archway that MIC Construction plans to preserve in hopes that the historic doorway someday might be used again. The building was demolished earlier this summer as part of an expansion project for the Congregational Church on Route 31 in Batavia.

Lynn's documents show total receipts for the period of \$28,540, but more than \$10,000 of that came through personal loans to his own campaign. At the end of the reporting period, Lynn had \$13,892 on hand but showed debts of \$17,870, all in loans to himself. Wyatt's total included \$5,000 from an unkind contribution and most of his \$18,585 in unkind contributions came from relatives in the form of vehicles and office rent. He had \$6,640 on hand at the end

**no report**

AMBER HERNANDEZ  
 \$14,590  
 RICHARD LYNN

\$19,210  
 BILL WYATT

\$43,694  
 TOM WEISNER

WHAT DID THEY RAISE?

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news  
 BEACON  
 8-3-04  
**Widens funding lead**  
**Six-month finance reports:**  
**Other mayoral candidates far behind in cash on hand**  
**WEISNER**

By Dave Parro  
 STAFF WRITER

AURORA — Despite attempts by his opponent to erode his front-runner status, mayoral candidate Tom Weisner continues to enjoy a comfortable lead in fund-raising and has far more cash on hand for the stretch run than any other candidate, according to campaign finance documents filed Monday.  
 Records detailing receipts from Jan. 1 to June 30 show Weisner raised another \$43,694 in individual contributions, bringing his total from the start of 2003 to \$106,410, including loans and an infusion of funds from short-term CDs purchased last year. Weisner had \$99,697 on hand after expenses at the end of the reporting period — six times more than anyone else.  
 Weisner was the early favorite in the 2005 election, but his opponents hoped to capitalize on what they saw as lack of good judgment when Weisner left his city job as director of community services in the middle of Aurora's water contamination crisis in February.  
 The new figures, however, show leaving City Hall had the effect on fund-raising. Weisner raised nearly identical amounts of money the past two filing periods and increased his in-hand contributions this time around from \$11,571 to \$12,231 — figures not included in the cash total. Weisner said his opponents tried to use his resignation against him, but his campaign has continued to gain momentum.  
 "I think I have a broad base, and it's getting broader all the time," Weisner said. "They tried to use that for political fodder, and it didn't work."  
 Weisner's totals once again eclipsed those of his opponents. Richard Lynn and Bill Wyatt showed individual contributions of \$14,590 and \$19,210, respectively, adding \$18,898 and \$24,300, Candidate Angel Hernandez again did not file paperwork, meaning he has not yet raised \$3,000.  
 Lynn's documents show total receipts for the period of \$28,540, but more than \$10,000 of that came through personal loans to his own campaign. At the end of the reporting period, Lynn had \$13,892 on hand but showed debts of \$17,870, all in loans to himself. Wyatt's total included \$5,000 from an unkind contribution and most of his \$18,585 in unkind contributions came from relatives in the form of vehicles and office rent. He had \$6,640 on hand at the end

**RACE**  
 From Page A1

his cash on hand under \$25,000 because anything more "means we're not working hard enough." Wyatt spent \$31,571 for the period, compared to \$19,911 for Weisner and \$18,898 for Lynn.  
 A large sum of money doesn't mean victory when thousands of people are voting compared to the dozens or hundreds who contribute money to a campaign, Wyatt said.  
 "We've done more with less, which I think is appealing to people," he said. "Most people don't participate in the money-giving part. It's what you do with what you have."  
 Included in Weisner's cash total is \$20,000 in loans from his wife, Martin and Dick Hawke, co-chair of his finance committee. That money is there just in case it's needed as the race heats up, Weisner said.  
 "It obviously will become progressively more expensive going forward, so we may dip into that and we may not," he said.  
 The candidates will have to file campaign disclosure documents once more before the February primary election, but Weisner appears to have the most money to spend right before voters go to the polls.

As far as the breakdown of individual contributions, Weisner listed 56 large donations from individuals, businesses, unions and contractors. Lynn showed less than half that many, and most of them were for smaller amounts compared to those given to Weisner. Lynn said he will continue to raise his public profile — he recently launched his first television commercial — in order to connect with Aurora voters. Weisner's ad range simply means he knows the right people, Lynn said.  
 "It clearly means that he has associations with people with money," Lynn said. "But does that translate into votes? Not necessarily, I have people who contribute \$10 here and \$20 there. I'm not interested in getting money from special interests."  
 Wyatt listed 17 individual contributions, many of which came from outside of Aurora. The candidate said he has been intentional about keeping voters go to the polls.

*Daily Herald 8-3-04*

# McCannaughay flexes fund-raising muscle

*County chairman nominee leads effort*

By PATRICK WALDRON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Karen McCannaughay, the Republican nominee for the office of Kane County board chairman, spent nearly \$90,000 running her campaign during the last six months in a race where her name was alone on the ballot in the April primary.

The expenses, mostly on consulting services, office bills and campaign literature, were easily covered by McCannaughay's continued success in fund raising which has brought in \$113,923 since last summer, according to campaign disclosure forms filed Monday.

But aside from her own race, McCannaughay said large amounts of her cash were spent to help fellow county board



Karen McCannaughay



John Barsanti

members in their primary races and Republicans in general heading into the fall.

"People understand that the commitment is to help the entire ticket," McCannaughay, a St. Charles Republican, said Monday. "The role of county board chairman is a role of leadership," and that includes politics.

She added that some of the bills included in the most recent disclosure, listing activity from Jan. 1 to July 1, covered expenses incurred last year when county Treasurer David Rickett, an Elgin Republican, was still in the running for chairman.

Current county board Chairman Mike McCoy, an Aurora Republican, is not seeking reelection to a third term.

In money terms, the fight against Democrats — led by McCannaughay — is a landslide. On the top of the county

ticket and with primary battles behind them, McCannaughay and state's attorney nominee John Barsanti, head toward the November with full bank accounts ready to easily outspend Democratic opponents.

Barsanti, the St. Charles lawyer who beat three others to win the nomination, has \$9,536 left in the bank, a considerable sum given the fact he raised

See FUNDS on PAGE 8

## Funds: Money helped other Republicans

Continued from Page 1

nearly \$75,000 heading into the primary.

The trend is boosted by the fact his November opponent, Renee Robinson, an Aurora Democrat, had not yet reached the \$3,000 fund raising benchmark that requires her to file a disclosure report.

Barsanti said he expects he'll need to raise another \$30,000 to run the campaign through November. "I'm going to do

mailings and all the other regular stuff," he said.

But people on the other side of the ticket say they aren't stressed about all the money flowing to the high-profile Republicans.

Tom Meadon, the St. Charles Democrat taking on McCannaughay, has \$1,595 in his campaign fund and says he is not worried.

"I think my campaign is doing very well," Meadon said, pointing to his door-to-door efforts

this summer. "That doesn't cost anything."

While others build their campaign funds, one of Kane County's most successful local political fund raisers closed her account late last month.

State's Attorney Meg Gorecki filed her group's final report with the state wiping out the debt that had accumulated to \$85,000 by January as she battled an ethics probe the last four years. Gorecki is not seeking re-election to a second term.

## Kane plans forums on transportation plan

Kane County will host public forums to present the Draft 2030 Transportation Plan at 7 p.m. Aug. 9 in the Auditorium of the Kane County Government Center, 719 Batavia Ave., Geneva, and at 7 p.m. Aug. 12 at Waubensee Community College, Bodie Hall, Room 147, Route 47 in Sugar Grove.

The purpose of the plan is to determine major transportation projects, guide transportation decisions and identify resources to implement transportation projects. The county seeks public comment on the County's 2030 Transportation Plan. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Draft plan is available on the Web site: [www.co.kane.il.us/dot](http://www.co.kane.il.us/dot) by July 23. Call Heidi Files, Chief of Planning and Programming at (630) 406-7308.

## 8-3-04 Chronicle Steak fry will have chocolate fountain

WASCO — Sunday's Red Cross Steak Fry at Silverado Grill, 41W379 Route 64, was designed for the steak, chocolate and rock 'n' roll crowd.

"One of our featured events that day will allow picnic-goers to dip fruits and snack items in a 3-foot tall chocolate fountain," said Marilyn Black, development chairwoman for the Red Cross Board of Directors.

The steak fry will run from 1 to 8 p.m. and feature music by the rock bands One More Time and One Track Mind. The bands and the chocolate fountain will be

featured from 2 to 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children ages 12 and younger. Tickets include grilled steak dinners with accompaniments for adults and hotdogs, hamburgers and a favor from the Red Cross for the children.

Support for the steak fry was provided by Silverado Grill, Wasco Corner Butchers, Luau Coffee, SYSCO and Fox River Foods, Black said.

Advance ticket purchase is required and can be made by calling (630) 443-8844, Ext. 20.

—Kane County Chronicle

# Fox Valley in 60 seconds

8-3-04

Daily Herald



RICK WEST/DAILY HERALD

Jon Duerr smiles as well-wishers congratulate him after Monday's ceremony renaming Blackhawk Forest Preserve in South Elgin in his honor. Duerr, retired district executive director, had been with the Kane County Forest Preserve District for 19 years. pieces for the show, Aug. 27 to Oct. 8, and will select the winners of the \$1,000 Lester J. Norris Award and four \$500 awards of excellence. For details, call (630) 584-7200, ext. 18.

artists for its popular annual vicinity art exhibition. The gallery is located on the St. Charles East High School campus at 1040 Dunham Road. The judges will choose about 85

**Help with school supplies:** The annual school supply and clothing giveaway is from 4 to 8 p.m. Aug. 13 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 14 at Hosanna Lutheran Church, Randall and Crane roads, St. Charles. School supplies and clothing will be given to families in need. Photo identification is required. For details, call (630) 584-6434.

**Pipe bomb scare closes road:** Kane County sheriff's deputies closed off a stretch of road near the intersection of Ramon and Peplow roads in Lily Lake for about 45 minutes early Monday evening after receiving a report of a pipe bomb, officials said. The suspicious pipe turned out to be a discarded piece of construction material, officials said.

**Norris seeking local artists:** The Norris Gallery in the Norris Cultural Arts Center in St. Charles is seeking entries from

With the special service area no longer a component and Willey said normal procedure in such an instance would be for the village to establish a special service area for the street improvement and then impose a tax on the area homeowners to fund the resurfacing. The Hughes Creek homeowners, however, were not in favor of any new taxation. So a compromise was reached that allowed the homeowners to pay their fair share of the resurfacing, which was \$32,640, which represents two-thirds the projected \$48,959. The other third will come from the Kane County Forest Preserve District. Hughes Creek homeowners Association President Amber Drancik said, "We had a petition that everybody signed back in April. They said that this was the way they wanted to go." Drancik said the homeowners paid for the resurfacing through a special assessment. "Within a week, we had the majority paid and now everybody's paid," Drancik said. "It speaks for itself that everybody agrees with this agreement."

ing of those in short order." Elburn Mayor James Willey said. Hughes Creek subdivision in Elburn agreed to give control of its private streets to Elburn at Monday's village board meeting. The village board unanimously approved the agreement, which is pending its closing, which will be handled at a date company at a date to be determined. Hughes Creek agreed to give the streets to the village after a summer resurfacing. "Because those were common drives, we knew we were accepting 13-year-old roads knowing full well we were going to have to have a resurfac-

**BY DARRYL MELLEMA**  
*Daily Herald Correspondent*

# Elburn to take over subdivision's streets

8-3-04 Daily Herald

# Blackhawk Forest Preserve renamed for former director

8-3-04 Chronicle

Area near South Elgin named for Jon Duerr

By TOM SCHLUTER Kane County Chronicle

icy allows the person to enjoy the honor

The Nelson Lake Marsh Forest Preserve was

renamed the Dick Young-

Nelson Lake Forest Preserve to

honor the districts long-time

naturalist. "This is a great honor,"

Duerr said. Duerr retired in June.

Young said the forest preserve, once a gravel pit, sits

atop the St. Charles Aquifer, an underground canyon 250

feet down that is filled with gravel and water.

Young called the Duerr Forest Preserve, "one of the

richest places in Kane County."

The slogan for environmentalists has become

"Think globally, act locally,"

Director of Planning Drew Ulberg said.

"One person can make a difference. Jon is living exam-

ple of that," Ulberg said.

SOUTH ELGIN — Former forest preserve Executive

Director Jon Duerr was walking through what then was

Blackhawk Forest Preserve when he noticed an unfa-

mil- far plant. Growing in among some

spring wildflowers was a tiny fern-like species he had never

seen. Duerr monitored the plant for a few weeks, then

sent a specimen to a plant expert in Michigan.

It turns out Duerr had discovered a prairie moonwort,

the only one known to be growing east of Minnesota.

On Monday, the forest preserve, on Route 31 near

South Elgin, was renamed the Jon J. Duerr Fox River Bike

Trail and Boat Launch. Forest preserve President

John Hoscheit said it is a tradition to name forest pre-

serves after people who have made "extraordinary contri-

butions" to the district. "We have a policy of doing

this while people are still alive," Hoscheit said. The pol-

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# County struggling to meet federal election deadline

By TOM SCHLUETER  
Kane County Chronicle

*Rumor says there will be an extension*

BY TOM SCHLUETER  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — With no directions from federal and state election commissions on new voting laws, Kane County officials are frustrated in their attempts to comply with regulations.

At the same time, Kane is in danger of losing \$682,000 in federal dollars if it does not meet the Help America Vote Act regulations by the first federal elec-

tion in March 2006.

"I would like to see us take some type of position so we don't lose the HAVA money," said Elections Committee Chairman Gerald Jones, D-Aurora.

Congress approved HAVA after the 2000 presidential election was decided by the Supreme Court. The intent of the law was to eliminate the potential for voting problems such as those attributed to the punch-card system used at

the time in Florida, the same system used by Kane County.

Instead of making the voting process more reliable, the Federal Election Assistance Commission has yet to issue any standards for local jurisdictions to follow, making it all but impossible for some of them to meet the deadlines.

"The Federal Election Commission hasn't come anywhere close to having their act together, but they are expecting the states to meet the deadline," Aurora Election Commission member Bill Richards said. "In my mind, it is totally unrealistic."

To outfit all 220 precincts under the

jurisdiction of the Kane County clerk with new technology would cost \$2.5 million to \$3 million. There are another 67 precincts overseen by the Aurora Election Commission.

"I think it's fair to say we are not ready to make any commitments," Richards said.

All election jurisdictions in the country without optical scan or touch screen technologies that have been certified by the states or federal government are in the same boat. That means about one-third of all counties are struggling to meet the deadline.

The confusion has led to dozens of vendors trying to hawk their wares,

some of them reputable, some not. It also has led to rumors.

One of the rumors circulating is that the federal government will grant an extension to the March 2006 deadline.

HAVA requires local jurisdictions to be able to count votes electronically, provide proof to the voter that their vote has been counted and allow disabled voters to cast ballots independently.

Director of elections Zaina Alame said the request for proposals that will be sent to vendors will be completed within two weeks, giving the committee time to review it at its next meeting Aug. 31.



# What's in a name?

*\$-3-04 Chronicle*

*Men upset by renaming  
of forest preserve*

By TOM SCHLUTTER  
Kane County Chronicle

**SOUTH ELGIN** — Not everyone was happy

Monday in honor of Jon Duerr. Mark Peterson and his son, Dane, of Sleepy Hollow, held signs of protest during the ribbon-

cutting ceremony that

read "Do not dishonor Chief Blackhawk."

"Chief Blackhawk was a true American hero," Peterson said.

The forest preserve, on Route 31 near South Elgin, was renamed the

Jon J. Duerr Fox River Bike Trail and Boat Launch. Duerr retired in

June as the Kane County Forest Preserves executive director.

Peterson said he objected to the removal of the one honor afforded Blackhawk in Kane County.

"We have no problem with this fine gentleman (Duerr), but not at the expense of Chief Blackhawk," he said.

In the 1830s, Blackhawk fought against encroaching settlers in northern Illinois. Legend has it that Gen. Winfield Scott pursued Blackhawk through what now is Kane County.

The trail Scott took now is Army Trail Road. A marker in the forest preserve honors two of Scott's soldiers who died during an encampment there.

However, historians do not believe that Scott chased Blackhawk across the Fox River.

In fact, forest preserve officials said they remember protests from 10 years ago when the preserve first was named for Blackhawk.

See BLACKHAWK, page 2

river," Siegenthaler said.

Forest preserve President John Hoscheit tried to avoid the controversy during Monday's ceremony.

"This was not an attempt to dishonor Blackhawk," Hoscheit said. "It was an attempt to honor Jon."

Peterson said the refusal of Blackhawk to give in to the Army as it tried to forcibly remove the tribe from Illinois shows the type of man he was.

"He really was a hero, and I think young children should learn about him," he said.

## Blackhawk

Continued from page 1

The protesters did not like the historical inaccuracy and said the preserve would be better named after Scott.

David Siegenthaler, a volunteer researcher with the Elgin Historical Society, said Blackhawk never came near Elgin during Scott's campaign.

"Winfield Scott crossed the river at that location in pursuit of Blackhawk. They (Blackhawk's band) were a long ways away from the





Mark Peterson and his son Dane, two of the nearly 80 people at the ceremony Monday, want to keep the area named Blackhawk.

# Forest preserve gets a new name

## Change honors Duerr, stirs dispute

By William Presecky  
Tribune staff reporter

Kane County's Blackhawk Forest Preserve near South Elgin was renamed Monday for Jon Duerr, the forest preserve district's retired executive director.

More than 80 onlookers, mostly public officials and district employees, watched as Duerr unveiled a wooden sign bearing his name at the entrance to the 287-acre preserve on Illinois



Jon Duerr, retired executive director of the Kane County Forest Preserve District, holds the ribbon from the sign bearing the preserve's new name. Duerr served the district for 19 years.

Highway 31, near McLean Boulevard.

The brief ceremony in recognition of the contributions Duerr made to the district's expansion over the last 19 years also generated a small personal protest in opposition to the name change.

"He's learning about the 1st Amendment this morning," said a sign-carrying Mark Peterson of Sleepy Hollow, nodding toward his son Dane, 16, as they handed out leaflets that accused the district of dishonoring Chief Black Hawk.

Peterson said the district should have dedicated a building in Duerr's honor rather than a preserve that was named for what he called "a true American hero."

Duerr, 62, didn't comment on the name dispute and, in his low-key manner, modestly accepted the recognition that his favorite bird-watching area is now named for him.

Forest Preserve Commission President John Hoscheit (R-St. Charles) said renaming the preserve was in keeping with the practice of recognizing people like Duerr who have made significant contributions to the district. Hoscheit said the preserve may have been "misnamed" for Black Hawk when the district acquired the stone quarry property along the Fox River in the early 1970s.

"It's not intended to dishonor anybody," he said.

District consultant Dick Young, a published expert on Kane's natural areas, said, "We've had people here demanding we take the [original] name off."

Young said area historians took the district to task several years ago for "corrupting" history in naming the preserve for Black Hawk.

A Sauk leader and warrior, Black Hawk gathered members of the Sauk and Fox tribes in an 1832 effort to regain ceded territory east of the Mississippi. Although the U.S. troops sent to quell the uprising marched through Kane and apparently crossed the Fox River near the preserve, Young said historians argue that Black Hawk had no direct connection to the site and claim it was misnamed for him more than 30 years ago.

Tribune photos by Terry Harris

# Departing Kane chairman giving away campaign cash

The departure of Kane County Board Chairman Mike McCoy from politics later this year is translating into a windfall for two of the county's high school sports programs.

According to the semi-annual report of campaign contributions and expenditures filed with the state, the two-term board chairman who is not seeking re-election has whittled down the roughly \$17,500 in funds he had at the start of the year by making donations to various political and charitable organizations.

In addition to \$900 in political contributions made since Jan. 1, the Michael W. McCoy Campaign Fund also made donations of \$500 each to the American Red Cross in St. Charles and Suicide Prevention Services in Batavia, according to the report.

The report also showed that the Republican from Aurora, an assistant varsity football coach at Kane and High School, donated \$6,000 to the Kane and Sports Boosters in Elburn. He said he plans to donate the bulk of the \$6,313 remaining in the fund as of July 1 to the West Aurora Sports Boosters.

McCoy is an alumnus of West Aurora High School and has extensive family ties to the school, he said.

Monday was the final day for political candidates and campaign committees in Illinois to disclose the results of their financial activity for the period from Jan. 1 through June 30.

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8-4-04 Daily Herald

# Panel backs Peck, Rt. 64

# commercial, housing plan

BY LISA SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

start in the upper \$200,000 range, said Nate Wynsma, director of land acquisition for Elgin-based Remington Homes. About 70 percent of the homes would have basements.

Remington Homes is the developer of a townhouse subdivision in Naperville and two single-family developments under construction in Elgin.

Construction would begin in September or October, Wynsma said, if the project is approved by the city council.

The commercial area, called Benchmark Center at Remington Glen, would be developed first along Route 64. Remington Glen, the 20-acre residential townhouses and 72 were flats.

More than 100 townhouses, a bank and other commercial properties would be developed on a 29-acre parcel on the northeast corner of Peck Road and Route 64 under a proposal reviewed by the St. Charles plan commission Tuesday.

The commission voted 5-0 to recommend the city council approve the plan, which outlines 103 townhouses of 82 two-bedroom units and 21 three-bedroom units, in 26 buildings in addition to an 8-acre commercial area.

Townhouses prices would

area, would then be constructed just northeast of the commercial parcel east of Peck Road between Dean Street and Woodward Drive.

Proposed on a portion of the commercial area is a 3,300 square-foot bank with a three-sided clock tower.

The plan commission signed off on preliminary plans for that business, a branch of Benchmark Bank.

Last presented to the plan commission in January, the development has changed ownership and changed in scope. Previously the plan called for 110 units, of which 38 were townhouses and 72 were flats.

8-14-04 Daily Herald  
Water link-up fees could triple

BY LESLIE HAGUE

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Water connection fees for new construction could triple in Sugar Grove if the village adopts a new fee structure discussed on Tuesday night.

The proposed fees come on the heels of a water feasibility study that estimates the village will need close to \$28 million in water system improvements to deal with the estimated population boom to about 62,000 residents by 2030.

The new fees would cover the costs incurred for new wells, storage tanks, treatment facilities as well as improvements to existing water systems.

The study, conducted by Engineering Enterprises Inc., suggests that the water tap-on

"If this is what we need to start charging, we should start charging it."

Robert Bohler, trustee

fee be increased from \$1,500 to \$4,634 per household to cover all the improvements that will have to be made.

Some development annexation agreements have locked in the \$1,500 fee, so those would not increase, but more recent developments like Hannaford Farms would pay the increased fee, if they are adopted. Village administrator Brent Eichelberger said he was not sure how many developments had locked in at the \$1,500 fee.

Several trustees said they would support the increased fee.

"If this is what we need to start charging, we should start charging it," said Trustee Robert Bohler.

He asked how the accounting would be done to make sure that the money collected from the increased fee would go toward water system improvements.

The money would go into the village's utility fund and couldn't be used to pay general fund bills, but more specific divisions within that fund might need to be done, Eichelberger said.

The village will also be evaluating sewer tap-on fees in the coming months. Increasing the water connection fees will come before the board for a vote at their next meeting on Aug. 17, Eichelberger said.

8-11-04 Beacon News

# Kane County politicians glean the green

By Nathaniel Zimmer

STAFF WRITER

Donors poured a lot of money into the coffers of the candidates for the two top offices in Kane County during the first six months of the year, the latest campaign finance filings show.

Republican John Barsanti led all contenders, raising more than \$57,000 in his quest to become the county's next state's attorney, according to the finance reports released this week.

Major contributors to Barsanti in-

cluded St. Charles developer B & B Enterprises, which gave \$5,500, and Edward Bonifas of Aurora-based Alarm Detection Systems Inc., who sent \$2,000.

But the St. Charles resident burned through the money during the hotly contested, four-way March primary, leaving him with less than \$10,000 in the bank as of June 30.

Barsanti's opponent, Democrat Renee Robinson of Aurora, said she attracted a little more than \$5,000.

Karen McConaughay, the Republican candidate for chairman of

the Kane County Board, raised nearly \$47,000, with \$2,500 coming from Penn National Gaming Inc., the owner of Hollywood Casino-Aurora, and \$3,000 from developer Wiseman-Hughes Enterprises Inc. of Wheaton.

Her Democratic opponent, Tom Meadath of St. Charles, took in less than \$200.

As of June 30, incumbent county

Recorder Sandy Wegman and incumbent county Coroner Chuck West, both of Elgin, were still recovering financially from their primary bouts.

After spending more than \$16,000, West had less than \$1,000 on hand. His challenger, Aurora Democrat Robert Moore, had just \$220 in the bank. Wegman had a little more than \$2,000 available, having paid out more than \$10,000. Her opponent, Democrat Michael Lowery of North Aurora, held about \$1,300.

# Geneva wary of far-west road plans

8-4-04 Daily Herald

By GARRETT ORDDOWER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When it comes to planning for the future, Geneva officials want to make sure out of sight doesn't mean out of mind — both in terms of time and location.

Though the improvements outlined in the county's draft 2030 transportation and land use plans will largely occur outside the city and years from now, the city has spelled out concerns stirred up right now by plans that will one day affect what happens within its borders.

That's not to say the city doesn't like the majority of the plan or the process that continues to create it.

"The county deserves our applause for getting everyone involved in the process early,"

Mayor Kevin Burns said. "When the debate does begin they know where each of us stands."

About half of the 14 points outlined in the city's four pages of comments on the 2030 plan deal with transportation, specifically concerns about Randall Road as well as development west of the city and the traffic it will bring east.

"There's some uncertainty as to what the density and intensity of development will be to the west of us," city planner Dick Ulrich said. "It's important that we continue to emphasize the need to manage traffic carefully as development continues west of Geneva."

Proposed road projects outlined in the county's draft 2030 transportation plan include the widening of Keslinger Road and Route 38 to four lanes from Peck

Road to Randall Road, and widening portions of the roads to four lanes farther west.

The city points out that such arterial roadways running through residential neighborhoods will decrease livability, add traffic and lead to "the barrier effect" making travel more difficult for pedestrians.

The Route 38 expansion and addition of traffic signals could also slow police and fire response to the west and increase congestion on the bridge over the Fox River.

Randall Road has already created a barrier that divides the city, and the plan calls for widening stretches of Randall Road to six lanes, including from Route 38 in Geneva to Orchard Road in North Aurora.

Plans already in the works to help combat that include an

underpass along the Union Pacific railroad tracks from South Street to Keslinger Road. Though the underpass remains several years off, it has received \$385,000 in federal funding, officials said.

The city also notes "serious concerns" about the future of the Peck Road corridor, which has been looked at as a reliever for Randall Road. Though the county has not discussed a road through Peck Farm Park since its plan was unanimously rejected in 2002, Geneva wants to make sure the idea does not resurface.

"We want to make sure whoever succeeds Chairman McCoy understands our position," Burns said. "We have no interest in discussing extensions of roadways that will damage existing park lands."

# 84-04 Chronicle Coroner's office goes paperless

BY TOM SCHLUETER  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — The coroner's office now is paperless, and the reviews are favorable.

In reality, the office maintains paper records as required by state law, but day-to-day operations now are handled by devices that seem more at home in a Star Trek movie than a Kane County government office.

"This has been a fantastic

adventure for us," Coroner Chuck West said. "The product, I think, is phenomenal."

The product to which West referred actually is many different pieces of hardware and software designed to reduce the paperwork that coroner deputies must fill out when someone dies.

Members of the Public Safety Committee saw a demonstration of the product at Tuesday's meeting. A conglomeration of Ta-

Kenset Research Laboratories, CDW-G, the government arm of Computer Discount Warehouse, Toshiba and Sprint joined forces to develop the data base for the office free of charge.

The firms hope the system will work well enough in the coroner's office that other Kane offices and even other counties will be so impressed they will want to buy the products.

"We did it in the timeline



CDW-G West

"No similar system exists anywhere in the country."

we said we would. It's better than any one thought, and it's being used in the field," said Kim Guminio, senior account executive for

The central piece of equipment is a laptop computer on which coroner deputies can "write" our their reports. The screen can flip 180 degrees and serve as a writing surface.

All the information is saved at several different points, including the county's main computer data base, which is downloaded and archived every day, meaning the information is well-protected, West said.

Using wireless technology the deputies enter the information into fields that are migrated into the 23 separate forms that must be completed during a death investigation.

Before automation, each of the 23 forms had to be filled out by hand.

With automation, the forms can be filled out at the scene, Guminio said.

See PAPERLESS, page 2

## Paperless

Continued from page 1

"Every bit of data that must be captured can be entered into this page," she said.

The county received \$100,000 in hardware at no cost.

The only expense will be the wireless costs.

"It far exceeds our original expectations," West said.

Similar systems could be used in departments that conduct field work, such as the sheriff's office and health and transportation departments, said Ken Griffin, D-Aurora.

"We're hoping to share with all the departments in Kane County and all the counties in the country. We'll just go department by department and see where the fit is. It works, and it's easy," Guminio said.



8-4-04 Chronicle

Sugar Grove

moves closer

to increasing

tap-on fees

By KELLEY CASINO  
Kane County Chronicle

SUGAR GROVE — The vil-

lage staff is moving forward on

a resolution that will increase

water and sewer tap-on fees as

a way to fund water system im-

provements.

The improvements are

needed to deal with antici-

ipated population increases, as

well as current system inade-

quacies.

Board members were

agreeable this week to the idea

of raising the standard water

connection fee from \$1,500 to

\$4,634.

A study by Engineering

Enterprises Inc. shows that it

could cost more than \$23.8

million for the water works sys-

tem to be comprehensive

enough to handle the popula-

tion growth.

"I feel confident enough

with the study EBI has done

that if this is what we need to

start charging, this is what we

need to start charging," Trustee

Bob Bohler said.

The staff will review the

sanitary sewer tap-on fees at a

later date.

"My argument is if you

don't do this, how are you going

to pay for system improve-

ments," Village Administrator

Brent Eichelberger said.

He said the resolution

could be brought before the

board for a vote as soon as the

board's next meeting.

"Every year, this (rate) needs

to go up because these are

today's numbers," Eichelberger

said. "If we don't raise them, we're

just going to fall behind again."

During the discussion, the

question was brought up

whether to have the fee in-

crease go up by a certain per-

cent every year or to have the

board look at the numbers an-

nually.

Village President Sean

Michels suggested that the

board look at the fees every

year to see what inflation has

done to the numbers and vote

on an increase accordingly.

8-4-04 Chronicle

# Townhouse development proposed for Peck Road, Route 64 intersection

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

ST. CHARLES — A 103-unit townhouse development soon could be built northeast of the intersection of Peck Road and Route 64.

The proposal also calls for more than 10 acres of commercial space on the south side of the development fronting Route 64. The commercial space is expected to include a 3,300-square-foot building that will house a bank.

Plan commission members on Tuesday unanimously voted to

recommend that city aldermen approve the proposed development, to be called Remington Glen, and the bank. The city's Planning & Development Committee could consider the proposals as early as Monday.

But commission members also requested that developers of the townhome portion, Elgin-based Remington Homes, work with city staff to increase the amount of vegetation on the south side of the 20-acre site to screen the homes from the commercial space. A new road, Woodward Drive, would separate the two sites.

The homes are expected to cost more than \$200,000 each. If aldermen approve the plan, construction could begin as soon as this fall and take at least two years to complete, said Nate Wynsma, Remington director of land acquisitions.

"We felt very strong about this market," Wynsma said about why Remington purchased the property from another development group that previously had submitted a similar plan.

The development proposal calls for 26 buildings to be built. No building would have more than five units.

# Animal control expects to end year in the black

8-4-04 Chronicle

BY TOM SCHLUETER  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — The animal control department's income will be enough to operate a new facility with more employees and end up with a budget surplus.

Director Joseph Busch on Tuesday showed members of the Public Safety Committee his budget projections to operate a new facility through 2007.

"Our expenditures will always be less than income," Busch said.

The department's operating budget is paid for by the sales of rabies tags.

Whether or not the county builds its own shelter will be decided in the next week.

The Executive Committee will discuss it today, and the final vote will come on Tuesday.

Although \$1 million has

been set aside for the shelter's construction for three years, some board members would rather spend the money on other projects, such as the jail.

Busch estimated he will sell 77,515 tags in 2004 at \$8 apiece, expected to bring in \$620,124.

He expects that number to increase 5 percent a year.

When the county board increased the tag fees to \$8,

Busch said he would ask that the fees be increased to \$10 if and when a shelter were built.

The department would hire 11 more people to man the shelter.

Busch said, however, if the number of tags sold increases with growing population, there might not be a need to increase the fees.

Some counties charge \$25 for rabies registration, he said.

# Animal facility up for county board vote

*8-5-04 Daily Herald*

By PATRICK WALDRON  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

Moving yet another step closer to reality, Kane County's slightly scaled-down animal control facility proposal won an endorsement from a panel of top county board leaders Wednesday.

The price of the facility to be built in Geneva now sits at \$1,583,522, slightly above the \$1.5 million budget figure for the project.

After more than four years on the drawing board, the animal control facility became a lightening rod issue earlier this summer as the county prepared to hire a contractor to build it.

Proposals for the job came in at least \$400,000 over budget, but during the last few weeks board member Lee Barrett, an East Dundee Republican and longtime proponent of the facility, worked to reduce costs.

That move prompted criticism from several other board members against the project, including Karen McConnell, a St. Charles Republican and nominee to become board chairman, who believe the animal facility is not a top priority item for the county.

During Wednesday's discussion, the anti-animal shelter rhetoric was virtually nonexistent though two board members voted against the executive committee recommendation to begin construction.

Penelope Cameron, an Aurora Republican, and Rob McConnell, a Geneva Republican, voted no. Karen McConnell, a committee member, did not attend the meeting.

As it stands now, the animal control proposal heads to the full county board Tuesday with several notable deletions to keep cost down, including the loss of a garage and an animal crematorium.

"The general appearance of the building hasn't changed at all," said Joseph Busch, the county's animal control director.

Many people who attended Wednesday's meeting agreed the facility's future remained unknown.

"Who knows?" board Chairman Mike McCoy said about Tuesday's final board decision.

"Vote it up or down and move on."



85-04 Beacon News

# BFI to test township for trash, brush pickup

By Brian Shields  
SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

West Side to start on the new plan in mid-September.

"In talking to (township attorney) Michael Funky, the idea was why get into an intergovernmental agreement if BFI were to offer a program in township areas?" Murphy said.

BFI's Derek DeGroot, who is working with the township to find a solution for leaf and brush pickup, said it is too early to know exactly what the structure of the pilot program will be.

"None of that is decided at this point," DeGroot said. "We will use 65- and 95-gallon carts and have unlimited recycling, and we're trying to work out the economic viability of providing yard waste and brush removal with the sticker."

Residents in the pilot areas would pay \$14.50 per month for the 65-gallon toters and \$18 per month for the 95-gallon models, the same as city residents.

Township residents already have the option of using one of several waste haulers, including BFI, for their trash.

Coming to a resolution would especially be welcome for Burgess and the Highway Department, which was in the field Wednesday cleaning up brush from heavy overnight rain showers.

Burgess said he plans to continue emergency brush pickup in an effort to keep the unincorporated areas orderly. But there will not be scheduled brush pickups this fall like the ones the township orchestrated in April, May and June.

AURORA TOWNSHIP — A different-than-expected outcome resulted from recent negotiations between the city of Aurora and township officials for the township to piggyback on the city's leaf and brush pickup contract.

Browning Fertis Industries Inc., the city's major waste hauler, told township Supervisor Jim Murphy and Highway Commissioner Fred Burgess at a recent meeting that it may be a better idea to start a pilot program of waste and brush disposal in the unincorporated areas to see if it would catch on with residents.

Aurora Township had sought an intergovernmental agreement with Aurora to join on to the last three years of the city's contract with BFI, as well as access to the bargaining table when Aurora tries to hammer out a new contract.

Murphy said BFI's proposal would give unincorporated residents the same monthly rates for garbage toters that city dwellers pay, along with brush and leaf pickup and recycling.

The only thing township households would not get through BFI is sticker service for trash.

And Murphy pointed out BFI is simply another option for residents, not a requirement.

The company will take the next few weeks to study how many of the 3,000 unincorporated households are in each area, then pick one area on the East Side and one on the

# New tax system could help get bills out on time

## County board to vote Tuesday on tax administration system

By TOM SCHLUETER  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Kane County officials hope their new nearly \$800,000 tax system will get the bills out on time.

The Executive Committee on Wednesday approved the five-year contract with DevNet Inc. The full county board is expected to approve the contract Tuesday.

"This is primarily for the school districts. I don't think the taxpayers would mind if their bills are a week a late," Chairman Mike McCoy said. "I know I wouldn't."

Tax bills were mailed about two weeks late this year because the county's antiquated tax extension computer system did not mesh with the Supervisor of Assessments' system.

Late tax bills translate into taxes being paid late, meaning local taxing bodies such as school districts are forced to wait for their payments.

Consequently, those taxing bodies must borrow money at taxpayer expense to pay their own bills.

The DevNet contract calls for a replacement of the

county assessor's computer system.

Supervisor of Assessments Sallie Huber sent a letter on July 29 to township assessors in which she listed a series of problems that could be expected from the DevNet product.

In response, DevNet issued a memo that they say addresses her concerns.

For example, Huber's letter said, "The county will no longer have online access to township assessor daily updates."

DevNet responded, "Data from township appraisal systems (PAMS primarily) can be imported into the DevNet system on a daily or more frequent basis."

Huber could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

The computer system in Huber's office, called the Visual Property Assessment Management System, matches those in 15 of the county's 16 townships.

The fear among the assessors is that the county is trying to do away with their VPAMS.

"There is a lot of misinformation out there," McCoy said. "Ultimately, I think this will be a much more modern system, and I don't think it will negatively affect the township assessors."

DevNet is in 30 counties whose township assessors operate the VPAMS system, Information Technologies Director Roger Fahnestock said.

"They (DevNet) work with VPAMS in multiple counties," he said.

# Committee OKs construction bid for animal control facility

*Opponents: Money would be better spent on other projects*

BY TOM SCHLUETER  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — The Kane County Executive Committee on Wednesday approved the construction bid for the animal control facility.

The move sets the stage for an anticipated hot debate at Tuesday's county board meeting.

John Edward Construction of Downers Grove submitted the low bid of \$1.58 million.

Two of the facility's opponents, Karen McConaughay, R-St. Charles, and James

Mitchell, R-North Aurora, did not attend Wednesday's meeting.

As it was, Wednesday's vote was 5-2, which means the item will not be included on the routine consent agenda. Only items voted unanimously are included on the consent agenda.

Opponents of the project believe that the money would be better spent on other county projects, such as a new jail.

Lee Barrett, R-East Dundee, is chairman of the Public Safety Committee and

has been guiding the project for the last year. Barrett said Tuesday that he has polled the board and believes that he has "16 or 17" votes in favor.

Fourteen votes are a majority on the 26-member board.

The county board set aside \$1 million in a construction fund for the 10,000-square-foot building. If the project is approved Tuesday, the rest of the money would come out of the animal control fund, which mainly is funded by rabies registration tag fees.

The building is planned for the southwest corner of Peck and Keslinger roads.

Geneva plans a drinking water treatment plant at the same site.

85-04 Chronicle

# Kane to seek damages for soil dump

## McCoy thinks Shell wants to settle

By TOM SCHLUETER  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA—The Kane County Board will seek damages against Shell Pipeline Co. for its part in a February contaminated soil dump at Settler's Hill Landfill.

Shell admitted that it improperly dumped the soil in February, but a county investigation has raised questions of why the soil went to the county's landfill, which is not licensed to accept hazardous waste.

"It was not just a simple mistake," county board Chairman Mike McCoy said. "We have found problems in the protocol in the way Shell handled the waste."

The Executive Committee on Wednesday authorized the special state's attorneys to seek monetary damages beyond the air monitoring costs. McCoy said he could not divulge the amount that the county will seek.

Special prosecutors Michael Childress and Timothy Dwyer are expected to return to the commit-

tee in 30 days to report any progress on a settlement.

While McCoy did not discuss a dollar amount, he did say he hoped to keep the matter out of court.

"We feel they want to negotiate a settlement. We are asking them to tighten up their procedures to make sure that this does not happen here or anywhere else in Illinois again," McCoy said.

A Shell pipeline in Kankakee County sprung a leak in 1988 and released 120,000 gallons of gasoline. The company excavated 16,000 cubic yards of soil in and around the spill.

What the county wants to know is why, 16 years later, 12

semi-truck loads — 201 tons of soil contaminated with benzene, toluene and ethylbenzene that had been stockpiled near the site — made it to Settler's Hill.

Soil contaminated with benzene from a pipeline spill is considered hazardous waste, while contaminated soil from a leaking underground fuel storage tank is classified as special waste, which Settler's Hill can accept. Benzene has been linked to cancer.

Federal officials relaxed regulations in an effort to ease the cleanup in and around underground storage tanks.

"We want some damages," McCoy said. "Ultimately, if we have to sue them, we will."



8-5-04 Beacon News

# Elburn OKs \$8 million budget with radium fund top priority

By Linda Girardi  
SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

ELBURN — The Village Board here unanimously adopted the 2004-05 budget, which includes plans to hire a full-time police officer and water department service employee, as well as the creation of a new \$1.7 million radium removal fund.

The trend is we tend to make very conservative income estimates, and take in more than we expect and spend less than we expect," Village Mayor Jim Willey said.

The village's budget shows a beginning balance of \$4.3 million, a total projected income of \$6.5 mil-

lion and expenditures estimated at \$8 million. The ending balance is \$2.8 million.

Willey said revenues from developer building permits have been favorable. Last year, village officials budgeted \$164,000 but actually received \$271,664 for building permits.

Willey said the newly created radium removal fund was accomplished by moving money from other funds. The resources are needed in order to finance the village's share for the installation of new technology that will be completed over an 18-month period. Like other communities across

northern Illinois, Elburn is required to address a federally unfunded mandate of removing potentially harmful levels of radium from the village's drinking water.

"It's our biggest priority," the mayor said.

Although the Village Board has yet to make a final vote, as a result of the EPA mandate, residents can expect a water rate increase next year. Fee increases have not been projected in the new fiscal year budget, officials said.

The village will also purchase two police squad cars and two police bicycles to patrol the village's neighborhoods.

# County wants changes from Shell

8-5-04 Daily Herald

BY PATRICK WALDRON

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Kane County leaders continue to seek financial compensation from Shell Oil Co. for the illegal dumping of 201 tons of benzene-tainted soil at Settlers Hill landfill, and now want a pledge from the company to change its safeguards.

"We have found problems with the procedures Shell followed," said county board Chairman Mike McCoy. "It was more than just a simple,

The soil in question came from a pipeline project in Kanakee County, a venture that itself has been the source of several lawsuits since a gas leak there in November 1988, according to County state's attorney's office. That soil was mistakenly taken to Settlers Hill in Geneva between Feb. 6 and 9.

The state Environmental Protection Agency issued violation notices to the

"And we want some damages. Ultimately, if we have to sue to get them, we will."

Mike McCoy, county board chairman

See DUMPING on PAGE 5

# Dumping: County still considering a lawsuit

Continued from Page 1

county, Shell and Waste Management Inc., operator of Settlers Hill, but did not require the material be removed.

In the months after the dumping, the county conducted several studies to evaluate the threat the soil might represent and since then has discussed seeking damages. Environmental

tal consultants told county leaders the soil did not pose a danger to the landfill or ground-water below it.

On Wednesday, county lawyers briefed the county board's executive committee on the situation. Officials refused to disclose details of those discussions or how much cash the county is seeking but did say the goal remains to reach a settle-

ment out of court. At the same time, McCoy said, a lawsuit remains an option.

"We want them to tighten up procedures in the entire state of Illinois so it doesn't happen here again or at any other landfill," McCoy said, about how the company tracks its hazardous waste. "Ultimately, if we have to sue to get them, we will."

The biggest complaint county leaders have is finding out how or why an error ended up on the company's manifest that tracks any and all material being dumped at Settlers Hill.

A spokesman for Shell did not return a call seeking comment. In June, a company spokesman called the incident "an honest mistake" and said the oil giant was cooperating.

# Animal shelter nears key vote

## Facility would be a first for Kane

By William Presecky

Tribune staff reporter

last year in favor of advancing the project to the construction stage.

Public Safety Committee Chairman Lee Barrett (R-East Dundee), who has championed the project, said he expects a majority will approve awarding a \$1.5 million contract to John Edward Construction Co. of Downers Grove to build the 10,000-square-foot facility.

Barrett said he also expects there will be a floor fight over the contract.

Some of the more outspoken opponents of the animal control facility, including board member Karen McConaughay (R-St. Charles), were absent from Wednesday's meeting and unavailable for comment.

McConaughay is running in the November election to succeed McCoy. She has set construction of a multi-million-dollar county jail as her top capital project.

Plans call for the animal control facility to be built on about 10 acres of a vacant 40-acre site, with the balance of the land approved for sale to Geneva for a water-treatment plant.

McCoy said the pending deal with Geneva to sell the land for \$998,000 and agreement by the city to fully improve the site would be moot if the County Board opts to scotch the shelter project.

The proposed facility is designed to house about 100 dogs and 100 cats. Some of the amenities included in the original plan were deleted in recent weeks to pare construction costs to \$1.5 million from Edward's \$1.9 million bid price, according to Barrett.

Each year the county picks up about 1,000 animals that are strays, or sick or maltreated.

The stage has been set for a showdown next week over whether Kane County should build a \$1.5 million animal control facility or defer construction until the long-planned project can be evaluated relative to other capital needs.

"The board can switch priorities all it wants," said board Chairman Mike McCoy (R-Aurora) following a 5-2 vote Wednesday by the Executive Committee to send the proposal to the full board for a vote.

"But these are things we've worked on for four or five years. We've spent about \$100,000 [in preliminary work] on the shelter. If it no longer is a priority project," said McCoy, the board should "vote it up or down."

"We have higher priorities like the jail," said committee member Rob McConaughay (R-Geneva) in explaining the "no" vote he registered in committee.

Board member Penny Cameron (R-Aurora) also voted against recommending construction of the county's first animal control facility. Cameron has argued that the project should be delayed until its can be re-evaluated along with the county's other capital needs.

Cameron and McConaughay were among 10 board members who tried unsuccessfully in May 2003 to block a \$1 million capital appropriation to build the shelter near Peck and Keslinger Roads, west of Geneva.

Fifteen board members voted

### County needs more diversified housing

To the Editor:

The Kane County 2030 Land Resource Management Plan dedicates 15 pages to housing a small amount of coverage for what they admit is one of the major challenges facing the county and a half decades.

The plan reports that from 1990 to 2000, Kane County lost 500 rental housing units. It is ironic that in the 1990s, a decade in which our area saw tremendous population growth and rapid real-estate development, that Kane County's housing options actually became less diverse.

Imagine a family with a mom, dad and two kids. Dad works in a printing factory making \$15 an hour. This family won't be able to afford an ordinary two bedroom apartment anywhere in the Chicago area. A person needs to make more than \$17 an hour to afford an average two bedroom apartment.

Our area has seen a huge swell in service-sector jobs. A minimum-wage worker would have to work at 3.5 jobs for 140 hours a week to get that apartment, that is if he/she can find one. Additionally, nowhere in the plan does it address housing needs of the very low income. We need to develop more mixed income housing so that our firefighters, police officers and nurses can afford a place to live in the communities they serve.

We commend the county for recognizing that a variety of housing types are needed to meet the social-demographic profile of Kane County residents. However, we feel that more must be done. We encourage the county to expand the housing chapter to include what it will do to diversify housing options, particularly in the Critical Growth Area, as it relates to all economic levels.

Additionally, the federal government currently provides some funding to address affordable housing needs, but it is not nearly enough to solve the crisis Kane County is facing. This is a local problem that requires a local solution. Elected officials at both the county and municipal level need to explore creative ways to expand the supply of housing for citizens at every income level. From those holding down service jobs to seniors living on fixed incomes in their communities.

Please speak up and say "yes," affordable housing is worth fighting for.

**Barbara Bakk**  
Facilitator  
Kane County Housing Action Coalition

**Renee L. Robinson**  
Candidate for Kane County States Attorney

**Be the voice that stops the violence**  
To the Editor:

If we do not fight to stop the gun violence now, then when? If we do not fight to stop the unnecessary deaths of our young male youths now, then when?

**Our letters policy**  
The Kane County Chronicle encourages letters to the editor, especially on local issues. For clarity, please submit letters typewritten and double-spaced. Letters should be signed and include the author's address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be printed. The newspaper reserves the right to edit all submissions. Address: Letters to the Editor, 1000 Randall Road, Geneva, IL 60134. Fax letters: (630) 232-4962. E-Mail: editor@chronicle.com

How many more of our young men must die before we take a stand?

This year to date, at least six of our boys have been shot down in our streets. One boy was shot in a neighborhood where he was a member of a church. I did not attend that church, I did not attend that community meeting that was held last week at Cypres Memorial.

I was one of the attendees of the community meeting that was held last week at Cypres Memorial. Our area has seen a huge swell in service-sector jobs. A minimum-wage worker would have to work at 3.5 jobs for 140 hours a week to get that apartment, that is if he/she can find one. Additionally, nowhere in the plan does it address housing needs of the very low income. We need to develop more mixed income housing so that our firefighters, police officers and nurses can afford a place to live in the communities they serve.

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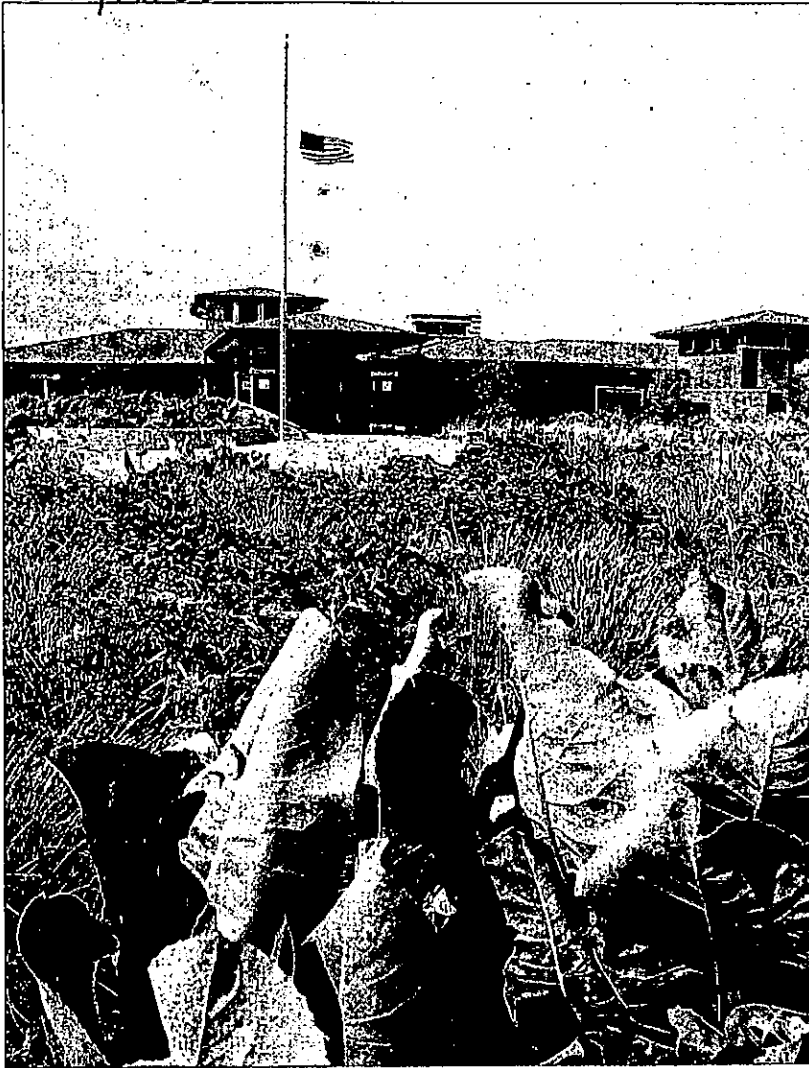
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PHOTOS BY TANIT JARUSAN/DAILY HERALD

Prairie plants dot the entrance to Tri-County State Park in Bartlett. The park's visitor center offers exhibits on Illinois' natural history.

## Fight for prairie's future heading to state lawmakers

BY MARNI PYKE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Tri-County State Park is going back to its roots.

On its more than 500 acres, Illinois grasses such as big blue stem vie with thistles and ragweed for dominance.

Gradually, out of the former farm fields in this little-known pocket of northwest DuPage County, a prairie is rising.

"It's starting to heal," said John Oldenburg, DuPage County Forest Preserve natural resources director.

By the end of the decade, state and forest preserve officials predict native plants will hold sway in the preserve, which is at the confluence of Cook, Kane and DuPage counties.

But in the midst of the prairie Renaissance, there are questions about the site's financial future.

The forest preserve district manages the park using a \$1 million state grant it received in late 2002.

That money will run out in 2005-2006. And the state



Tri-County Park contains more than 500 acres that used to be farmland. Workers are re-creating a prairie environment with species like this wild bergamot.

doesn't intend to keep providing 100 percent funding, which bothers some officials.

"If we take this on, something else will have to give," said Commissioner Roger

See PRAIRIE on PAGE 6

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# Prairie: State purchased land for \$10 million

Continued from Page 1

Kotecki of Carol Stream.

Most state holdings, such as Starved Rock State Park, are controlled by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Tri-County is a joint venture between the forest preserve and IDNR.

"This is something of a hybrid. There's not been a recipe written for it yet," forest district Executive Director Brent Manning said.

Compared to such high-profile state parks as Cave-in-Rock and Starved Rock, Tri-County is relatively obscure.

The state paid \$10 million for the land and another \$10 million to build an interpretive center that houses a department of national resources headquarters. It opened in April 2003 on Stearns Road west of Route 59 in Bartlett.

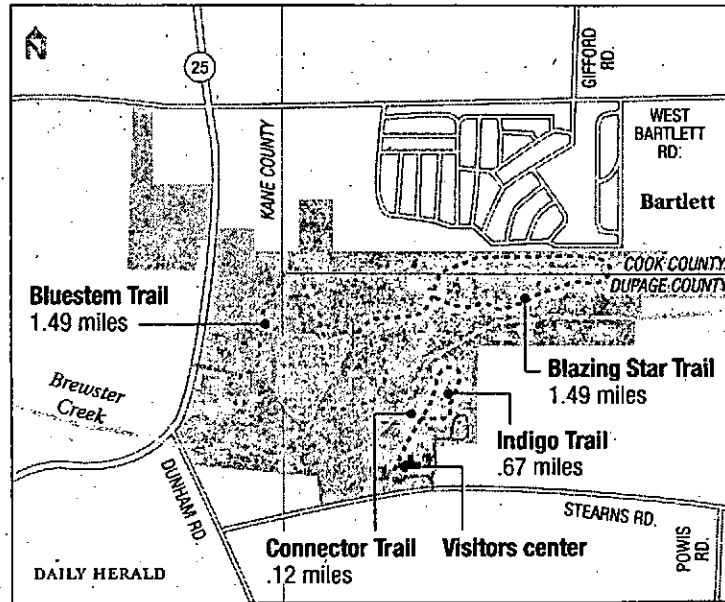
The forest preserve has provided staffing for the park, through the grant approved by the General Assembly.

It will cost an estimated \$418,000 this fiscal year to pay salaries, buy supplies and meet other expenses. Of the \$1 million grant, \$82,000 will be left for 2005-2006.

IDNR spokesman Joe Bauer said the \$1 million was a one-time payment for construction and to get the park up and running.

"Now that phase is over, we will continue to assist with a percentage of the maintenance costs," Bauer said.

That might cover only 40 percent of expenses — news that



came as a shock to Kotecki.

"The idea of picking up the 60 percent is a surprise and a major disappointment," he said. "It's a state park. We don't own it."

District board President Dewey Pierotti took a different tack, saying he was pleased at the level of funding offered.

The educational value of the park and the fact that many schoolchildren have visited made it a project that couldn't be ignored, Pierotti said.

"I know the governor wanted to keep it operating," he said. "It will not be a problem, it will be funded."

Forest preserve leaders have been lobbying local lawmakers on the issue because it's the state legislature and Gov. Rod Blagojevich who ultimately control the funding.

The district is owed \$6.8 million in grants from the state. Many officials have said they are uneasy about how the Illinois budget crisis will affect future funding. State Rep. John Millner, whose district includes Tri-County, said he considered the park a financial priority.

"I'll certainly work hard to keep it as an item in the mix," Millner said. "If Illinois is the Prairie State, we should be able to have a place where people can learn about it."

Paying for upkeep and maintenance is possible but it can't be done in a vacuum, Manning said.

"We may have to cut back or cut down on programming, but the bottom line is we want to keep it open and we will work cooperatively on that," he said.

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8-30-04 Beacon News

# Kane mirroring nation in poverty, insurance rise

By Angela Formelli  
STAFF WRITER

AURORA — The number of people in Kane County living below the poverty line and without health insurance mirrors the national statistics released this week by the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Our area is not any different," said Theresa Heaton, personal health director of the Kane County Health Department. "This is a growing problem, there is no doubt about it."

The number of Americans living in poverty increased by 1.3 million last year, while the ranks of the uninsured swelled by 1.4 million, the Census Bureau reported.

Approximately 35.8 million people lived below the poverty line in 2003, or about 12.5 percent of the population, according to the bureau.

That was up from 34.5 million, or 12.1 percent in 2002.

Nearly 45 million people lacked health insurance, or 15.6 percent of the population. That was up from 43.5 million in 2002, or 15.2 percent.

Although the data released by the Census Bureau does not break down rates by county or city, previous Census estimates and other results speak to a similar local increase.

According to the 2000 census, 5.9 percent of Kane County's population lived at or below the poverty line, compared to 6.6 percent in 2002. In Aurora in 2002, 8.3 percent of the population lived at or below the poverty line.

"Aurora matches the norms that we see across the state and country," said Bob Tanner, division manager for Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center.

The latest numbers on health insurance available for Kane County show that 40.5 percent of the county's adult population in 2002 was uninsured, based on a statewide phone survey.

Health insurance statistics for previous years in Kane County were not available for comparison, but Heaton said she has observed that "the trend seems to be toward increasing numbers."

The county has implemented several programs in attempts to decrease those numbers.

Within the last two years, four new community health centers — including the Visiting Nurse's Association of Fox Valley and Aunt Martha's Community Health Center in Aurora — received funding to serve uninsured and underinsured populations in the county.

Aunt Martha's in July received a

grant that will fund a mobile medical clinic, which will deliver basic healthcare services to homeless adults and children in Aurora and Elgin.

"Two years ago, for people who were uninsured, there wasn't any public funding for it at all," Heaton said.

The funding for new centers and programs came after the county presented the state with a high need and large medically underserved area, Heaton said.

"We were able to mobilize together and say 'we need community health centers,'" Heaton said. "When you have a place for people to

come to — without insurance — they can learn more about what resources there are to help them."

To continue attempts to gain resources and improve the health of the community, the Aurora Primary Care Consortium connects community organizations, schools, churches and health providers.

Public aid is also available for families and children through the KidCare and Family Care programs, which are funded by the state and offer health care coverage or help pay premiums of employer or private health insurance plans to those who meet the income requirements.

For a family to meet those requirements for KidCare, its income would have to be at 200 percent of the poverty level. That means, for example, that a family of four would have an annual income of \$36,800

or less.

More people will qualify for FamilyCare beginning Sept. 7 because Gov. Rod Blagojevich has raised the program's required level of poverty from 90 percent to 133 percent.

According to the Census bureau, there were 12.9 million children living in poverty last year, or 17.6 percent of the under-18 population across the nation. That was an increase of about 800,000 from 2002, when 16.7 percent of all children were in poverty.

The Census Bureau's definition of poverty varies by the size of the household. For instance, the threshold for a family of four was \$18,810, while for two people it was \$12,015.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

8-29-04 Chronicle

# Kane County Notebook Church seeking fee exemption

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

The Lord of Life Church is seeking an exemption from the new road impact fees being levied by Kane County on new development.

The church wants to build a large addition to its building at the intersection of LaFox Road and Route 38, which triggers the fees.

But the county's impact fee policy does not necessarily exempt religious institutions from the fees.

The church has asked the Kane County Board to grant an exemption.

Board members voted July 13 to refer the issue to the Transportation Committee to change the ordinance to exempt churches.

The committee on Friday voted to refer the issue to the Road Impact Fees Advisory Committee. The item then would come back to the Transportation Committee for consideration.

That motion prompted Transportation Committee Chairman William Wyatt, R-Aurora, to say, "This is nothing more than a cul-de-sac," in reference to the panel having to consider the issue again.

The issue facing the board and the panels is how they define a "religious institution."

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The Kane County Board soon could consider a change to the county's ordinance concerning food vendors who sell their products in mobile, non-mobile and push-cart units.

The change actually is a clarification from the current policy and sets a permitting process. The new ordinance defines what constitutes a mobile, non-mobile or push-cart unit and sets some guidelines.

For instance, a push-cart vendor would be able to sell pre-cooked hot dogs, unshucked cooked corn, whole fresh fruit, canned beverages and other pre-packaged food that is not potentially hazardous.

The ordinance requires the vendors to purchase a county permit. But they also would have to purchase a city permit if their community requires such a license. The ordinance applies only to vendors who will be selling their product longer than two weeks.

The push for the clarification came about in part because of a push-cart taco salesman in Aurora. City officials prevented him from selling the food from the carts, said Dorothy Sanchez, D-Aurora, a county board member.

The Mid-Valley Neighborhood Improvement Association Inc. is seeking funding to help start a "ReUseIt Center," which basically is an enterprise that sells donated surplus new and used construction equipment to the public.

The organization hopes to start the business to create a funding source for its program that finances emergency home repairs for low-income homeowners and to give budget-conscious homeowners a place to purchase materials when they are repairing their homes.

On Thursday, the nonprofit association asked the Kane County Solid Waste Committee for a \$70,000 grant to start the business. One of the duties of the panel is recycling programs.

Committee Chairman Don Wolfe, R-Elgin, said a decision on the grant has been postponed because of the need for more study of the operation.



# County road construction money getting tight; funding decisions loom

8-28-04 Daily Herald

By PATRICK WALDRON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Next year's construction season could be the last time Kane County drivers will see a full array of orange pylons slowing traffic as county officials are looking to reduce what is spent

on road work.

"Next year is the first time we'll see some really tight funding situations," said Tom Rickett, assistant director of the county's transportation division. "Some projects we might have to delay slightly because of the funding cycle."

With billions of dollars worth of long-term projects on the drawing boards and only millions to go around, a budget crunch was only a matter of time, officials have said for years.

But now the county's 10-year transportation budget shows

the capital improvement fund — which pays for major road construction projects — could see a deficit of up to \$11 million as soon as 2007.

To put that figure in perspective, the capital fund and the construction bond fund, which also pays for major projects and

is nearly drained, represents 59 percent of the division's projected \$89.2 million budget in 2005.

These numbers and the reality that money from the Illinois Department of Transportation has slowed are the principal reasons transportation officials

pushed so strongly for the establishment of the controversial road impact fee system.

That fee, paid by developers building new homes and businesses, which is projected to raise \$30 million over 10 years,

See BUDGET on PAGE 9

## Budget: Special projects may be cut first

Continued from Page 1

is one of the new funding sources the transportation staff has called for.

Right now, county road building and general road maintenance is paid for by fuel taxes and three tax levies. As more people and traffic come, the need for expanded lanes and bridges is outpacing the money to pay for it.

Transportation Director Paul Rogowski said the division's regular budget responsible for upkeep of existing roads and bridges remains solid. It's the projects adding to that infrastructure that face hard times.

"We are coming down to the bottom of the bucket," he said. That leaves the county board with choices to make.

"We have to look at what is feasible," said county board

member Bill Wyatt, an Aurora Republican and chairman of the board's transportation committee.

One high profile example of what could happen centers on the planned reconstruction and expansion of the intersection of Jericho and Orchard roads on the southern edge of Aurora, eyed for completion in 2006.

A project like that, budgeted at about \$8.2 million, could be

postponed as a cost savings measure.

But for next year, Rickett said things look stable. Officials expect the division's 62-member staff to remain the same and major projects including the expansion of McLean Boulevard in Elgin and the reconstruction of the Route 64/Randall Road intersection in St. Charles to move forward fully funded as planned.

# Speed limit on Randall S-curve might decrease

8-28-04 Chronicle

Transportation staff members recommend 45 mph limit

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Drivers on the Randall Road S-curve in St. Charles soon could see the speed limit drop to 45 mph.

Kane County Transportation Committee members on Friday approved a recommendation by transportation staff members to lower the speed limit by 5 mph between Dean Street and just north of Crane Road.

The recommendation now is expected to be considered by the county's Executive Committee.

The proposal to lower the speed limit on the stretch of road is the latest in a handful of actions that county officials have taken to improve safety on the major north-south artery after residents pleaded for the Kane County Board to increase safety on the road.

In January, St. Charles North High School students and teachers and residents from neighborhoods near the road began lobbying county officials for safety improvements after 17-year-old Samantha Joos, a North High School senior,

was killed Nov. 4 in a car accident on the S-curve.

To help increase safety on the road, county officials initially lowered the speed limit to 50 mph from 55 and installed signs with warnings of the S-curve.

Traffic signals recently were installed at the intersections of Crane and Bolcum roads with Randall Road, and 9-inch medians have been erected in the S-curve area.

Two lanes also are closed on the road to allow for resurfacing with anti-skid pavement, which is expected to be completed Sept. 10.

Kane County Transportation Director Paul Rogowski said the second decrease in the speed limit came after an engineering analysis on the road found

the need for the action.

He said reducing speed "reduces severity" of accidents.

Former St. Charles school board member Stephen Cole said the lowered speed, the medians and traffic signals would stop people from speeding down the stretch of road.

Cole was among the residents who passionately called on county board members to take action.

Cole applauded the quick action from board members and said his neighbors feel the road is now safer.

"It is just a tremendous win for the public, and I think a tremendous win for the political process that it could happen, and that the people's needs were dealt with," he said.

8-28-04 Daily Herald

# County debates road fees for churches

BY PATRICK WALDRON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Church and state — and traffic — merged Friday as a panel of Kane County leaders struggled with the idea of exempting churches from a controversial road fee.

"Churches do meet the definition of development and the fees do apply," said Carl Schoedel, the county engineer and administrator of the fee program.

But not everyone agrees, especially the leaders of Lord of Life Church in La Fox, who earlier this summer became the first to challenge the fee — roughly \$35,000 for their new church addition — using the system's built-in appeal process.

That so far unsuccessful appeal made it all the way to the county board last month but was put on hold after several board members ordered a reconsideration of a change that

would exempt "religious organizations" from paying.

The board's transportation committee took up the question Friday with members on both sides of the debate making arguments, including one with some biblical flair.

"Churches are a good thing to have in a community," said board member Don Wolfe, an Elgin Republican. "Still, render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's ..."

"We are the ones trying to keep the lights on and the roads functioning," he said.

In a time when county transportation leaders are planning new roads that will carry future traffic, all the while looking for ways to pay for it, many county board members can't see shrinking a fee system that is projected to bring in \$27 million to \$30 million in the next 10 years.

But they don't want to look like they're coming forward with an excessive tax on churches,

either.

The idea of the fee system is to charge groups or companies that build anything new — homes, stores, offices, water parks, auditoriums, etc. — that will eventually lead to more cars on the road.

Similar exemption arguments failed before the fee system was implemented in April, but the idea has persisted in Kane County. In the wake of that, transportation division officials have looked to other jurisdictions where similar road fee systems exist.

Schoedel told board members Friday that a fee system in Naperville has a partial exemption for religious institutions and a survey of 10 systems in six states shows many general church exemptions.

From a Kane County perspective, Schoedel also presented estimates that show churches would account for about 0.6 percent of the money collected

annually through the road fees. Board member Dan Walter, a South Elgin Republican, said churches are not the organizations the county wants to be sending extra bills to.

"It's a negligible amount, but it's a huge amount to a church," Walter said. "(This system) should be amended."

With a consensus unlikely, the transportation committee decided to hand off the issue to the impact fee advisory committee, the panel that helped develop the original fee ordinance.

The advisory committee already is dealing with complaints from the leaders of Batavia, Geneva and St. Charles that the fee formula is unfair and charges their towns too much.

Wolfe, who heads the advisory panel, warned because of those complaints it may take a while to get to an evaluation of church exemption issues. He gave no timetable.

8-28-04 Daily Herald

# S-curve speed limit may drop to 45 mph

BY PATRICK WALDRON

Daily Herald Staff Writer

After months of arguments, speed traps and a \$186,000 construction project, the speed limit on the Randall Road S-curve in St. Charles Township likely will go down to 45 mph.

The safety of drivers on Randall Road has been a topic of debate since the traffic death last November of a St. Charles North High School senior.

One of the first calls for change involved the speed limit, but the initial action in April lowered it only five miles per hour to 50, rather than to 45, as some called for.

By last spring, the county board had approved the construction of a center lane median through the curve, an infrastructure change that officials say warranted another speed limit reduction.

"When you have a barrier curve, 45 mph is the recommended speed limit," county transportation director Paul Rogowski said. "Plus, the curb was never meant as a cure-all. The speed just helps that."

The county board's transportation committee unanimously recommended the change Friday. It should go before the full board next month.

If approved as expected, the new 45 mph zone will run from 0.4 mile north of Dean Street to

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"The curb was never meant as a cure-all. The speed just helps that."

Paul Rogowski, transportation director for Kane County

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500 feet north of Clesen Drive.

The speed limit south of Dean Street is 45 mph, while north of the new reduced zone the limit goes back to 50.

Drivers can expect to see the changes next month when construction of the 9-inch-tall and 9-foot-wide median is finished.

When completed, drivers also may notice the new pavement that crews put down. Resurfacing wasn't part of the initial project but is being added as yet another safety precaution.

Rogowski said the S-curve stretch is being redone with an anti-skid bituminous mix that reduces slippery road conditions.

Construction of the median is complete, but the resurfacing won't start until Wednesday, which means that stretch of Randall Road will remain reduced to two lanes, one in each direction.

The resurfacing work is expected to be completed by Sept. 10, when all lanes will reopen.

8-29-04 Beacon News

# Fox Valley park director retiring

By Rowena Vergara  
STAFF WRITER

**AURORA** — After 27 years as executive director of the Fox Valley Park District, Bob Vaughan has announced his intent to retire in May 2005.

Described as an invaluable, intelligent and diplomatic man by his colleagues, Vaughan will leave his seat as park director, marking the third change in leadership in the organization's 57-year history.

The park board first learned of his retirement when Vaughan discussed it with the board in April.

Upon retiring, Vaughan will continue to do what meant most to him during his nearly 30-year role, and that is, staying actively involved in the community.

Whether it be serving on numerous city boards or working

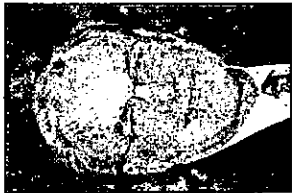
closely with area school districts, colleagues say Vaughan has always put citizens first.

During his career, Vaughan kept on top of the community's needs — in a park district that serves more than 180,000 residents.

He made sure every citizen could avail of recreational activities by creating affordable tennis and golf programs, said past park president Charlie Myler, who served on the park district board for 30 years.

In the late 1970s, Vaughan joined the park district as a finance officer. Gradually, Vaughan brought to the district skills in acquisition, park management and development, Myler said.

Vaughan's achievements can



**Bob Vaughan has been the FVPD's executive director for 27 years.**

be seen all over the Fox Valley, from the expansion of the Prisco Community Center to the construction of the Eola Community Center.

"He is certainly in tune with all areas of the district," park trustee Linda Cole said.

He also was instrumental in the construction of the community's two outdoor water parks at Phillips Park and Splash Country in partnership with the city of Aurora.

"He is the driving force behind the park district," said John Perkins, park president and Aurora deputy police chief.

Vaughan has helped the district grow to more than 500,000 square feet of facilities, which includes an interpretive outdoor ed-

ucation center, three community centers, a nine-court indoor tennis facility, two public golf course clubhouses and a soon-to-be-occupied police facility with public meeting rooms in Montgomery.

He has brought the community 137 parks and 33 miles of nature trails which cover more than 2,400 acres — and prides himself on pointing each park or trail out to the average citizen.

"Bob is familiar with every mile of the trails we have," Cole said.

"It will be difficult to replace Bob," said Perkins, who credits Vaughan for "showing him the ropes" around the park district as a newcomer to the organization seven years ago.

"It's a pleasure to have provided facilities for leisure time," Vaughan said. "It's been a tremendously enjoyable and satisfying job."

8-30-04 Daily Herald

# Anti-sprawl group thanks supporter

BY LESLIE HAGUE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In Marvel Davis' barn on Sunday, there was a table with blank pieces of paper for people to write thank-you notes to Kane County Board Chairman Mike McCoy.

McCoy was honored at the third annual picnic of the Citizens Against the Sprawlway group, which opposes the proposed "Prairie Parkway" expressway to connect I-88 and I-80 through Kane and Kendall counties.

McCoy has been one of the most vocal opponents of the plan. He is not running for another term as county board chairman.

"As a citizens group, we couldn't ask a public official to do more than Mike has done," said group spokesman Jan

Strasma.

The state is waiting on a multi-year regional transportation study to determine the feasibility of such a road. No funding has been made at either the state or federal level at this point.

U.S. Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, a Plano Republican, is firmly behind the proposal, saying it is needed as a transportation corridor and to reduce traffic congestion in the area.

But group members say the expressway is unnecessary and would destroy the rural feel of the area. They would prefer existing roads be improved and expanded to deal with traffic.

On Sunday, several local politicians spoke in between sets from a bluegrass band, and an entire dining area was set up inside a barn for the picnic

dinner.

McCoy encouraged opponents to keep fighting, and said he would continue to speak out against the expressway even after he finished his time on the county board.

"I think why they picked this path is because they thought it was the path of least resistance," he told the crowd gathered at the picnic. "I don't think this is the path of least resistance."

Group members said one of their goals is to keep the expressway issue in the public eye and remind people that nothing is now set in stone.

Davis, who hosted the event at her farm in Big Rock on Sunday, said the area has "some of the best farmland in the world" that shouldn't be destroyed.

"I intend to fight this until the bulldozers come," she said.

# Kane panel backs off debate on fee exemption for church

By William Presecky  
Tribune staff reporter

The debate about whether Kane County should exempt church-related construction from its new traffic impact fees didn't hit a dead end Friday, but it came close, a county official said.

"It's a cul-de-sac," said County Board Transportation Committee Chairman William Wyatt (R-Aurora), describing the debate after the committee sidestepped making any recommendation.

The full County Board had referred the exemption issue to the committee last month after a Lord of Life Church in Campton Township, the first to be affected by the new fees, objected to a \$34,000 charge for building a

22,000-square-foot addition.

An appeal of the charge has been put on hold by the county pending a decision on the larger issue of whether to exempt churches, totally or in part, from impact fees.

On Friday, the committee opted to send the issue back to the county's transportation impact fee advisory committee, which crafted the ordinance.

Kane County has collected about \$900,000 in traffic impact fees since it began assessing them in April, according to county records.

According to county engineer Carl Schoedel, other jurisdictions with similar impact fees have responded to the church issue in a variety of ways, ranging from full or partial exemptions to no exemptions.

# West Nile still a threat despite cool weather

By KARA SPAK  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Don't be fooled by the cooler temperatures.

West Nile virus is alive in local mosquitoes, and humans and animals remain at risk, state health officials warned Saturday.

Four new human cases of West Nile were reported Friday, with one each in Chicago, southern Cook County, Will County and DuPage County.

Public health officials are reminding Illinois residents that they are in the middle of West Nile season and should continue to take precautions against mosquito bites through October.

"At 55 degrees and below, mosquitoes are not active, not looking for a blood meal," said Tom Schafer, spokesman for the Illinois Department of Public Health. "As the temperatures go back and forth, we are still in the midst of mosquito season. People should not let their guard down."

So far this year, 14 Illinois residents have contracted West Nile virus, a potentially fatal mosquito-born illness.

In the latest cases:

- A 78-year-old Chicago woman was treated and released from a hospital after contracting West Nile encephalitis,

- A 56-year-old man from southern Cook County is hospitalized with West Nile encephalitis,

- A 54-year-old DuPage County man was treated and released after being hospitalized with West Nile encephalitis,

- A 48-year-old Will County man got West Nile fever but did not require hospitalization.

Preventing mosquito bites and eliminating pools of standing water — even those found in children's sand buckets or cups left outside — is the best way to prevent the disease, Schafer said.

8-29-04 Daily Herald

8-28-04 Chicago Tribune

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

8-29-04  
Beacon news

**Campaign reflects mindset**

As treasurer for the Bill Wyatt for Mayor campaign, I want to make sure the people of Aurora truly understand the way Bill views his campaign and how it will make Aurora better.

From the start, Bill has emphasized that his campaign will be one that gives as much as it takes. Recent campaign disclosures are a true and clear window into his mindset. In total cash contributions, Bill gave local charities and nonprofits more than \$6,000. This was spread over such organizations as: Association for Individual Development, Aurora Community Study Circles, Aurora Kiwanis Club, Aurora Youth Superstars Football, Communities in Schools and Family Counseling Services — to name a few.

The records show Bill gave over 25 percent of raised funds back to our community. Couple this with the time spent helping such organizations as the Paramount Theatre, where Bill provided free movies for the people of Aurora (seniors and children alike), hosting a major movie premiere for all children in the community, collecting food for Holiday Hopes, forming a partnership with the Kane County Sheriff for the Kid Card ID, and reading to children at O'Donnell and McCleery elementary schools.

I want to personally thank all the contributors to our campaign, no matter the

size of your donation. Our generosity is a reflection of your generosity.

I especially want all of Aurora to know that the Wyatt for Mayor campaign is not about accumulating huge amounts of cash. We believe Aurora deserves more. That's why we lead the others in giving back to the community we wish to serve.

Remember: Political campaigns are often a true reflection of the candidates they promote.

**Cindy Semmler, treasurer, Wyatt for Mayor**  
Aurora

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8-28-04 Beacon news

COMPLAINTS & CRITICISMS

**Pay attention**

I would just like to have the Lakeside, Sans Souci and Cherry Hill residents take notice of the 5,000 cubic yards of illegally dumped clay and dirt on the Barnes Road property. The dirt was dumped in a retention pond and the 100-year flood plain. Mike McCoy said the only thing that should have been permitted on that area is trees. As everybody can re-

call, in the flood a few years back in Cherry Hills and San Souci, as well as the neighborhood I live in, was flooded. Nothing should be permitted on that flood plain. The Fox Valley Park District wants to regrade the dirt pile. I think the Lakeside, Sans Souci and Cherry Hills residents should be paying attention to what's happening on the Barnes Road property.

**Greg Glassford, Aurora**

**Green**



8-28-04 BEACON NEWS

# Mayoral hopefuls take campaign to high seas

BEACON NEWS STAFF

AURORA - Aurora's mayoral candidates better know when to desert a sinking ship.

Richard Irvin, Tom Weisner and Bill Wyatt will all race boats in the United Way of Aurora Area's "What Floats Your Boat Race," which starts at 10:30 a.m. today beginning at the Illinois Avenue boat launch. The event is the kickoff of this year's United Way fund-raising campaign.

The boats are made of cardboard, which is why sinking is always a possibility.

Irvin will race "The Prosecutor," named for his days as a member of the Kane County state's attorney's office. He encouraged people to attend the event and said he hopes having all three candidates in the race "will further elevate interest and assist United Way's fund-raising campaign."

Weisner will race "The Wise Choice," a name picked by his campaign workers "after a

❖ Turn to **CAMPAIGN, A2**

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## CAMPAIGN

From Page A1

lot of debate," he said.

"I'm not planning on it being highly competitive," Weisner said. "I'm thinking about bringing my fishing rod."

Wyatt's entry is "Vantastic Voyage," in keeping with his campaign theme that includes vans

with campaign slogans painted on them traveling throughout town.

"It'll be a real test," he said, when asked if he can keep the cardboard conveyance afloat.

Before the actual race, boats will be judged on creativity and showmanship. After the race, there will be a kickoff rally and award ceremony in the North River Street Park, directly north of the Aurora police department's parking lot.

# Revised LaFox plan sent to Kane officials

By William Presecky  
Tribune staff reporter

A significantly revised concept plan for development of more than 1,200 acres surrounding tiny unincorporated LaFox has been filed with Kane County and will be available for public review within two weeks, according to county officials.

After filing Friday, the development team for The Settlements of LaFox met Monday with county development department staff members to apply formally for approval, according to Kane County Zoning Director Mollie Millen. Distribution of the plan to adjacent land owners and to every government jurisdiction affected by the proposed development will trigger a 45-day public comment period, Millen said.

The roughly 2-square-mile, irregular-shaped footprint of the development extends roughly from Keslinger Road on the south to Illinois Highway 38 on the north and from Brundige Road on the east to Harley Road on the west.

The latest plan is from Town & Country Homes Inc. of Lombard and Wyndham Deerpoint Homes Inc. of North Aurora and supersedes one presented in 2001 that was met with stiff resistance and subsequently withdrawn.

Millen said the revised plan includes "substantial" differ-

ences from the so-called Grand Prairie concept proposed three years ago.

Compared with Grand Prairie, which was projected to include as many as 2,000 residential units, The Settlements of LaFox projects just under 1,300 units "designed in a manner to promote walking by incorporating sidewalks or trails along all of the roadways with the plan," according to the application.

The land uses being proposed in the application include 614 acres for detached, single-family residences; 24 acres for attached residences, including so-called live-and-work units; a 13-acre elementary school site; a 28-acre mixed-use village center; 38 acres for community facilities and 520 acres of parks and open space.

Lot sizes for a variety of housing are expected to range from 8,000 square feet to 1.25 acres, with smaller lots near the village center and fewer estate lots adjacent to existing rural residential neighborhoods.

"The integration of new structures in the context of the historic LaFox settlement will be an opportunity to preserve and promote a very strong sense of place," the application contends.

The town is slated to be an intermediate passenger stop west of Geneva when Metra commuter rail service is extended 8.5 miles to Elburn by early 2006.

8-31-04 Daily Herald  
**Klinkhamer seeks third term**

BY LISA SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

St. Charles Mayor Sue Klinkhamer will seek a third and final term as the city's highest-ranking elected official.

She said Monday that she hopes to step down in 2009 with 20 years of municipal government experience under her belt, which includes the past seven years as mayor and the previous eight years as a city alderwoman.

"I'm proud of St. Charles and ... I get up every day and try to do my best for the community," Klinkhamer said. "I'm just not ready to give it up right now. You kind of know when it's time, and I just want to keep doing it."

One likely challenger in the April 2005 election is Alderman Don DeWitte.

The 11-year council member said Monday he is considering entering the race but has not made a decision.

"I have been approached by a number of members of the community who I have long respected and have been asked by many of them to strongly

consider running," DeWitte said. "I'm currently in the process of analyzing the organizational aspects of proceeding with that decision."

DeWitte, 50, was elected Third Ward alderman in 1993. He is a lifelong St. Charles resident and general sales manager at Charlestowne Kirchen and Bath in St. Charles.

Klinkhamer, also 50, was elected First Ward alderwoman in 1989 and won the mayoral election in 1997.



Sue Klinkhamer

She won again in 2001 but with only 66 more votes than her challenger, former Alderman Don Haines.

Klinkhamer said she's most proud of the downtown revitalization that began in 1997 under her leadership. At that time, Main Street at the Fox River was "going nowhere," Klinkhamer said.

"It was not pedestrian-friendly at all. At about five o'clock, everything shut down," she said.

But then the city council made a commitment to fund downtown development, taking an active role in the state's Main Street program and creat-

ing a facade improvement program that "brought people down here that hadn't come down here before," Klinkhamer said.

"It's very vibrant," she said. "I want to keep that moving forward."

That means pursuing the \$47 million First Street Redevelopment Project, which has drawn protests from resi-

dents. They object to the city's plans to replace The Manor Restaurant, La Za Trattoria and Vi's Last Call with a continuous three-block facade of ground-level shops topped by offices and condos.

# North Aurora approves Woodman's

8-31-04 Chronicle

## Grocer plans to start moving dirt Wednesday

By ERIC SCHELKOPF  
Kane County Chronicle

**NORTH AURORA** — Village trustees on Monday gave Woodman's Food Market the green light to start on its 240,000-square-foot grocery store.

Trustees and Village President Mark Ruby approved in a 7-0 vote annexing land at the southeast corner of Oak Street and Orchard Road along with a

special use for the property so the Janesville, Wis.-based grocer could start its project.

"It's the fruition of the hard work on the part of several people. All of us working together helped bring a valuable business to North Aurora," Ruby said.

And Woodman's will waste no time getting started on the project. Woodman's is set to start moving dirt on Wednesday, North Aurora Building

Commissioner DeWayne Williams said.

But before the building goes up, Williams said there is other work that has to be done, such as putting in water and sewer lines and roads.

"They are building basically a subdivision," Williams said.

Woodman's recently purchased 45 acres at the southeast corner of Orchard Road and Oak Street. The North Aurora store would be Woodman's 11th and its third in Illinois.

The store could open late next year or in early 2006.

Woodman's will build its store on 30 acres. Other stores would be built on the

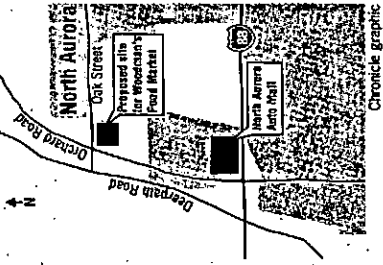
rest of the property. The village will give Woodman's Food Market \$3 million in tax incentives to build the store.

Under the agreement, Woodman's will give the village \$2.1 million up front to pay for roadway improvements on Oak Street and Orchard Road and other items.

The roadway improvements, which include traffic signals, are expected to cost \$1.7 million. The money also will pay for a new village truck with a snow plow, an ambulance and Kane County road impact fees.

See WOODMAN'S, page 2

## Woodman's Food Market proposal



Chronicle graphic

## Woodman's

Continued from page 1

The village will reimburse Woodman's for those costs and will give the company a \$3 million sales tax rebate. The village and Woodman's will share the sales tax revenues from the store for up to 15 years.

The amount that Woodman's would receive from the village is capped at \$5.1 million, which is the combination of the reimbursable expenses and the \$3 million sales tax rebate.

In other business, trustees voted to give Williams a \$10,000 bonus for being acting village administrator for 10 months while a search was on for a new village administrator.

That search ended when Sue McLaughlin started in July as village administrator, replacing Rob Nelis Sr.

"He was asked by me to take on a lot of additional responsibilities," Ruby said.

Along with handling the duties of building commissioner, as acting village administrator Williams met with developers such as Woodman's and helped put together the village's budget.

"I thought he did an excellent job running two departments. He became the right hand to the mayor," Trustee Max Herwig said.

8-31-04 Daily Herald

# Why Geneva Twp. referendum is dead

BY GARRETT ORDOWER  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

Geneva Township residents won't be asked to approve a bond referendum this November for an affordable senior housing development because the numbers don't crunch.

A report presented to the Geneva Township board on Monday morning indicated that in order to pay back bonds

for a \$13 million project, rents would need to be far outside the affordable range, Township Supervisor Patrick Jaeger said.

"After consulting with financial experts, the township-issued revenue bond will not support what we want to do on that site," Jaeger said.

The city and township had been working closely together on an 85-unit senior housing complex on 8.5 acres off Lewis

Road.

Focus groups held earlier this month helped shape the preliminary design of the building and determine costs.

But at the \$13 million proposed price for the project, rents would need to be more than \$1,100 a month, according to a financial analysis presented Monday.

Officials originally eyed rents of between \$650 to \$800 for a

one-bedroom unit.

Still, those who have been supporting the project didn't believe the elimination of revenue bonds as a funding source should mean the elimination of the project.

"The decision today is no commentary on the viability of the project," Jaeger said. "It's a comment on the viability of the funding source."

Creating affordable senior

housing has long been one of the top goals of the city and township, and the setback due to increased interest rates and construction costs was not unexpected, City Administrator Phil Page said.

Within the upcoming months, the city and township will explore using private funding sources in combination with tax credits, partnering with a developer, obtaining

grants and other methods of funding, officials said. Jaeger said it was unlikely a bond issue would be revisited, but if it were, it would likely be on the April ballot.

Both Jaeger and Page said they planned to look for new funding rather than new plans. "There's still some hurdles to cross with that approach, and we're still researching various angles," Page said.

# Two whooping cough cases reported at STC schools

By TOM SCHLUETER  
Kane County Chronicle

ST. CHARLES — School officials on Monday sent parents a letter informing them that two students had been diagnosed with pertussis, or whooping cough.

The letter said the students were not in school, were being treated and that their period of communicability would be over by "the middle of this week."

The letter, signed by Department Chairwoman of Health Services Wilma Van Aaragon, did not say which school or schools the students attended.

According to the Kane County Health Department, Kane, Cook, Lake and McHenry counties are in the midst of an "ongoing outbreak" of whooping cough.

The health department has confirmed 41 cases this

year, compared to two in all of 2003.

In McHenry County, 82 cases had been confirmed in the first six months of 2004.

Pertussis is caused by bacteria that is contagious and easily spread by coughing and sneezing.

Anyone can get pertussis, including those who have been immunized for the disease.

The symptoms usually appear five to 10 days after exposure, but can take as long as 21 days.

The first symptoms are similar to a common cold: runny nose, sneezing, low-grade fever and mild occasional cough.

The cough gradually becomes severe and persists for up to 10 weeks.

More information is available by calling the health department at (630) 208-3801.

## Pertussis

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8-31-04 Chronicle

# Sugar Grove trustees hope to resolve Jewel-Osco project

By KELLEY CASINO  
Kane County Chronicle

SUGAR GROVE — Officials are hopeful that tonight's village board meeting will finalize outstanding issues for a proposed Jewel-Osco and move the project forward.

Since early 2001, village officials and developers have been in talks about the proposed shopping center on the northeast corner of Route 47 and Galena Boulevard, Jewel-Osco real estate manager Jim Hornecker said.

"There are certain questions that are hurdles that still have to be gone over, but we are more optimistic today than we were two months ago," he said.

A meeting on June 15 left several questions unresolved and in the way of drafting a development ordinance.

Hornecker said Jewel representatives have focused on a sales tax rebate agreement and access agreement pertaining to the Castle Bank property.

## Special meeting

The Sugar Grove Village Board meets in special session at 4:30 p.m. today at village hall, 10 Municipal Drive, to consider the proposed Jewel development for the northeast corner of Route 47 and Galena Boulevard.

Village Administrator Brent Eichelberger also said those were the two most contested issues, adding that traffic-signal recapture and disputed items on the permitted special use list also were being debated.

Village staff recommended that a cross access point be required from the new development to the Castle Bank facility. Board members supported full access without restrictions, but the petitioners said some business concerns need to be negotiated.

"Since establishing access

(to Castle Bank) would make it like an outlot, we have certain business issues that need to be addressed with that property," Hornecker said. "But the village of Sugar Grove said they would like to negotiate those issues."

Another point of contention is the sales tax rebate agreement, which Hornecker said is a common practice, despite what board members said at the June 15 meeting.

Community Development Director Scott Buening said he believes that the two sides are close to an agreement on the rebate but need to determine the time frame in which it will become effective.

The project calls for 235,000 square feet of retail space. About 61,000 square feet of that total will go toward the Jewel-Osco.

"There are still some items we're not currently in agreement on, but on the relative scope of things, I don't think we're that far apart," Eichelberger said.

# Geneva Township won't seek senior housing referendum

8-31-04 Chronicle

Analysis shows rents  
would be too high

## Board to consider other funding options

By BRENDA SCHORY  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Township officials will not put a \$13.2 million senior housing revenue bond referendum on the Nov. 2 ballot because rents would be too high.

Based on three financial scenarios, monthly rents for one-bedroom apartments would range from \$1,080 to \$1,235, and two-bedroom units would range from \$1,570 to \$1,820.

At that cost, "we're not providing affordable senior housing," Supervisor Patrick Jaeger said. Accountants from PTW, an Oak Brook firm, on Monday presented the dire financial analysis for the project at a special meeting.

The rents would be used to retire the bonds.

"We were talking about the \$600 to \$700 range for a single unit and \$800 to \$900 for a two-bedroom," Jaeger said.

The township and the city are working on a joint project to provide lower-cost senior housing with rents that would not be market-driven. Township officials had planned to float a revenue bond question to build an 84-unit facility. If voters had approved, city officials would have donated 8.5 acres on Lewis Road near Kaneville Road to support the project.

The city would be reimbursed \$340,000 for the land through the bond issue.

But PTW accountants James Stapleton and Bert



Jaeger

Nuehring presented a financial analysis that projected rents too high to be called affordable.

"You know in Rome, they

killed the messenger," Township Trustee Patrick Harrington said.

Jaeger said the accountants and Speer Financial would continue to explore other options to fund the project.

"Needless to say, in order to make this work, we're going to have to be somewhat creative," Jaeger said.

Other options could include tax credits, low-interest loans and partnerships with private entities, Jaeger said.

Geneva City Administrator Phil Page said the township board's decision not to go to referendum was a disappointment.

"There are other ... financing mechanisms, other funding options — that are out there. We hope not to lose time on this project," Page said.



8-31-04 Daily Herald

# Double duty means \$10,000 for official

BY JOHN JOHNSTON

*Daily Herald Correspondent*

When North Aurora fired its previous village administrator, trustees never thought nearly a year would pass before the position was filled.

Called on to help fill the void was buildings commissioner DeWayne Williams, who wore two hats after assuming the duties of acting administrator.

On Monday night, the village board unanimously voted to give Williams a \$10,000 bonus for his added work. Village President Mark Ruby, who picked up some of the slack during the vacancy, said the board never imagined the search would take as long as it did.

"He took on a great deal of extra responsibility and time and the board thought this was an appropriate compensation," Ruby said.

Ten months elapsed between the village firing Robert Nelis in August 2003 and the hiring in July of Administrator Sue McLaughlin.

The search took longer than expected when two finalists declined the job in April because of commitments to other jobs. That not only forced the village to start from scratch but kept Williams working two jobs.

The administrator runs the day-to-day operations of the village, such as working with the police, public works and construction departments. The administrator also pays the bills, listens to residents' complaints and makes sure the finances are correct.

Williams, who has worked for the village for more than 12 years, said he handled public relations, worked with the finance director to put the budget together and performed the duties of buildings commissioner.

"I thought (the bonus) was very nice, but I didn't expect it to be this much," Williams said.

"Few people have the character he displayed to do two senior jobs as well as he did for as long as we made him do it," Trustee Mike Herlihy said.

8-31-04 Beacon news

# Work set to start at Woodman's site

By Brian Shields

SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

**NORTH AURORA** — Residents will get to see work started at the corner of Orchard Road and Oak Street Wednesday as Woodman's digs in and builds a cornerstone in the community.

The Village Board approved the annexation and zoning ordinances which allows the grocer to build a 240,000-square-foot store on 30 acres. There's additional space for 10 businesses, and Woodman's is expected to be the anchor of the entire complex.

Trustee Max Herwig said Woodman's closed on its land deal Friday. Purchasing the tract was the biggest holdup to the annexation and zoning ordinances being approved.

The company already had picked a firm to do prep work at the site, and the Kane County Highway Department has given the village the go-ahead to plan work on the intersection improvements

that are part of the deal.

Between 200 and 300 people will work at the 240,000 square-foot-store when it opens. Woodman's hopes construction will be completed by next fall.

As part of the deal, Woodman's will pay North Aurora nearly \$2.2 million for road improvements and equipment, including \$1.75 million for the installation of new stoplights at Orchard Road and Oak Street, at the North Aurora Auto Mall entrance on Orchard Road and at the entrance that will be built for Woodman's.

Woodman's will fund the purchase of a truck with a snow plow for the Public Works Department at a cost of \$100,000 and a \$250,000 ambulance for the North Aurora Fire Protection District.

The grocer eventually will be repaid that \$2.2 million, plus an additional \$3 million, through the village's share of the sales-tax revenue over the first 15 years after the store opens, starting on New Year's Day 2006.

8-31-04

Chronicle

Thank you

To the Editor:

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank the Kane County Transportation Board for finally doing the right thing and putting a stop light at the Crane and Randall Road intersection, almost seven years since Brian's fatal Sept. 12, 1997, accident.

Stopping by the intersection where my brother was killed, I finally have a little peace knowing that safety prevailed over a couple selfish complaints of minor inconvenience by a few.

Though Brian is gone, I truly believe that due to these safety improvements, injuries will be avoided and other lives will be saved.

Thank you again.

**Julie Forri**

St. Charles

**County needs leadership**

My message to the people of Kane County has not changed since I announced my candidacy for Kane County board chairman.

Our true problems are uncontrolled growth, poor leadership in the Republican-controlled county board, and no fiscal responsibility in our county government. Some of the other issues we face are: destruction of our environment, loss of critical farmland, job protection and creation, high unemployment and poverty rates, rising taxes, overcrowded schools and lack of support for our elderly. All of these issues are important and need to be addressed.

Kane County has money; we just need leadership and responsibility to end the waste and channel it into the proper areas of focus.

My faith is in the people of Kane County. I believe they are smart enough to realize that large campaign contributions lead to special interests' influence. A candidate is not necessarily the best person for the job simply because they raise a lot of money.

I will bring sound business principles and judgment to the county. County officials who desire to waste taxpayers' money will learn a new word — no!

The people of Kane County have some difficult decisions on Nov. 2. These decisions will affect their future, their children's future and the future of Kane County. Will they accept the "business as usual" politics in our county, or will they say, "Enough is enough. It's time for a change."

If the voters believe we need to change the direction that our county is going, then they must make an investment to that change. Become a Kane County investor by voting for Democratic candidates on Nov. 2.

**Tom Meadath, Democratic candidate for Kane County board chairman**  
*St. Charles*

# run short of judges

By Steve Lord  
STAFF WRITER

GENEVA — The 16th Circuit Court system soon could feel the pinch of having fewer judges available to handle cases.

Doug Naughton, court administrator, said Wednesday the circuit has two judges on the sideline — Leonard Wojtecki and James Edwards, both out on medical leave.

The circuit actually is down between four and five judges, he said, when the state of Illinois' population formula is taken into account. The state says a circuit is to get a judge for any part of 25,000 additional residents it adds. Kane has added 54,000 people since the 2000 census, so it should have at least two additional judges, maybe three, Naughton said.

❖ Turn to JUDGES, A2

## JUDGES

From Page A1

He said county officials have appealed for help from the state, a sort of standing request now for at least a year. But budget constraints apparently have delayed appointment of any new judges.

"We've been told not to hold our breath," Naughton said.

Kane officials also have asked the state for temporary assignment of a retired judge for six months to try to reduce some of the caseload. The circuit has taken advantage of the retirement program once before, when it called in former Judge Joseph McCarthy from retirement. Cook County has used the program

extensively.

Naughton pointed out that having fewer judges bogs down the judicial system. For instance, this week, Judge Grant Wegner is covering Wojtecki's court call in Kendall County. While another judge covered a trial for Wegner, Naughton estimated another 300 or so cases have to be delayed and continued.

"His cases aren't going anywhere for a week," he said. "We're playing catch as catch can."

The situation affects the entire judicial system, too. With cases delayed, prisoners will have longer stays at the Kane County jail. Jail population in an already crowded facility will rise. "In about a month, you'll see the population start going up," Naughton said.

8-26-04

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**COMMUNITY BRIEFING**  
**WESTERN SUBURBS**

**KANE COUNTY**

**Court seeking caseload respite**

Judge Philip DiMarzio has petitioned the state Supreme Court to reactivate a retired judge to help ease the burden of a larger caseload brought on by the illness-related absences of two of his 16th circuit judges.

DiMarzio is chief judge of the circuit, which includes Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties. The circuit's judicial roster lists 15 full judges and 15 associate judges at courts in Geneva, St. Charles, Elgin, Aurora, Carpentersville, Yorkville and Sycamore.

Circuit Court Administrator Doug Naughton said the petition for emergency help is in addition to what he described as "a standing request" with the Supreme Court for one more judge to bring the number of full judges to 16.

DiMarzio has asked that a retired judge be activated for six months to compensate for the temporary absences, Naughton said.

One judge is being treated for prostate cancer, and the other is recovering from a stroke, he said.

*William Presecky*

8-26-04

Beacon news

**FoxTalk**

*Casual comments, questions, smiles*

**COMPLIMENTS**

**Thanks to Wyatt**

I want to give a big-thumbs up to Bill Wyatt, the local forest preserve commissioner for this area, and his support for the residents of Barnes Road on the Barnes Road property where the Fox Valley Park District illegally dumped a huge pile of dirt. Mr. Wyatt has suggested the forest preserve retake that land because the Fox Valley Park District has not complied with the lease they signed in 1999. I would also recommend him for mayor since he has done such a great job representing the district and the people out here.

**Greg Glassford, Aurora**

8-26-04  
Beacon news

## 'Stop the Beltway' rally, picnic set Sunday

BIG ROCK — Music, food, an old-fashioned hayride and a shared opposition to the proposed outer-belt freeway will be celebrated Sunday at the third annual "Stop the Beltway" rally and family picnic here.

The event is sponsored by Citizens Against the Sprawlway, the grassroots organization opposing the so-called Prairie Parkway.

The festivities start at 4 p.m., at the Marvel Davis Farm, 47W066 Jericho Road, about five miles west of Route 47.

The Grasslands Quintet will perform gypsy swing, bluegrass, western swing and reworked popular standards.

A complimentary picnic supper will be provided by Citizens Against the Sprawlway.

At the gathering, Citizens Against the Sprawlway will recognize the support it has received from Kane County Board Chairman Mike McCoy, state Sen. Chris Lauzen and St. Charles attorney Tim Dwyer, officials from the opposition group said.

The proposed Prairie Parkway would stretch for 36 miles through western Kane and Kendall counties, linking Interstate 88 with Interstate 80 in Minooka.

Sunday's picnic and rally also will feature exhibits on conservation, farmland protection, sensible land use and transportation planning, and alternative highway projects.

The Davis farm has been in the family since 1836 and was named one of the state's 10 most endangered historic landmarks in 2002 because the Prairie Parkway would cut a swath across its fields.

Nearby Big Rock Creek, crossed three times by the proposed highway, has been labeled by the state as the finest stream in northern Illinois. During the picnic, there will be hayrides along the creek and adjoining fields.

8-25-04 Daily Herald  
County in line

## for air monitors

BY PATRICK WALDRON

Daily Herald Staff Writer

We may all breathe the same air, but Kane County officials, state environmental experts and local Sierra Club members just want to make sure.

This spring the county began discussions with the state Environmental Protection Agency to bring additional air quality monitoring gauges to Kane County.

Now it seems that effort likely will bring new test sites to Aurora and Wasco. The Aurora instrument, to be put on top of the county health department building on Highland Avenue, will test for fine particles that penetrate into the lungs, said county Environmental Health Director Fred Carlson, citing diesel and industrial emissions as examples.

The Wasco monitor, to be put on top of Wasco Elementary School, would track larger dust particles consistent with air changes predicted in an area with large amounts of construction as well as farmland redevelopment.

The idea is to strengthen the research component of air monitoring that has been conducted by the Illinois EPA since 1971.

The agency has more than 200 monitoring sites across the state, tracking pollutants and toxic air compounds. Kane County already is home to an air quality and ozone monitoring site in Elgin. Any data collected at the Kane County monitoring stations or any other stations around the state is used by the federal government to track air-quality levels and develop standards for the future.

If the state EPA approves the sites, Carlson said he expects the equipment to be installed by late September.

# Officials ask public to stay aware of West Nile

BY PATRICK WALDRON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Kane County health officials again this week warned residents against forgetting about West Nile virus as the number of virus-carrying mosquitoes appears to be on the rise.

"We are trying to put the issue back before the public," county environmental health director Fred Carlson said Tuesday. "The (West Nile carrying) mosquito is out there."

Compared to two years ago, when 10 human cases — including one that resulted in death — were reported in Kane County, the virus is not as widespread.

So far this year, no human cases have been reported in the county, state health statistics show. Despite that, Carlson and other health officials said the seven weeks between Aug. 1 and Sept. 17 represent prime time for mosquitoes and local testing seems to be illustrating just that.

In the last two weeks, two

birds in Kane County have tested positive for the virus. A total of seven crows and three blue jays have tested positive since the spring.

On top of that, five new mosquito batches with the virus have been discovered around the county in the last two weeks.

"The virus is in the community and that's why we are emphasizing precautions," Carlson said.

The mosquito season is expected to continue until there is a sustained frost, which typically occurs in late October. The Kane County Health Department urges people to take the following precautions:

- Wear shoes, socks, pants and long-sleeved shirts when outside from dusk to dawn.
- Use bug repellent outside.
- Check screen windows for tears to prevent mosquitoes from entering indoors.
- Get rid of stagnant pools of water in bird baths, ponds, old tires and flower pots.

# County to install pollution monitors

## *Monitors will be in Aurora, Wasco*

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Two new air monitors that will measure pollution in Kane County could be installed within the next month, a county health official said Tuesday.

As part of an effort to collect more information on airborne particulate matter in Kane County, the monitors will be in Aurora and Wasco to help measure two types of pollutants.

The pollution monitors will be provided by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

The agency also will fund the analysis of the information collected. The monitors could be in service within the next month, said Fred Carlson, Kane County environmental health director.

The two monitors will supplement another county monitor currently in place in Elgin

that measures ozone and particulate matter.

The Elgin monitor was installed in 1974.

The Aurora monitor will be on the county's health department office at 1250 Highland Ave.

The monitor will measure fine particulate matter from sources such as diesel and industrial emissions.

The Wasco monitor will be at the community's elementary school and collect bigger particulate matter from agriculture and development.

Wasco was chosen because the community is in a high-growth area, Carlson said.

"We are not pointing the finger at anyone, we just want to develop more baseline information for the county," he said.

Carlson said the addition of the monitors is part of a request made by the county's health department and the Sierra Club to the IEPA as part of an effort to collect the particulate data.

Particulate matter can come from several sources such as large construction equipment, industrial sites or vehicles.

The dust or matter can be an irritant to some people.



8-25-04 Beacon News

# Kane pinpointing its health concerns

By Steve Lord,  
STAFF WRITER

**GENEVA** - With more sophisticated equipment at their disposal, Kane County Health Department officials are trying to make health statistics as local as possible.

But it appears they have a ways to go, as shown in a recent breakdown of some statistics by County Board district.

Health Department officials presented the breakdown Tuesday to the board's Public Health Committee. But some numbers in the document do not add up, and other numbers committee members wanted were not there.

Officials said they have work to do to make the document something County Board members can use.

"I think you've opened a bit of a Pandora's box," said Health Committee Chairman Gerry Jones, D-Aurora. "Some of these statistics are available, some aren't, some are hard to gather."

The document presented Tuesday tried to pinpoint some health problems by County Board district.

The statistics included were overall births, teen births, blood-borne hepatitis, infections, bacterial and viral meningitis, and a few others.

Uche Onwute, a Health Department epidemiologist, said one of the immediate problems with gathering the statistics is that County Board districts do not conform to census tracts, which is what officials use to gather data.

So, in some places, officials had to estimate.

"We tried to base it on how much of a census tract is in the district," she said.

Committee members said there were some statistics they would like to have seen included in the document, including infant mortality, the number of senior citizens in each district and the number of suicides.

Also, in some districts, demographic numbers did not add up.

Still, the point of dividing the numbers into board districts was to point up what might be a problem in one part of the county is not in another part.

### Can do more

For instance, in the 1st District,

on Aurora's East Side, the statistics showed 41 births to teen-age mothers out of a total of 299 births in the district. In the 14th District, made up mostly of St. Charles' west side and parts of Geneva's far west side, there were no teen births out of 182 total births.

Mary Lou England, Health Department director, said these kinds of numbers will show board members "there are certain things you can pick up on in your area." She agreed the department must tweak and solidify the numbers.

"This is no small task," she said. "We can do more, as we have changes in opportunity."

Health Department officials will work on the numbers before the next Public Health Committee meeting in September, to eventually present a copy to each board member.

Jones pointed out that, by breaking the numbers down by board district, "it gets the attention of every elected official."

"We've looked at all these things in the past; we just haven't highlighted them by district," he said.

THE RIGHT TO CORRECT PRINTING ERRORS AND LIMIT QUANTITIES AND/OR CHANGE PRICES WITHOUT NOTICE

8-25-04 Daily Herald

# County considering new food stand rules

BY PATRICK WALDRON  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

Trying to create clearer guidelines for mobile food vendors — such as the ice cream man or the hot dog stand lady — county health officials are developing a new set of rules to license and inspect such feasts on wheels.

Defining the operations, which many recognize as simple concession stands, makes up the core of the new ordinance presented to the Kane County board's public health committee Tuesday.

If passed, the operations would be separated into three classes — mobile food unit, non-mobile food unit and pushcart. To break it down, the ice cream truck would fall under mobile food unit, with a sidewalk hot dog stand classified as a pushcart and a typical little league baseball park concession stand ruled a non-mobile food unit.

The non-mobile classification is the biggest revision, but the entire effort comes on the heels of an ordinance change in the city of Aurora that basically bans the pushcarts.

County officials say they are trying to avoid the city's internal debate over the merits or visual appeal of movable food

trailers set up in parking lots, sidewalks and driveways. They are instead focused on keeping the products safe for customers around the county.

"Our primary concern is not zoning," Aurora Democrat Gerry Jones said in a reference to Aurora's zoning ordinance change that restricts such mobile trailers. "Our focus is on public health."

Fred Carlson, the county's environmental health director, said his department is responsible for licensing seasonal mobile food operations around the county, with the exception of Elgin, where the city handles

it.

Licenses cost between \$115 and \$225 per year, and to sell food the vendors have to pass an initial inspection and submit to other random checkups throughout the year.

The proposed ordinance also outlines the specific checks health officials will do, includ-

ing checking the temperature of a steamer unit, verifying the presence of proper hand-washing facilities and inspecting food storage units.

The committee asked for more time to review the new regulations and is expected to make a recommendation next month.

A W-

# West Nile warning is issued in Kane

## Virus threat said to be at its peak

By William Presecky  
Tribune staff reporter

The threat of exposure to West Nile virus in Illinois is peaking, a Kane County health official warned Tuesday.

Although there have been no reports of any human cases of the mosquito-borne virus in Kane County—nine have been reported statewide, the nearest in Kendall County—Director of Environmental Health Fred Carlson said now is not the time to ease up on prevention.

"There is a degree of complacency [because of the cooler weather] the last couple of months," said Carlson.

"The biting activity has not been high, but the mosquitoes are out there," he warned. "They are in your shrubs and bushes and a higher degree of mosquitoes will carry the virus at this time of year. You still have to take necessary precautions."

Ten dead birds have tested positive for the virus in Kane, according to Carlson, and seven positive mosquito pools have showed up in county traps.

"The virus is in the community. The next step is infection," said Carlson in a report to the County Board's Public Health Committee.

The cooler, midsummer weather notwithstanding, West Nile virus activity is running ahead of last year, he said, noting that avoiding mosquitoes when they are most active, at dusk and dawn, continues to afford the best protection.

The period from now until Sept. 15 or "until we get a definite cooling trend—below 50 at night" is critical for prevention, said Carlson.

Since surveillance for the flu-like disease began May 1, nearly half the counties in the state, including all of northeastern Illinois, have reported virus activity, according to the most recent figures from the state Department of Public Health.

A total of 154 birds, 570 mosquito pools and two horses have been identified with the virus in Illinois since May 1, according to department figures.

# Batavia: RV lots violate city code

## Land owner says Batavia endorsed RV storage service

By GALA M. PIERCE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Joe Aiken has stored RV's, boats and trailers for residents on his property in Batavia for more than 25 years.

Although the Geneva man operated the business without the city's formal consent, some officials knew about it and never had a problem with it, the entrepreneur contends.

City officials disagree.

After sending Aiken written warnings in 2003 and 2004 to stop storing such vehicles on the property, the city took him to court.

The two parties will face each other in court today.

Attorney John Noble, who drew up Aiken's formal lease agreement in 1996 before he became the city's legal counsel, said Aiken is violating the zoning code.

Aiken owns two buildings on more than 2 acres at 330 and 338 Webster St. He also maintains two fenced and paved lots and hopes to use another lot for storage.

Until 2000, he ran TeleTraining Inc., a book publishing business, for 28 years. When Mike Neil looked to relocate his martial arts academy into a bigger building in 2003, the city recommended the vacant building at 330 Webster. But Aiken and Neil did not work out a deal.

That's how the city became aware of the storage lots, Noble said.

"He's in a B-3 zoning district, and storing trailers is not a permitted or a conditional use in the B-3 zoning district," Noble said. "It's clearly not a permitted use or a conditional use, but in the interest of fairness, you can't just pull the rug out." said.

The city gave him 18 months to close out his business, allowing time for leases to expire, he said.

"Then he just refused to do it. So we had no choice," Noble said.

Aiken's lawyer, Tim Dwyer, maintains that the city knew about the use and endorsed it.

"Batavia has expressly

# Lots: Former city officer says storage is permissible

Continued from Page 1

endorsed the use for approximately 25 years," Dwyer said. "Now, all of sudden, they are telling him he can't do it anymore. That's not legal — he has property rights."

In an affidavit dated Aug. 16, Jim Benson, the city's building and code enforcement officer from 1976 until 1999, said he thought the zoning code did not permit storage of the recreational vehicles, until he checked with other city officials.

"I consulted with the city attorney at that time and the chair of the development and planning committee (Gene



Joe Aiken

Schneider) and I was told that Mr. Aiken's use of 330 Webster for the storage of recreational vehicles was permissible," the affidavit reads.

Jerry Wells, a Batavia resident who has stored his Ultrasport motor home on Aiken's property since 1999, appreciates the service.

"I feel very comfortable of the security, and it's very convenient as well," Wells said. "We walk the dog past there everyday... I'd hate like heck to have to give it up."

# Health officials: Continue West Nile precautions

8-25-04 Chronicle

*Mosquitoes still active despite cool temperatures*

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — A recent cold snap in the area did not drive away mosquitoes infected with the West Nile virus, health officials warned Tuesday.

The warning comes when cases of humans infected with the virus after being bitten by the insects traditionally rises.

Likewise, the number of fatalities from the virus also spike.

August and September are the two months when reports of human infections have risen dramatically over the last two years.

The trend includes the record-setting year of 2002.

County and state health officials are warning residents to take extra precaution because the heat has returned, and mosquitoes will follow.

"Back in 2002, right about this time is when it started picking up," said Tom Schafer, an Illinois Department of Public Health spokesman.

"We still have a ways to go. The mosquito season ends when we have a hard frost."

In 2002, reports show 884 humans in Illinois were infected with virus, and 66 people died that year, including a Sugar Grove man. In 2003, 54 human cases were reported, and one person died from the virus.

Nine human cases have been reported this year in Illinois. No human deaths have been reported, state figures show.

Carlson, Kane County environmental health director.

Carlson said more birds and mosquito pools have tested positive at this point in the year than in 2003.

He said the recent cold weather has not killed off the insects, and the risk of infection remains high with temperatures climbing back to normal.

"The virus is in the community, that is why we emphasize personal caution," Carlson said.

See WEST NILE, page 2

Crews will be working on the center of the bridge. sioner, at (630) 584-3496. — Kane County Chronicle

Pos

## West Nile precautions

- Dispose of discarded tires, cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or other unused water-holding containers.
- At least once a week, empty standing water from containers such as tire swings or birdbaths.
- Fill in tree-rot holes and hollow stumps that can hold water.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outdoors.
- Clean clogged roof gutters.
- Turn over plastic wading

- pools when not in use. Change water in bird baths and wading pools weekly.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used.
- Keep drains, ditches and culverts free of grass clippings, weeds and trash so that water will drain properly.
- Fill in low areas on your property to eliminate standing water.
- Report possible mosquito breeding sites to local

- mosquito control agencies.
- Minimize time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Be sure that door and window screens are tight-fitting and in good condition.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods or when mosquitoes are most active. Clothing should be light colored and made of tightly woven material to

- keep mosquitoes away from the skin.
- Mosquito repellents that contain 25 percent to 35 percent DEET work best for adults. Use lower concentrations of DEET for children. Do not use products containing DEET on infants.
- Bug zappers and sound devices do little to reduce biting mosquitoes.
- Outdoor insecticidal fogs or mists are effective only for short times.

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health

## West Nile

Continued from page 1

Carlson recommends that people avoid being outside around dusk.

If you are outside, then wear long-sleeve shirts, pants, socks and shoes.

He recommends applying mosquito repellents, including on your clothing.

"Believe me, they are in your shrubs, in your bushes," Carlson said.

The virus has swept through the country over the last five years.

Health officials have said they first found the virus in

the United States in 1999.

Since then, the virus has spread from the east to the west. The Midwest was hit hard in 2002. Portions of the High Plains area and the Rocky Mountain region were hit in 2003.

More than 3,000 cases were reported in Colorado last year.

The virus is expected to hit Arizona and California the hardest this year.

Nearly 300 human cases have been reported in Arizona, and more than 160 cases have been reported in California this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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8-25-04 Chronicle

# Woodman's construction set to start in September

By ERIC SCHELKOPF  
Kane County Chronicle

**NORTH AURORA** — Woodman's Food Market plans in September to begin construction on its 240,000-square-foot grocery store on the village's west side.

The village board will meet Monday in special session to approve an annexation agreement for the grocery store.

Trustees had planned to approve the annexation agreement this week. But Woodman's still must purchase the 45 acres at the southeast corner of Orchard Road and Oak Street.

"Woodman's can't sign the annexation agreement until it owns the property," Village Administrator Sue

McLaughlin said.

Woodman's is set to close on the property on Thursday or Friday, McLaughlin said. The Janesville, Wis.-based company wants to start work on the project Sept. 1, she said.

The village will give Woodman's Food Market \$3 million in tax incentives to build the store.

Woodman's will build its store on 30 acres. Other stores would be built on the rest of the property.

Under the agreement, Woodman's will give the village \$2.1 million up front to pay for roadway improvements on Oak Street and Orchard Road and other items.

The roadway improvements, which include traffic signals, are expected to

cost \$1.7 million. The money also will pay for a new village truck with a snow plow, an ambulance and Kane County road impact fees.

The village will reimburse Woodman's for those costs and will give the company a \$3 million sales tax rebate. The village and Woodman's will share the sales tax revenues from the store for up to 15 years.

The amount Woodman's would receive from the village is capped at \$5.1 million, which is the combination of the reimbursable expenses and the \$3 million sales tax rebate.

The North Aurora store would be Woodman's 11th and its third in Illinois. The store could open late next year or in early 2006.

8-27-04 Daily Herald

# Court may spend more on drug tests

BY PATRICK WALDRON  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

Drug tests are a key component of Kane County's popular drug rehabilitation court. As the number of defendants moving through the program overseen by Judge James Doyle goes up, so does the number of tests needed.

That reality has prompted court administrators to ask the county to sign off on a \$125,000 increase in the annual budget for drug testing.

James Mueller, the executive

director of Kane County's court services department, said roughly 80 percent of the total \$375,000 testing bill comes from the drug court while the balance is from standard probation cases.

In the drug court program, participants submit to as many as three urine tests a week. Add it all up, Mueller said, and the county will collect and send off a projected 60,000 tests this year. That's up from 46,000 the previous year.

The tests cost about \$5 per analysis, a number that is down

from earlier costs of \$7.50. The county contracts with a California-based company and must send samples there for final results.

Just who pays for the tests — in cases of drug court and typical probation — is not a uniform standard. In drug court for example, participants are required to plead guilty to charges they face and are often fined.

There is not a separate testing fee, said Mike Daly, who oversees the probation officers assigned to the drug

program.

Right now, 855 are enrolled in the program, Daly said. In 2001 when the program started, it had 84 participants.

The money for the tests will come from what is called the chief judge's probation fee fund. It does not require the consent of the county board to use it, but court officials expect board members to endorse the move.

The corrections and rehabilitation committee recommended approval of the expenditure Thursday.

8-27-04 Daily Herald

# Courts hope to continue program of GPS monitoring

BY PATRICK WALDRON  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

A so-far successful federal pilot program that mixes global positioning technology with the criminal court system has kept five people out of the Kane County jail, an appealing option court leaders would like to build upon.

To do that, court officials said Thursday they plan to push for the extension of a one-year \$84,000 grant that allows suspected sex offenders to be put on high-tech electric monitoring instead of waiting for justice in the county jail.

"We haven't had a single violation," said Jim Mueller, executive director of Kane County court services, of the program's record in the county since March.

The global positioning system builds on — and works with — basic home monitoring technology that has been part of court probation systems for years.

A traditional home monitoring setup tracks whether a person, typically under house arrest or similar sentence, leaves home. The GPS version uses satellite technology to track exactly where the individual goes — street-by-street and even foot-by-foot. The people still wear a bracelet-shaped electric monitoring device on the ankle but also are required to take another device, the size of an old-school cellular phone, and carry it on a belt.

The GPS device tracks the

movements, and the electronic monitoring portion ensures the person and the GPS instrument are in the same place.

From the start the GPS technology has been a hit at the Kane County courthouse, even winning the strong endorsement of Judge Donald Hudson, the county's presiding felony judge. He said last month he'd like to see the program expanded to suspects charged with other crimes.

Members of the county board's corrections and rehabilitation committee Thursday expressed similar views as they pressed Mueller and his staff to win the extension of the grant program. Faced with a crowded jail and the building of a new lockup, committee chairwoman Karen McConnaughay, a St. Charles Republican, asked if other options existed for the GPS equipment.

For now, Mueller said, the options are limited to sex offenders. In Kane County, five defendants use the device, but that number could go up to eight. The federal GPS grant program is running in four jurisdictions in the state and about 50 across the country as a pilot program. The goal is to see if the technology works. Then officials can take the results to build a case to expand its use, Mueller said.

Kane County's grant runs out in October, but if the program is extended it buys the local courts another 12 months.



8-27-04 Beacon News

# Kane drug tests on the increase

**By Steve Lord**  
STAFF WRITER

**GENEVA** - As the number of drug offenders in Kane County's court system increases, so does the number of mandated drug tests.

Jim Mueller, Court Services director, said Thursday that rising number is testing his department's budget for this year, and could for future years.

He told members of the County Board's Corrections and Rehabilitation Committee his department gave about 46,000 drug tests in 2003 and probably will end up giving more than 60,000 by the end of 2004. That means this year's budget for drug tests will have to increase from \$250,000 to \$375,000, he said.

"The number of people in the programs has increased," he said. "It's for anyone in the system. That's how the program is designed."

Mueller's statements were more of a warning to the committee, because, right now,

general county revenues do not pay for the tests. They are paid for out of court money controlled by Chief Judge Philip DiMarzio.

Mueller said if the cost continues to rise and the court money cannot increase to cover the costs, regular county revenues might have to pick up the tab. "We may have to readjust next year to see where we stand," Mueller said.

Drug tests can be necessary for probation participants in any program, but about 80 percent of those in Kane County are for the 855 people in the Drug Court, Mueller said. They get tested three times a week. Drug Court monitors drug offenders, gets them to treatment and keeps them out of jail, unless they start using again.

Drug Court does not charge for the drug tests — in many cases, offenders would not have the ability pay, anyway — but it does fine people between \$100 and \$500 for violating Drug Court terms.

Kane probation officials collect the samples, then box them up and send them via overnight

mail to Redwood Toxicology Laboratories in California. The laboratory tests the samples and usually has results back to Kane within 72 hours, Mueller said.

## Cheaper tests

Drug testing started in Kane County in 1994, when Court Services received a federal grant for the testing. Eventually, the grant expired, and Kane had to pick up the cost itself. The courts have paid for the tests since then.

Mueller said officials are constantly looking at how to handle the program and always have chosen to contract out for it. Officials chose the California laboratory because it was cheaper than counterparts in the Midwest.

Redwood has charged the county \$7.50 for each test, although they lowered it to \$5 a test as volume increased. Labs in the area charge about \$12 a test, Mueller said.

"I don't think we want to triple our costs just to do them here," he said.

8-27-04  
Beacon news

# Kane Board disgruntled with county phone woes

By Steve Lord  
STAFF WRITER

GENEVA - Kane County Board member Jan Carlson is tired of phone mail tapes that tell callers to push a button to talk to a live person.

He wants the live person there already.

Carlson, R-Elburn, told fellow Judiciary Committee members Wednesday the new county phone system that provides more and more taped messages is "a disgrace."

"It says to the public we are no longer interested in customer service," Carlson said. "We installed a new system that is state-of-the-art, the best you can have, but we may have bought more than we need."

Carlson suggested the County Board develop a policy that forces each department to have a live person answer the main number for that department, "even during lunch and at breaks."

"Voice mail should not be available on the main number," he said.

He made his statements at the Judiciary Committee meeting while Circuit Clerk Deborah Seyller was in attendance, largely because her department is one of the largest and probably gets more calls than any other department. Also, her department answers the general county phone line, at (630) 232-3400, during lunch and to cover other times the switchboard is busy.

In April, Seyller warned County Board members that the phone situation was going to be a problem. Seyller said then that some people, once they got into the phone mail system, were being shunted from tape to tape and getting lost.

"We've complained about this before," said board member Jackie Tredup, R-Elgin. "This has been a big complaint for a long time."

"I called one department, and I never did reach the person I wanted to talk to," Carlson said.

Judiciary members referred the situation to the Administration Committee, which oversees such operational functions.

*Geneva Daily Herald*  
**Zoning change would allow  
for more homes in Geneva**

**BY GARRETT ORDOWER**

*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

A proposed zoning change would clear the way for 25 to 50 new homes in Geneva neighborhoods by eliminating a restriction that has kept lots that don't conform to zoning standards vacant.

The restriction put into place in 1995 along with the city's current zoning ordinances prohibits the owner of a nonconforming lot from building on it if it's contiguous to another lot or several lots owned by the same person.

However, the owner of a single substandard lot can build on it if it meets 80 percent of the minimum width and depth standards for its zoning district.

City officials brought the proposed change to aldermen at the Monday committee of the

whole meeting and expect to revisit it again within the next month, Community Development Director Dick Untch said.

Several property owners have approached the city about the restriction over a number of years, Untch said. Although it was likely enacted to preserve the character of residential neighborhoods, the exact circumstances that led to it are still being researched, Untch said.

"We felt there were inconsistencies and it didn't seem to make sense any longer," City Attorney Charles Radovich said.

Untch said the impact on neighborhoods would be minimal because the estimated 25 to 50 lots that be affected are spread throughout the city, mainly in older areas. Many of the platted lots in question date to the 1940s and '50s, when lot

sizes could be as small as 25 feet wide.

Under current zoning regulations the minimum lot size for high-density single-family residential is 50 feet wide and 6,500 square feet. The minimum for estate single family is 110 feet wide and 20,000 square feet.

The lots in question would still be required to conform with every other aspect of the city's building and zoning codes, Untch said.

Under the proposed change, a lot could be built on if it meets 80 percent of the width and depth standards for the zoning district, and is at least 50 feet wide, 100 feet deep and 5,000 square feet.

The change would also apply to commercial lots, Untch said, but the focus of the discussion so far has been on residential lots.

8-27-04  
*Daily Herald*  
**Housing**  
*construction*  
*still going*  
*strong in Kane*

The building boom just keeps booming.

Municipal and county development departments across Kane County issued 2,096 residential building permits between Jan. 1 and June 30.



Patrick Waldron  
Kane County

That number by itself may not mean much but to put it all

in some perspective, the number of residences in Kane County increased 11 percent between 2000 and July 1, 2003, according to U.S. Census estimates published last month.

It translates to 15,254 homes.

Kane's 2.5-year increase is good for fourth in the state behind Will County at 13.8 percent, McHenry County at 11.1 percent and the winner, Kendall County, at 24.4 percent.

Broken down monthly, the Kane County pace seems to have slowed but by no means stopped.

As has become the norm, the usual municipalities are leading the pack.

Looking for construction should be easiest in Montgomery, where 293 permits were issued during the first six months of the year. Aurora with 270 permits and Elgin with 212 round out the top three.

**Answer the phone:** County board member Jan Carlson, an Elburn Republican, put into words this week what many callers to various Kane County offices may be thinking.

Someone needs to pick up the phone.

Judging from the brief discussion Carlson had with his fellow board members during a committee meeting Wednesday, several elected officials around the county are upset that when they call a county office they get a machine instead of a person that can deliver a little bit of customer service.

"I think it's disgusting and I think it needs to be fixed," Carlson said.

The discussion popped up after a member of the judiciary committee complimented Circuit Court Clerk Deb Seyler for recent upgrades to her phone system that allows more calls to get through and, of course, get answered.

Board member Jackie Tredup, an Elgin Republican, built on the complaint, saying it's gotten so bad, people have told her they visit departments in person because it's the only way to talk to someone.

Whether the situation is that dire depends perhaps on who and when you call, but the point was clear. Carlson called for a policy change but did not offer anything specific.

Please continue to hold while we wait to see if anyone picks

**On the Web:** In a sure sign the political season is at full speed, Democratic county board candidate Elaine Stern launched her campaign Web site earlier this week.

Stern, of St. Charles and a candidate in District 14, has created a site that tells voters about her and her stand on some of the county's hottest political topics, including the Kane County jail and the controversial road impact fee system. It's at [www.elect-elainestern.com](http://www.elect-elainestern.com).

She is also encouraging voters to get to know their local candidates and has adopted the theme, "Have your voice heard."

A native of Chicago, Stern has been a resident of the Western suburbs for 20 years. She is running against Mark Davoust, a St. Charles Republican who won a three-man primary in March.

The District 14 seat is coming open because incumbent Karen McConnaughay, a St. Charles Republican, is running for county board chairman.

3-27-04 Daily Herald

# Sugar Grove library district seeks tax hikes

BY LESLIE HAGUE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Sugar Grove Public Library will ask voters for an \$8 million building and the money to run it this November. The board of library trustees approved the two referendums

for the November ballot at a meeting Thursday. If both tax increases are passed, the owner of a \$200,000 house would pay about \$123 a year for about 20 years to build the library and about \$86 more a year to operate it.

The current library at 54 Snow

St. is too small now and will continue to face problems as the village grows, said Beverly Holmes Hughes, the library's director.

"The potential for what we have to offer is severely hampered by space," she said.

Preliminary plans for the new

library would almost quintuple the library's space, from 6,600 square feet to almost 32,000 square feet.

Final plans are several weeks off, said Thomas Findley, vice president of the planning firm Leo A Daly, but he presented a few options to several dozen

people at a public meeting on Thursday night. His presentation centered on making the library a community commons.

"The library has this wonderful potential to be a type of living room for the community," he said.

The preliminary plans

included separate areas for adults, children and teenagers, a small coffee shop, a screened-in porch, small group meeting rooms and a study area with a fireplace.

The "most promising" loca-

See SUGAR GROVE on PAGE 11

## Sugar Grove: Library would be built by the end of 2006

Continued from Page 1

tion for the new library at the moment is within the proposed Neumann Homes development near Prairie Street and Route 47, Hughes said.

Neumann Homes would donate a piece of land to the library that would probably be worth \$500,000 to \$1 million if the library had to buy it, said

John Cortogian of the architectural firm Cortogian, Clark and Associates.

If the tax increase passes in

November and everything goes well, the library could be ready to go by the end of 2006, Findley said.

A tax-increase request to increase operating expenses at the library failed in March, but Hughes said this is a completely different plan, made after meetings with library board trustees, staff and community members.

"We have a lot more to show now," she said. "Last time it was, 'Let us work better within our means.' This time it's, 'Let us really do it right.'"

8-27-04 Chicago Tribune METRO

# Kane's drug court to be studied

## County's 4-year-old rehab program will be included in a national review

By William Presecky  
Tribune staff reporter

Because of its success, Kane County's Drug Rehabilitation Court will be analyzed next year in a national study aimed at pinpointing what makes such programs effective alternatives to jail.

Michael C. Daly, director of the county's 4-year-old rehabilitation program, said Kane's

non-violent defendants whose behavior is linked to drug use, he said.

In Kane, Presiding Judge James Doyle, who founded the drug court, maintains close supervision of each person in the program. Every participant is required to have a job, make weekly court appearances, participate in treatment and be tested for drug use three times a week.

"Testing is a key component," said Daly, noting that it is the aim of the federally sponsored study "to identify what components make drug courts

work." Every participant in Kane's program must remain in it for at least two years and dismissal is contingent on each being drug-free for a minimum of a year.

Daly said that after-care support is provided as an option to people who successfully complete the program.

The next "graduation" from the program is set for Oct. 8, he said.

Since it was begun in August 2000, participation in Kane's program has grown steadily. There are 855 participants cur-

rently, Daly said.

The federally funded study comes as Kane officials continue to evaluate the fast-growing county's long-term jail needs with an eye toward building a major detention facility near the county judicial center, in St. Charles.

Increased knowledge about the effectiveness of jail diversion programs such as drug rehabilitation court, electronic home monitoring and the use of global positioning systems to track accused and convicted sex offenders will be critical in assessing future construction needs, said Karen McConaughay (R-St. Charles), chairwoman of the County Board's Corrections and Rehabilitation Committee.

Kane is one of 50 jurisdictions nationwide, and one of four in Illinois, to receive a \$84,000 federal grant last year to track accused and convicted sex offenders using GPS technology.

"We've had five people on since March and we haven't had a violation yet," said James Mueller, director of court services.

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8-27-04 Beacon News

# Kane probation global positioning a national test

**■ Next technology step: GPS could save money as jail alternative**

By Steve Lord  
STAFF WRITER

GENEVA - While electronic monitoring has been an effective jail alternative in Kane County for about 12 years, the next generation of the technology may be more effective.

That was the word Thursday from Court Services Director Jim Mueller, who told the County Board Corrections and Rehabilitation Committee his department is using limited satellite global positioning to

monitor five sex offenders, thanks to an \$84,000 federal grant.

Kane was one of only four counties in the state and 50 nationwide to get the grant, which means judges and probation officials here not only are getting a chance see how it works but are providing a model for others. Mueller told committee members his office has applied for a second year of the grant.

"Everybody is stepping back and saying this has some potential," Mueller said.

Right now, a global positioning system is being used on five offenders — two convicted sex offenders and three who are charged with sex offenses, awaiting trial. For the two convicted offenders, going on global positioning kept them from going to jail; for the three awaiting trial, global

positioning was a condition of getting bond.

Global positioning is administered by the same probation people who monitor the approximately 80 convicted offenders on probation using electronic monitoring. That program has become well-accepted by Kane officials as a jail alternative.

## Savings for county

In January, Mueller presented County Board members with numbers that showed electronic monitoring saved Kane County about \$7.4 million since December 1992, when the program started.

That was money that would have been paid to keep those offenders in jail, most likely being sent to the McHenry County jail, which houses some of Kane's offenders. In addition, he said the program collected

about \$676,041 from those offenders, who actually pay the county to be in the program.

Mueller said global positioning could show similar or more savings if it is expanded. It costs the county about \$67 a day to house a prisoner at the jail; it costs about \$7 a day to put someone on global positioning.

"It doesn't take that much to show that you're saving money," Mueller said. "But we're never going to come up with a program that puts you out of the housing business."

## Areas off limits

Global positioning units fit on a belt that offenders must wear everywhere they go. Satellites read the units. Probation officials

can pull up on a computer a map showing where the offender goes, and how close the offender is to designated "hot zones" — areas the offender is not supposed to go to, such as a park, school or the house of a victim.

"We can track to within 20 feet of where you are," Mueller said.

Mueller said judges already are talking about expanding the program to include domestic-violence offenders and gang members. The units could track someone who has an order of protection against them, Mueller said.

For now, the grant limits use of the devices to sex offenders, he said.

"Like all things in their infancy, people want to put more on," Mueller said. "We started building slowly."

## Time for a change

To the Editor:

The differences between my campaign for Kane County Board chairman and Karen McConnaughay's campaign are significant.

The front pages of several local newspapers reported that Karen has raised more than \$46,000 since Jan. 1, 2004. My campaign has not raised nearly that amount.

What is not reported is that while Karen is out raising all that money, I am out walking the county, listening to the residents. My approach is often called a "grass-roots" campaign and that is true enough. I have no interest in raising a lot of money because I do not need it. My platform of fiscal responsibility and restraint is perfectly in line with my own campaign agenda.

It is also reported that a lot of Karen's funds were paid to outside consultants. Why? After talking to several consultants, I rejected them all, because they kept talking about how to spin this and spin that. My campaign spins nothing. My consultants are the residents of Kane County — I need no others.

My message to the people of Kane County has not changed since I announced my candidacy. The debates in which Karen and I have participated clearly define our differences. Karen keeps saying the county has three problems — money, money and money. I totally reject that idea. Our true problems are: 1) uncontrolled growth; 2) poor leadership in the Republican controlled county board; and 3) no fiscal responsibility in our county government.

Also, some of the other issues we face are: destruction of our environment; loss of critical farmland; job protection and creation; high unemployment and poverty rates; rising taxes; overcrowded schools; and lack of support for our elderly. All of these issues are important and need to be addressed.

Kane County has money — we just need leadership and responsibility to end the waste and channel it into the proper areas of focus.

My faith is in the people of Kane County. I believe they are smart enough to realize that large campaign contributions lead to special interest influence. A candidate is not necessarily the best person for the job simply because they raise a lot of money. I am not a career politician, but I am a business man. This means I will bring sound business principles and judgment to the county. It also means that county officials who desire to waste taxpayer's money will learn a new word — no!

The people of Kane County have some difficult decisions on Nov. 2. These decisions will affect their future, their children's future and the future of Kane County.

Will they accept the "business as usual" politics in our county, or will they say, "Enough is enough; it's time for a change?" If the voters believe we need to change the direction that our county is going, then they must

## Our letters policy

The Kane County Chronicle encourages letters to the editor, especially on local issues.

For clarity, please submit letters typewritten and double-spaced. Letters should be signed and include the author's address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Anonymous letters will not be printed. The newspaper reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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 E-Mail: editorial@kccchronicle.com

make an investment to that change.

Become a Kane County investor by voting Democratic candidates on Nov. 2. It is time for a change. I know it, and I believe the people of Kane County know it.

**Tom Meadath**  
 Democratic candidate,  
 Kane County Board chairman  
 St. Charles

## The Elgin invasion

To the Editor:

Wake up sleepy Campton Township and School District 303 — you're about to change dramatically, and almost overnight.

There is an invader to the lifestyle many of the people who moved to Campton Township have enjoyed for years. It will dominate the township and overcrowd the schools. If you think District 303 schools are overcrowded now, try adding 10,000 new children in three years to the area.

This invader is *Elgin*. That is correct not South Elgin, but *Elgin*!

The City of *Elgin* is planning on annexing all the land along Silver Glen Road from Homeward Glen to the east, to Route 47 in the west. And it might go south of Silver Glen very quickly.

A builder is planning to build high density housing starting in District 303. So those who thought Thornwood was painful to District 303 — it was just a pin prick.

Parents, you're about to be cut with a meat cleaver. And judging how things build out so fast than the developers always conservative estimated — District 303 you better be buying land and getting a new building bonds today.

*Elgin* is planning on bringing water and sewer to that area quickly — and that should comfort anyone who has a well in the area — it surely will go dry that much quicker. And those who like rural two-lane roads like Silver Glen, plan on it being widened to four lanes to handle the additional traffic these new developments will surely bring. In fact, the county should get the paving crews ready because this type of development means the

movement of commercial west of Randall and far more traffic. Yes, *Elgin* is bringing all the goodness of Naperville and Schaumburg to Campton Township.

It is clear that the developers planning on building (and they will get their way) these new mega projects will change the life in Campton Township. If you're one who welcomes all the above mentioned benefits of *Elgin* being your new neighbor — you should be greatly pleased. If you're one who likes your lifestyle here in rural Kane County — then I suggest talking to a Realtor — there isn't much you can do! And get out before your property values drop.

Of course you can write to all the political figures you want to, but the truth is there are not many options. Lay down your arms and be assimilated into *Elgin* — after all, they got the riverboat.

**Thomas E. Stutesman**  
 St. Charles



# Transportation budget has no new major projects

8-28-04 Chronicle

Kane will continue current projects

By HEATH HDXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — An \$89 million county transportation budget plan released Friday includes funding to complete three major road projects and continue work on two Fox River bridges.

The budget plan does not call for major new road projects, but rather a continuation of projects that Kane County has been working on for several years, said Paul Rogowski, the county's transportation director.

Rogowski and other transportation officials also warned Kane County

board members that a budget deficit could occur in 2007 under the plan's proposed 10-year schedule of road projects unless additional funding sources are found. The full board is expected to review the budget plan soon.

Among the major road projects to be completed under the plan is the Randall Road and Route 64 intersection expansion, expected to begin in spring 2005. Funding also is included to widen a portion of Orchard Road and widen McLean Boulevard in Elgin.

Aside from those road projects, the budget plan calls for infrastructure improvements such as repairing or replacing existing bridges. And the budget finances work on projects that would help yield future matching funding from the state or federal governments, or other sources such as Metra.

"It is really a continuation," Rogowski said. "It is still all the same projects that we have been working on."

The majority of the spending in the

**Speed limit**  
• Speed limit on Randall Road S-curve might decrease.

Page 3A

plan is backed by transportation bond money carried over from previous years and reimbursements provided by the state and federal governments for certain projects.

See BUDGET, page 2

## Budget: County still waiting for Feds

Continued from page 1

The two sources combined provide slightly more than 75 percent of the spending, the budget plan shows.

Included in the budget is nearly \$33 million for land purchase and engineering work for the Stearns Road and Longmeadow Parkway bridges over the Fox River. Most of that money is expected to come from federal and state sources.

County officials still are waiting for money to build the

bridges. That money could be included in the large transportation funding legislation being considered by Congress.

Members of the House and Senate still are hashing out their differences in the legislation.

The county budget plan includes about \$10 million for the Randall Road and Route 64 project that would reconfigure and widen the intersection from Oak to Dean streets in St. Charles. Funding also is included to complete the widening of Orchard Road between

Prairie Street and Indian Trail in Aurora, and money is set aside to start a project to overhaul the intersection with Jericho Road.

"I think it is a fair reflection of the state of the economy,"

William Wyatt, R-Aurora, Kane County Transportation Committee chairman, said about the budget. "When times are good, the (national) economy is good and the state economy is good, it trickles down to us. ... This is a lean budget. It is lean when we are talking about new projects."

8-28-04 Beacon news

# Impact fee question back to advisory panel

**Gray areas: County Board unsure how to treat churches in new development charge**

By Steve Lord  
STAFF WRITER

**GENEVA** — Members of the County Board Transportation Committee want more advice on how to treat churches in the county's fledgling impact fee ordinance.

Committee members Friday begged off making a recommendation on whether to continue including churches in the ordinance and sent the matter back to the Impact Fee Advisory Committee.

The transportation committee, which was split on the church issue itself, even was divided on whether or not to send the issue to the advisory committee.

Transportation Committee Chairman Bill Wyatt, R-Aurora, noted the ordinance started at the advisory committee, came through the Transportation Committee, went to the full County Board, came back to Transportation and now is back with the advisory committee.

"This is nothing more than a cul-de-sac," he said.

But Board member Dan Walter, R-South Elgin, said it made sense to send the issue to the advisory committee because the committee, made up of residents, business people and developers, shaped the impact fee ordinance to begin with.

"That's the function of the advisory committee," agreed Board member Lee Barrett, R-East Dundee.

The move came after about a half-hour debate on whether churches should be in the impact fee ordinance at all, or whether they should

get a break in the amount of money paid toward the cost of roads in the county.

County Board members asked Transportation Committee members and Department of Transportation employees to look at the situation after the Lord of Life Church in Campton Township became the first institution to appeal its charged impact fee.

While the full County Board has delayed its decision on the Lord of Life's appeal, transportation officials went ahead and looked at the overall philosophy of including churches in the ordinance.

"This has expanded to a discussion of churches as a whole," said Carl Schoedel, county engineer.

Schoedel presented a study of impact fee ordinances and said County Board members could leave the ordinance as it is, could exempt churches altogether or could give

them a partial exemption.

Gas tax increase?

A look at other impact fee ordinances by Transportation Department staff showed a mixture of those options. The DuPage County ordinance includes churches, treating them like any other land use. The Kane County ordinance was modeled after DuPage's.

"I'm not sure deviating from that would serve us well," Wyatt said.

Naperville has its own transportation impact fee, and it does exempt "religious institutions," but it also not apply to portions of the building that are for schools or day care.

Transportation officials said they surveyed 10 other ordinances in six states and found that other local agencies do exempt churches from transportation impact fees.

Staff estimated that, out of the estimated \$2.7 million the county

will get a year from impact fees, about \$15,000, or .6 percent, will be attributable to churches.

Walter said that is a "negligible amount" to the county, "yet it could be a huge amount to a church."

"We should respect the fact there are other models besides DuPage," Walter said.

Board member Don Wolfe, R-Elgin, said he could see modifying the amount a church pays, but not excluding churches altogether.

"Churches are institutions that add traffic," he said. "Should they help pay for some of the cost? Yes. Should they pay as the same rate as a retail establishment? Well..."

Both Walter and Wolfe said they still prefer increasing the county's gas tax as a way of raising money for transportation projects. Walter called it an issue the County Board should have "the guts" to address.

"It does not affect the pump price," Wolfe said. "We need them both."

While board members discuss exempting churches, they also face a decision on fees in the Tri-Cities planning area. Officials there have asked the Advisory Committee to recommend to the County Board to cut the formula amount in the Tri-Cities by 15 percent.

Transportation staff is studying that possibility.

Wyatt said he prefers leaving the ordinance the way it originally was passed, rather than complicating it with exemptions. He pointed out that anyone has the ability to appeal a specific fee.

"It was pretty black and white," Wyatt said. "Now, we start getting into these shades of gray. Government is not good with shades of gray."

# Sugar Grove OKs referenda for \$8 million new library

8-28-04  
By Angela Fornelli  
STAFF WRITER

*Beacon news*

SUGAR GROVE — The Sugar Grove Public Library Board approved plans to add three tax referendum questions to the November ballot to fund its proposed \$8 million new library.

The decision came Thursday after the architectural firm planning the new library presented rough diagrams of the possible 31,900-square-foot library to community members during the second-roundtable discussion hosted by the library.

One of the referendum questions will ask for an \$8 million bond issue to fund construction. The other two questions ask for increases and changes in the operating levy.

The existing library was built in 1980 on a 20-year projection and is out of space, officials said.

The new building would be more than four times larger than the existing library. It would accommodate the needs of more than 25,000 people and could house 80,000 volumes, said Thomas Findley, vice president of Leo A. Daly, the architectural firm planning the project. The building also would be planned with space for future expansion.

"This plan would get you well into the next 15 years," Findley said. "We're trying to anticipate growth without putting the burden of that cost on this initial group."

If the referendum passes, the library would be built by the end of 2006, Findley said.

The most likely site for the new library is on Main Street several blocks south of the existing library in a possible Neumann Homes residential and commercial development. Neumann Homes has offered the library land at no cost because it views the library as a "cornerstone to their village concept," which might include the municipal center, a post office and small-scale commercial needs, Findley said.

That amount of space would have cost \$500,000 to \$1 million if bought separately, Findley said.

The architectural firm tried to capture Sugar Grove's history and small-town atmosphere in its four rough diagrams and sketches of the future building, Findley said. Some of the plans include a silo-like area that could be used as a children's reading room, Findley said.

Although they are trying to bring the spirit of the past into the new library, the architects want to transform the historical library stereotype as a "quiet, stuffy place to find a book" into a "place to go to get information and access technology more quickly," Findley said.

Aside from more space for books and computers, ideas discussed for the new library include program meeting rooms, comfortable reader seats, a screened-in porch, a quiet reading area with a fireplace, a courtyard and a drive-up book drop.

One of the more popular ideas is a coffee shop, which Findley suggested could be operated by a private company and be open to the street to cater to the public as well as library users.

Candice Gawne, a Sugar Grove resident, said she uses the library at least once a week and looks forward to a larger space and bigger selection of books.

Architectural models and more details of the plans will be discussed at the third meeting Sept. 15 at 7:30 at Kaneland John Shields Elementary School.

"We are trying to get people to catch the vision," Findley said, "... and let's get that (referendum) passed."

Art Morrical, president of the library board, said he is very excited about the plans.

"The library board certainly has been waiting for this for a long time," Morrical said. "The library builds community, and this is the place we hope to do that."

8-19-04 Beacon news

# Affordable housing key to 2030 plan

**Kane cut in thirds: Scheme would use corridors to maintain county's rural flavor**

**GENEVA**—The proposed 2030 Kane County Land Use plan encourages developers and municipalities to build a variety of housing in the coming year.

But Darlene Bakk, of Campton Township, wants more than encouragement.

The chairman of the affordable housing effort for the League of Women Voters Wednesday night said she wants the 2030 plan to state more directly that municipalities should look to build more affordable housing, including more rental units.

Bakk made her statements at a public hearing before the county's Regional Planning Commission at the Government Center here.

If we can put some meat into this, rather than just say encourage, that would be better, Bakk said. Where is it in the plan that it says a developer has to provide a choice?

Bakk's comments echoed many already made to the Kane County Development Department this summer as they have gathered input on the 2030 plan throughout the county at public hearings and through written statements mailed and e-mailed to the county.

The issue even surfaced at the County Board Development Committee earlier this summer when several County Board members said affordable housing is a key issue for the future.

Not only are officials concerned about there being houses available throughout the county for a variety of people to buy, but to rent.

A recent study by the Chicago-area group Metropolis 2020 pointed out that Kane County lost about 500 rental units between 1990 and 2000, one of only two Chicago area counties to lose rental units.

Wednesdays public hearing was a chance for residents to give public testimony before a court reporter and to the Regional Planning Commission members.

The commission is expected to vote on the plan in September and make a recommendation to the full County Board, which is expected to vote on the 2030 plan by October.

Kane County is expected to grow by about 300,000 people in the next 20 to 30 years. Part of the 2030 plan

addresses where to put these people.

The 2030 plan divides the county into three main areas: the Urban Corridor along the Fox River; the Critical Growth area in the central part of the county, roughly along Route 47; and the Agricultural area, the western part of the county.

The plan stresses the Critical Growth area, where about 50 percent of the growth between now and 2030 is expected to take place.

Within that area, which includes already growing towns such as Elburn, Sugar Grove and Huntley, the county has picked out priority places where smart growth principles can be used.

County officials are trying to keep 50 percent of Kane's land in agricultural use by the year 2030. That would mostly be in the far

western third of the county, the agricultural area.

Officials hope to keep that 50 percent farmland ratio by encouraging the 300,000 new people that are supposed to move to Kane County by 2030 to live in the other two-thirds of the county.

County officials want to encourage 150,000 people to live in the urban corridor, which is the eastern third of the county. Another 150,000 people would be encouraged to live in the middle third of the county, known as the critical growth area.

County Board member Barb Wojnicki, R-St. Charles, attended the public hearing to present a letter to the Planning Commission in support of the 2030 plan.

The Campton Township representative said she particularly

supports continuation of the Farmland Protection Program and of encouraging boundary agreements to foster cooperation between governmental agencies.

John Thornhill, of St. Charles, an engineer who consults for developers and landowners in Kane County, said he was upset the 2030 plan did not specifically mention the Outer Belt Freeway proposed by the state to link Interstates 88 and 80.

It disturbs me that there is no adequate provision for traffic coming from outside our boundaries, Thornhill said.

The 2030 plan, though, does not specifically mention highways.

The county's Transportation Department is putting together its own 2030 plan that will be incorporated into the 2030 Land Use plan.

**A better way** 8-19-04 *Beacon News*

I'm looking at this map on the front page that says where the Prairie Parkway is going to be, and I, for the life of me, cannot figure out why Route 47 is just not being expanded and used and all they would have to build is a little short section from Route 52 to 80. I can't believe that the bureaucrats in this state cannot see that this is a money-saving issue to use the existing highway rather than to build a whole other one that is that much farther west and that few people will even use.

**Watch Republican decline**

You better be careful if you're a Republican in the state of Illinois. The ultra-right wing of the Republican Party nationally has taken over your party and inserted their candidate, Alan Keyes. Alan Keyes has no chance of winning. They know that. The idea here is to expose their debate on just how ultra-conservative and ultra-Christian and ultra-religious that they are. They want to tell us all how to live. This has traditionally turned off voters and you could face a decline in the Republican Party that will not be matched for years and years.

**Dirt follow-up needed**

I think The Beacon News should do a follow-up story on the Fox Valley Park District dumping the dirt on the Barnes Road property. They dumped the dirt onto the Blackberry Creek watershed. Kane County said that the dirt would be removed and the dirt still sits there in the watershed by that creek. They are violating the federal law, state law. I know the Beacon did one story on it. I think they should do a follow-up as there has been nothing done on the whole issue.

# N. Aurora to mull power line study

**By Brian Shields**  
Special to The Beacon News

**NORTH AURORA** — The village is thinking about a study to see how much burying power lines along Route 31 could cost, but the price might be prohibitive.

Trustee Dale Berman made a comment about the potential project during Wednesday night's Committee of the Whole meeting.

Berman said ComEd told the village's Route 31 Beautification Committee the price tag would be \$16,000 for a study to determine how much money it would take to bury the lines, which have been a sore spot for Route 31 businesses in North Aurora for years as the village has contemplated improving the look of the thoroughfare.

Rempe-Sharpe engineer Jim Bibby said there have been a couple of informal studies done on the potential cost of burying the lines, one by ComEd and another by a private contractor.

Trustee John Hansen said the estimates, in the seven figures in ComEd's case and six figures by the private firm, were "staggering".

But the board agreed on consensus that the issue needs to be talked about further to give the Beautification Committee a sense the village is on board with at least figuring out what the project would take.

If authorized, the project could be paid for from Route 31 tax-increment district funds as they come available, either directly from the TIF or as a reimbursement to the village.

"If it's something that we are not going to fund or have done, then we need to tell the (ComEd) representative and have the committee move on to something else," Berman said.

In other business, Village Administrator Sue McLaughlin told the board a consulting firm recommended that the village should not invest in broadband service at this time, because there does not seem to be high demand for it in North Aurora yet.

McLaughlin added that some North Aurora businesses have had initial trouble hooking onto their Internet service provider, and she is concerned local businesses are being affected by service interruptions.

St. Charles, Geneva and Batavia all have upcoming referendums this fall on the broadband issue. All three towns had similar measures on the ballot last year.

If passed, the cities will issue bonds which will be paid back through subscriber fees, so there is no tax increase involved with the referenda.

Broadband would allow cable, telephone and internet service to be channeled through one line from one provider.

8-19-04 Daily Herald

# N. Aurora talks about burying Rt. 31 power lines

BY JOHN JOHNSTON

*Daily Herald Correspondent*

North Aurora may solve one of its oldest and ugliest problems by sticking it in the ground. Several trustees expressed interest in providing grant money that could help the village determine the cost of burying the power lines along Route 31.

Trustee Dale Berman brought the issue before the committee of the whole Wednesday and said the village should either use grant money or general funds to fund the \$16,000 Commonwealth Edison study.

He said the board should support the reasonable suggestions of the committees it creates.

In this case, the Route 31 Beautification Committee has made removing the poles a priority.

"If they feel they need the study, I think we should follow through," Berman said.

At a meeting earlier this month, committee Chairman Tom Mollenhauer said the poles are not attractive and hurt businesses.

Mollenhauer, who is vice president at an insurance agency on Route 31, said the

poles have been a problem for decades, and businesses could benefit from an inviting sidewalk free of poles.

He said several grant sources could help fund the project, which is expected cost over \$1 million.

He said the village cannot apply for any grants until an official study is done.

Trustee John Hansen said the project was too expensive for the village to complete without assistance.

The money for the study would come from funds generated by Route 31's special tax status, known as a tax increment financing district.

Village attorney Kevin Drendel said the TIF district fund, which has a \$30,000 surplus, could be used to pay for the study.

Trustee Mark Guethle said "if it's through the TIF, I don't see why we couldn't go through with it."

Village President Mark Ruby said the ultimate answer is to bury to power lines, which may not be economically feasible right now.

He said the poles take away from the aesthetics of Route 31, and he would support the study.

# 8-19-04 *Republican* Stop lights on Randall to be activated this week

Motorists traveling down Randall Road Thursday, Aug. 19, should expect a slight delay during mid-morning travel.

The recently strung traffic signals at the intersections of Randall and Crane roads and Randall and Bolcum roads in St. Charles will be activated at approximately 10 and 11 a.m., respectively, Thursday.

The Kane County Division of Transportation reminds motorists they should expect about a 15-minute delay and be prepared to stop.

Installing the lights at the intersections is KDOT's way of improving driving conditions on that stretch of the county thoroughfare.

In the spring, KDOT reduced the speed limit from 55 mph to 50 mph on Randall's S-shaped curve, which runs 2,800 feet south of Crane Road to 1,000 feet south of Silver Glen Road.

In addition, KDOT continues to install a raised median in the center of Randall, from Thorn Tree Road north to Crane. The median, which should be finished in the next three

to four weeks, will prevent crossover accidents on Randall and will reduce speeding by motorists. The inner lanes on that portion of Randall are expected to reopen by then. For more information, call Tom Szabo, KDOT's traffic manager, at 208-3139.

Advertisement



## \*Fee: Staff to respond within two months

Continued from Page 1

## Tri-Cities want cut of 15% in road fee

Daily Herald

BY PATRICK WALDRON

Daily Herald Staff Writer 8/20/84

Batavia leaders Thursday called for an immediate 15 percent cut in developer-paid road fees in what amounted to a last-ditch attempt to level the playing field and avoid a lawsuit against Kane County.

"I want to look at this quick," said Batavia Mayor Jeff Schielke. "I don't want to be sitting here talking about this next year. We are near (taking) other steps that we'd rather not do."



Jeff Schielke

The county board implemented a transportation impact fee system April 1, a set-up designed to collect \$30 million from new development in the next 10 years to pay for new and expanded county roads. To date, \$909,284 has been collected across the county, including \$209,000 in the Tri-Cities area.

Even before the board narrowly approved the plan, leaders in Batavia, Geneva and St. Charles protested the formula used to compute the fees that give Tri-Cities-area projects the highest bills. Those high bills, Tri-Cities mayors contend, could end up driving development away.

For example, a 159,000-square-foot Wal-Mart headed to Batavia would be required to pay about \$450,000 under the fee structure. The same store built in Elgin would pay about \$135,000. All that has the cities calling for the cut in the Tri-Cities area.

The differences exist because the county is divided into eight areas which all have individual rates used in computing the fees. Those fees are then spent only in the area from where they are collected.

County leaders say the Tri-

See FEE on PAGE 10

Cities — with high reliance on county roads such as Randall Road, Kirk Road and Fabyan Parkway — pay the most because of the highest usage.

Tri-Cities leaders disagree and Thursday brought their argument before the county's impact fee advisory committee, a group that helped develop the system and now is in place to hear proposals for any changes to it.

A consultant hired by the three cities dissected the complex road fee formula arguing that it is unfair and based on traffic data that is 14 years old. Part of the road fee formula depends on an area's total traffic counts and the length of the trips those drivers take.

Driving home the consultant's point, Schielke, a member of the advisory committee, stressed how the traffic data is from 1990 before Randall Road became the congested retail corridor it is today.

Batavia city attorney John Noble outlined three other changes the cities want. Noble called on the committee to recommend the county board hold any collected fees in an escrow account until the changes are completed, asked the county to conduct its own new traffic study to use in the formula and suggested a review of the boundaries for the eight geographical areas.

The advisory committee, which includes county board members Don Wolfe and Cathy Hurlbut, both Elgin Republicans, asked the county's transportation division staff to come up with a response to the Tri-Cities' argument. They are to report back in two months.

County Engineer Carl Schoedel said the cities' presentation was "well-reasoned."

"There is some technical basis for it and worth looking at," he said, adding that any reduction in the fee structure would have to be county-wide and not just for one geographic area.

Bill Wyatt, an Aurora Republican and chairman of the county board's transportation committee, was less diplomatic in going after Batavia, St. Charles and Geneva for their protests and threats of legal action.

"If they want to use taxpayer money to sue us to collect money for roads," Wyatt said. "It seems to me the cities are now representing the developers' interests."

Wyatt went on to point out how the road fee system was mirrored after a fee set up in DuPage County which has faced numerous legal challenges.

"We patterned ours after the DuPage model," he said. "Their program has been upheld."

# Park district offers to smooth out big dirt pile

BY PATRICK WALDRON

Daily Herald Staff Writer 8/20/04

Smoothing out the ongoing squabble between the Kane County Forest Preserve District and the Fox Valley Park District over a massive dirt pile in Sugar Grove Township may not be as simple as spreading around tons of dumped clay.

In fact, forest preserve Commissioner Bill Wyatt, an Aurora Republican, has seen enough and wants to take back control of the property handed over to the park district five years ago.

"I would like to see us reclaim it," Wyatt said, at a meeting of the commission's utilization committee Thursday.

In May and June, the park district dumped several hundred truckloads of dirt hauled from an Aurora construction site to land off Barnes Road that it leases under a 1999 agreement with the forest preserve. The 40-acre property is the site of a park district maintenance shed with the rest set aside as an orchard and a pasture.

Park district officials Thursday attended the committee meeting, taking responsibility for what some called an illegal dump and vowing to clean up the site however the forest preserve commission requested.

"It was a misunderstanding on our part," said Bob Vaughan, the park district's executive director.

To end the tiff, Vaughan said, the park district is prepared to smooth out the dirt pile, bring in topsoil and plant grass or prairie on top of it, returning the land to a natural state. Also, the district said it will build and pay for a .9-mile bike path along Blackberry Creek on forest preserve land to the east.

But as Vaughan and forest preserve commission President John Hoscheit, a St. Charles Republican, talked compromise, Wyatt wasn't buying it.

He said the bike path proposal by the park district is too little, too late because a similar plan is already on the 2005 forest preserve project list complete with budget.

Wyatt, whose district includes the dirt pile, went on to criticize the park district for not building a different bike path on the leased 40 acres as arranged in the original deal.

Vaughan disputed that, saying the path — a turf, not paved, path — was built but is never used.

Backing up Wyatt, nearby homeowner and Sugar Grove Township resident Greg Galssford said he was worried about what all that dirt would do to storm-water flow in the area.

"If we get flooded again, it's your responsibility," he told the commission committee.

The committee referred the matter to the forest preserve staff for review and is expected to consider options next month.

# Probation violation could land driver in prison

*Cathy Heald*  
 By TONA KUNZ  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

A college student who drove her car into bicyclist Steve Klinkhamer and left him on the roadside to die broke the terms of her probation for the second time since the June 2002 sentencing, Devin Regalado, 22, now faces up to 14 years in prison for testing positive for cocaine during a required monthly drug check, prosecutors said.

"I don't know if we'll be pushing for the maximum sentence,



Devin Regalado

but we will be asking for a sentence in the Illinois Department of Corrections," Kane County First Assistant State's Attorney Bob Berlin.

The length of sentence requested will depend on what the University of Illinois student's probation officer has to report, Berlin said.

Regalado, who was living in Carpentersville at the time of the crash, pleaded guilty in June 2002 to failure to report an accident involving personal injury or death, Klinkhamer, 45, of East Dundee, was struck on Williams Road in Carpentersville while riding his bicycle home from a bar in Algonquin.

Regalado, the daughter of former Carpentersville Trustee Ed Regalado, was not charged with Klinkhamer's death, which authorities ruled an accident.

Sull, family members, which report the accident to police.

include St. Charles Mayor Sue Klinkhamer and her husband, former St. Charles police Cmdr. Dan Klinkhamer, Steve's older brother, were outraged that Regalado took her time reporting the accident.

Prosecutors alleged that Regalado drove off without checking on Klinkhamer and spend the next few hours calling body shops to fix her car and complaining to friends that she couldn't get his blood off her windshield. It took her a day to report the accident to police.

At her sentencing, a Kane County judge ordered Regalado to serve 100 hours of community service in the Kane County coroner's office, pay a \$5,000 fine, receive a full psychological evaluation, serve 60 days of home confinement and undergo random monthly drug and alcohol testing.

Ten months later she broke probation for the first time, testing positive for cocaine. At that time, she told the judge she never took cocaine and the test must have registered some caffeine-like pills a friend gave her during a lengthy work stint as a server at the Chicago nightclub Excalibur.

She received 14 days in jail and her probation was extended from August 2006 to November 2007, and Kane County Judge Grant Wegner said that if he ever saw her again "the sentence will be much more severe."

She is scheduled to appear in court Sept. 2 to set a hearing date on the probation violation. Regalado could not be reached for comment.

# Leftover dirt might be used to create trail in forest preserve

By HEATH HIXSON  
 Kane County Chronicle  
 Chronicle 8/20/04

GENEVA — A mound of dirt dumped by the Fox Valley Park District might lead to a new trail for the Kane County Forest Preserve.

The district dumped leftover dirt from two construction projects on a site that it leases from the forest preserve on Barnes Road in Sugar Grove Township. The dirt pile of about 50,000 cubic yards stands about two-stories high and might violate the lease agreement between the forest preserve and the district.

But on Thursday, district officials proposed to the Kane County Forest Preserve's Enterprise Committee that a solution to a dust up that has materialized over the dirt hill could be to let the district raze the mound and flatten the dirt on the site, which would raise the elevation of the site by about 1 foot.

In return for letting the district spread the dirt, the district would pay to build a nearly one-mile loop trail from the Virgil-Gilman Trail to Blackberry Creek. The trail site is just east of the property in question, and the forest preserve planned to fund the construction of a trail in that area during the next budget year.

The proposal now will be reviewed by forest preserve officials.

Forest Preserve President John Hoscheit said the district approached the preserve and called the dumping a possible "mistake," and then offered to build the trail if preserve and officials did not make the district haul off the dirt. The dirt mound consumes about an acre.

Hoscheit said the cost of hauling the dirt off the site could be as much as \$250,000. He said the forest preserve expects to budget about \$85,000 to build the trail on its own. Building the trail in place of hauling the dirt off the site could be a cheaper solution for the district, he said.

But the dirt largely is made up of clay and some topsoil from the sites where the district constructed a water park and recreation center.

"One of my concerns is that the quality of the dirt on the site is not good," said Kane County Board member William Wyatt, R-Aurora, whose district includes the area.

# Tri-Cities want review of county impact fees

## County committee to evaluate new data as threat of lawsuit looms

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Tri-Cities officials are demanding that the Kane County Board order a review of new road impact fees for development or face possible litigation.

New construction and growth in the three cities could be stifled by the county's new impact fees on development, Batavia Mayor Jeff Schielke on Thursday told members of the Kane County Road Impact Fees Advisory Committee.

"This is a matter of concern within

the Tri-Cities," Schielke said. "If we don't get some action, we are going to be forced into some other action that we do not really want to do."

Schielke played down the implication of litigation after the meeting and called the move a last resort. He said he hopes for "responsible dialogue."



Schielke

The county assesses the toll on developers to offset the costs of building infrastructure, such as roads, that taxpayers otherwise would pay for.

Batavia city attorney John Noble said the cities want the fees to be immediately reduced by as much as 15 percent. The cities want the fee formula to be reviewed and new traffic data to be used because they said the current system relies on information dating back to 1990. In addition, the cities want fees collected from their communities to be placed into sepa-

rate escrow accounts until the matter is settled.

The advisory panel approved a recommendation that the Kane County Board order a 60-day review of new data presented by the cities that questions the fairness of the fees. The panel took no action on the other demands.

The board's Transportation Committee now is expected to consider the recommendation.

See FEES, page 3

## Fees

Continued from page 1

Transportation Committee Chairman William Wyatt, Aurora, said similar lawsuits in DuPage County were found in favor of such fee systems. He said charging developers the fees helps relieve the burden on county taxpayers.

"If they want to use the taxpayers' money to sue us to stop collecting money for improvements of their roads, then that

is their right," Wyatt said.

The new fee schedule took effect in April. So far, the county has collected more than \$800,000 in impact fees. The fee system splits the county into eight regions.

However, the system assesses different fees on the regions. Impact fees in the Tri-Cities are dramatically higher than neighboring cities such as South Elgin and North Aurora because of the amount of traffic that travels through the Tri-Cities on county roads, such as Randall and Kirk roads.

Kane County Board Chairman Mike McCoy said he was surprised by the opposition from the cities, which he accused of "doing the business of the developers." When DuPage County officials approved the fees, they were sued by developers.

"I can't imagine that impact fees are cooling development in the Tri-Cities," McCoy said.

Schielke and St. Charles Mayor Sue Klinkhamer said no developer has dropped a project because of the fees.

# Plan to widen I-90 between Elgin plaza, Randall Road approved

*I-Pass only lanes will be added to*

*Route 31 ramp*  
*Chronicle 8/20/84*

By OWEN R. BRUGH  
Shaw News Service

**DOWNERS GROVE** — Toll officials on Thursday approved plans to attempt to end bottlenecks on the Northwest Tollway around Elgin and on the Interstate 88 exit at Farnsworth Road.

The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority's Engineering Committee approved plans to widen the

Northwest Tollway, also known as Interstate 90, between the Elgin Toll Plaza and Randall Road.

The committee also approved adding I-PASS-only lanes on the Route 31 ramps on the Northwest Tollway, and on the Farnsworth Road ramps on Interstate 88.

The full tollway board is expected to approve the plans next week.

"This is adding capacity in an area that is extremely constrained," tollway Executive Director Jack Hartman said of the Northwest Tollway widening.

"This is the type of congestion relief we've been talking about."

Combined, the projects are expected to cost about \$11.4 million.

Work is expected to start next month.

The bottleneck west of the Elgin Toll Plaza has caused congestion in the area for years.

On busy Friday evenings, westbound traffic can back up as far as Route 59 with commuters and travelers, about 6 miles away from the tollbooth.

Currently, the road is two lanes west of the Elgin plaza.

"That's the main contributing factor to why the Elgin Toll Plaza backs up," tollway engineering chief Jeff Dailey said.

The project is expected to help commuters make it to Randall Road before the pavement funnels to two lanes.

Hartman said it is one of the projects he started considering when he took over the tollway early last year.

Although the project will not be completed until the middle of next year, drivers should have three lanes by late October, Dailey said.

The tollway also will install I-PASS-only lanes at two exits that traditionally become congested.

The Route 31 exit on the Northwest Tollway often is backed up during the evening rush hour.

There is only one lane at the exit. The Farnsworth Road exit on Interstate 88 also has become congested on weekends since a premium outlet mall opened just north of the exit.

Most of the exit work should be completed by the end of October, Dailey said.

Officials are not sure whether the projects will require lane closures.

# Montgomery maps Orchard Road future

*Beacon 8/20/84*  
BEACON NEWS STAFF

**MONTGOMERY** — Village officials this week got their first look at a new comprehensive land-use plan that they say will help them map the future of the Orchard Road corridor.

The plan, developed by the Chicago based engineering firm URS-TPAP, envisions the roughly two-mile stretch of Orchard Road through Montgomery as a "gateway to the community" that should be developed by commer-

cial and industrial users. The plan calls for the area to feature uniformly designed buildings, extensive landscaping, a series of pedestrian paths and decorative "welcome to Montgomery" signs that village officials think will make the area more attractive both to village residents and would-be land developers.

"This is going to be a tool that our (economic development corporation) will be able to use to market the corridor," Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura said. Retail uses — namely grocery stores, drug stores, restaurants and convenience stores — would be located along the west side of the road, while industrial parks featuring warehouses and light manufacturing would be located to the east of the road, according to the plan.

"I like the vision," said Trustee Roger Burrell. "I think it's very attractive."

Devin Levine, the URS-TPAP engineer who drafted the plan, noted that some of its elements might prove costly, but suggested that village officials research the many state and federal grants that are available for making improvements to roadways and public spaces.

The plan followed more than eight months of research and cost roughly \$60,000 — \$55,000 of which was funded by a grant from the state of Illinois.

# Ex-hooker to men: Just don't

Beacon 8/20/04

By Justina Wang

STAFF WRITER

**AURORA** — Nicole is lucky. She was addicted to crack cocaine, arrested more than two dozen times, raped, beaten and robbed. Still, she's considered one of the lucky ones.

A prostitute for three years, Nicole, who asked that her last name not be used, finally sought help. She's in a support program at Rita's Ministry. She's been off the streets for a year now, has a legitimate job and even has a fiancé.

But her friends still on the streets are "sick," she said. One girl died from AIDS two weeks ago, and the others have a collection of sexually transmitted diseases.

Nicole said she takes responsibility for her actions, but as she looked around the room, she saw a few familiar faces.

"My friends are still out there, and you guys are picking them up, and you're going to get sick, too," she told the collection of men.

"I hope this is a wake-up call."

The 15 men were picked up in a reverse prostitution sting in June. As part of a Kane County pretrial diversion program, the first-time solicitors are given the opportunity to wipe the charges off their records.

They listened to residents and city officials Thursday morning tell them about the impact of prostitution on the community. Then, they spent the afternoon and will



Three more solicitation for prostitution offenders walk down a near East Side alley in search of trash to clean up.

spend today in bright orange vests, bent over, picking up trash on the streets.

Many say it's humiliating, but it beats going to jail. Aurora police officer Rick Ahlgren, who helps run the program, said it also beats contracting deadly STDs.

"This program is set up to educate people. It's designed to maybe save your life," he told the men.

Young and old are in the program. Some have wives and girlfriends. Some have children and grandchildren.

Lee, who asked that his last name not be used, hopes his clients won't see him in "this bright orange, I'm-a-criminal vest." He's already lost one job, as well as his relationship

◆ Turn to DON'T, A2

## DON'T

From Page A1

with many family members.

But the worst part, he said, was when his 6-year-old grandson asked why he was in the newspaper.

"Because I made a mistake," Lee told him.

Lee said that's one mistake he'll never make again. When he met Nicole and heard about her experience, he said, his attitude about prostitution changed.

"This is the first time, and this is the last time," he said. "The educa-

tion I got from this is enough to make me want to do everything I can to help (end prostitution)."

And that's exactly what the program wants to do, Ahlgren said. In the three years that the program has run, they haven't had a repeat offender.

George, who asked that his last name not be used, said he now realizes the prostitute on the street could be somebody's wife, girlfriend, mother or daughter.

After listening to Nicole, he said he'll never look at prostitutes in the same way.

"They're real people," he said. "They're not just an object I can use."

# Tri-Cities want road fees cut

**■ Lawsuit still possible: Batavia mayor says rates Kane wants to charge builders based on old data**

Schielke said consultant Brett Coulter, across the board in every category than in any other area. Tri-Cities officials are particularly upset over the fees for commercial development, which they said will discourage developers from locating in the Tri-Cities.

**By Steve Lord**  
STAFF WRITER  
GENEVA — Mayors in the Tri-Cities have asked Kane County to reduce by 15 percent the transportation impact fee charged to developers and warned Thursday that a lawsuit against the county is possible.

Tri-Cities officials presented the request at a meeting of the county's Impact Fee Advisory Committee. Committee members referred the request to the Department of Transportation, which will study it and make a recommendation to the Kane County Board's Transportation Committee.

The communities' argument centers on the impact fee, paid by developers in the Tri-Cities. Batavia Mayor Jeff Schielke said the figure is based on outdated information about traffic, travel times and detours. The fees in the Tri-Cities are higher than those in the Elgin area, officials said.

County officials studied the impact fee formula for two years before enacting it earlier this year. The fees in the Tri-Cities are higher than those in the Elgin area, officials said. Almost from the beginning, Tri-Cities officials said they were upset about the higher fees charged in their towns. Schielke Thursday again said what he has said all along: that officials still support the concept of an impact fee, they just want it to be lower in the Tri-Cities.

Some members of the advisory committee have agreed with that assessment. Committee members approved the concept of impact fees, but some have said they did not like the way the formula was applied. County officials used planning areas that divide the county into sections.

County officials have defended the higher impact fee, saying the Tri-Cities have more county roads and contribute more traffic to those county roads. Board member Bill Wyatt, R-Aurora, Transportation Committee chairman, Thursday repeated that stance. He added that the CATS numbers Schielke called outdated are still "the industry-accepted data."

## FEES

From Page A1

\$133,402 and \$800,400 in the Tri-Cities, and \$20,600 to \$123,600 in Aurora.

The situation is similar on the border between the Tri-Cities and the Elgin area, officials have said. Almost from the beginning, Tri-Cities officials said they were upset about the higher fees charged in their towns. Schielke Thursday again said what he has said all along: that officials still support the concept of an impact fee, they just want it to be lower in the Tri-Cities.

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"It is the most recent, verifiable data," he said. "It's like complaining that two plus two is four."

### Aging downtowns

Still hanging above the situation is the threat of a lawsuit from the Tri-Cities. Schielke has threatened a suit before and did again Thursday.

He said he is confident the Tri-Cities could win in court. But he

also said officials are not to that point yet.

"It is not our desire to sue," he said. "We are hoping for negotiation. We are still in that arena. If, in fact, we don't see any substantive move, it is a potential option we have to play."

Wyatt said the impact fee ordinance is defensible in court. He pointed out that the Kane ordinance is modeled after the DuPage County ordinance, which has successfully been defended several times.

But he said in DuPage, it was developers who sued the county, not municipalities.

"It seems now that the municipalities are posturing for the developers," he said. "They have to go back to their constituents to tell them they are spending taxpayers' money to keep us from collecting money from developers to pay for roads, to help the taxpayers. I'm trying to protect the taxpayers."

Schielke said he does "not argue with Bill's premise."

"But we have places where, just across the street, they pay three times less than in our town," he said.

He said Tri-Cities officials are looking "more long-term," at redevelopment of older areas, rather than new development.

"In each of our cases, we have aging downtowns and there has been significant discussion about downtown redevelopment," he said.

To underscore that idea, St. Charles Mayor Sue Klinkhamer said Thursday that the size of the impact fee came up in recent discussions about redevelopment of the old St. Charles Mall site. That former mall, now torn down, has been the subject of redevelopment for years, though, long before the impact fee was enacted.

◆ Turn to FEES, A2

# Agencies wrangle over big pile of dirt

■ Gift horse? Wyatt suggests taking land back from Park District

By Steve Lord 8/20/04

STAFF WRITER

GENEVA — Fox Valley Park District officials admit they made a mistake when they dumped 30,000 yards of dirt into a pile on land they rent from the Kane County Forest Preserve District.

They even have offered to make up for the mistake by contouring the pile on the property, grading it for proper stormwater control and building a trail on nearby Forest Preserve property at the Park District's expense.

But at least one Kane County Board member favors saying thanks, but no thanks. Board member Bill Wyatt, R-Aurora, who represents the area on Barnes Road south of Galena Boulevard where the fill was dumped, said Thursday he would rather the Forest Preserve District build its own trail. Under Wyatt's suggestion, the Park District could keep its West Side maintenance facility on the land, but give the rest back to the Forest Preserve District.

"I would like to have our attorney look at terminating the agreement," Wyatt said. "It's going to be our trail, I'd like to see us build it. It's gotten away from us a little bit, and I'd like us to reclaim it."

The situation began earlier this year when Wyatt and County Board Chairman Mike McCoy, R-Aurora, criticized the Park District for dumping the fill on the Barnes Road property. Park District officials took the fill from the excavation they are doing at the Indian Trail site where they are building a recreation center.

Park District Director Robert Vaughan, speaking Thursday to the Forest Preserve District's Utilization Committee, admitted the Park District should not have dumped the fill on the Forest Preserve land. The Park District leased the site from the Forest Preserve in 1999, to build a maintenance center for the West Side. The district also maintains a pasture for the horses at neighboring Blackberry Farms, and an apple orchard on the property.

Both Park District officials and Wyatt said the two trail proposals —

## \*DIRT

From Page A1

Vaughan said the dirt pile "as you see it today is unsightly." But the Park District submitted a plan to Forest Preserve officials to contour that land, and to build the trail on neighboring property on the other side of Blackberry Creek.

### Similar proposals

The trail is proposed for about 60 acres sandwiched between the Virgil Gilman Trail, Orchard Road and a 33-acre unofficial preserve owned by the Forest Preserve District along the east side of Barnes Road.

It is the same property for which McCoy proposed a trail earlier this year. Forest Preserve officials included money in the budget for that trail. The land was purchased in a sort of partnership between the Forest Preserve District, the city of Aurora and the Park District after the Flood of 1996.

Both Park District officials and Wyatt said the two trail proposals —

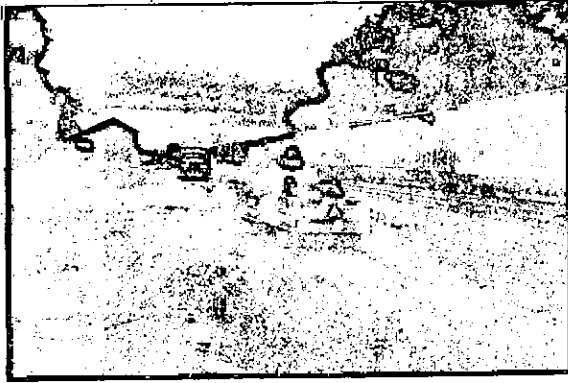
the Park District's and McCoy's — are similar, but not exactly the same. Utilization Committee members agreed to give the Park District proposal to Forest Preserve staff, which will look at it and compare it to McCoy's proposal.

Staff members will come back with a recommendation for the Utilization Committee and the full Forest Preserve Commission.

Whatever the recommendation, Barnes Road resident Greg Glassford will be watching for resolution of the situation. He came to Thursday's meeting to complain about the dirt pile, and suggest it be removed. He said even if the pile is contoured, he is worried about flooding it might cause on neighboring properties, including his own.

"How's this going to affect stormwater?" said Glassford, who actually lives in Sugar Grove Township and the Sugar Grove Park District. "It seems we're rewarding somebody for illegally dumping something. I just put a 5,000-square-foot deck on my house, and all I see is a mound of dirt."





Tribune photo by Terry Harris

A Union Pacific train passes as work continues in LaFox on a Metra station for a commuter line being extended from Geneva.

## Big change on track for tiny Kane town

By William Presecky

Tribune staff reporter

8/20/04  
Tribune

The tiny crossroads town of LaFox in central Kane County has changed little since the 1930s when livestock holding pens dotted the area.

But a decade ago, the decision was made to extend commuter rail service west from Geneva through LaFox to Elburn, and now the signs of transformation are everywhere.

The intersection of LaFox Road and Illinois Highway 38, just north of the unincorporated town, is being widened and traffic signals are being installed. The county expects to finish the project in October.

Signs are posted along LaFox Road, the two-lane main drag through town, warning that it will be closed at the Union Pacific Railroad tracks beginning Tuesday to allow for installation of a third set of tracks.

Over the last year, the town's historic granary-turned-museum, built in 1868, was relocat-

ed away from the tracks and pushed back about 500 feet from LaFox Road.

It now sits close to where the southern lobe of a new Metra commuter parking lot and train station is being built in conjunction with the 8.5-mile rail extension from Geneva to Elburn.

A LaFox landmark, Potter's General Store, closed at the end of January. The store was founded in 1860 and until its final day had been run by descendants of whaling captain Lemuel Potter, who bought into the business in 1863 after dropping anchor in LaFox.

The town lies smack in the middle of the \$140 million railroad project and directly in the path of development. The extension is expected to be completed by early 2006.

The biggest project in scope is the housing development planned for 1,200 acres of farms and fields that surround the 150-year-old town.

PLEASE SEE LAFOX, PAGE 6

## LAFOX: Developers heed wishes of residents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We're very close to filing for our concept plan approval," said attorney Peter Brennan, general counsel for Town & Country Homes Inc., of Lombard. "I would say by the end of the month.

"We've had several meetings with the county. Obviously, we've had several meetings with the LaFox [residents] group, all very productive. We feel like we're going hand in hand [for approval] with the LaFox residents," he said.

Town & Country is developing the site along with Wyndham Deerpoint Homes Inc. of North Aurora. Town & Country controls most of the 1,200 acres.

Neither Brennan nor Phil Bus, executive director of the Kane County Development Department, would discuss the plan's specifics, pending its submission.

Bus did say the preliminary concept for The Settlements of LaFox is "less traditional" and "more progressive, more innovative" and more responsive to the county's planning goals and to current residents of the area than an earlier plan.

Grand Prairie, as the 2001 plan was called, consisted of between 1,600 and 2,000 dwellings. The new plan reportedly includes fewer than 1,300 units.

Brennan said the new plan is "much different in terms of the density and location of things and buffers and open space and things like that, much of it with the input of the county's planning staff and the LaFox residents."

"This [new] plan is much better," said Drew Frasz, a spokesman for the Concerned LaFox Area Residents. "It's essentially the result of three years of hard work on our group's part, with the assistance of a lot of public officials, so we consider it a victory.

"We've had input on the entire layout. To get this down to 1,275 total units is something we all agreed we can live with," he said.

"Our relationship with the developers has completely turned around. They've really gone out of their way to accommodate us, once we kind of established politically that their plan as proposed wasn't going to happen," he said.

Longtime LaFox resident Donna Nieler, who was instrumental in mustering local opposition to the original plan, said, "There's been a lot of good dialogue. It's not going to be prairie anymore, but we did the best we can."

The greater LaFox area, including the county-designated LaFox Historic District, includes about 600 residents in roughly 185 households.

# Maple Park village offices burglarized

Daily Herald

BY GARRETT ORDOWER

Daily Herald Staff Writer

8/20/04

The village of Maple Park — whose police chief and village president are facing criminal charges — became part of another criminal probe this week.

This time, though, it's the victim. Several offices within the Maple Park Civic Center at 302 Willow St. were burglarized and damaged early Wednesday morning, and police are looking for the offenders.

The building houses the village hall and police station, along with Virgil Township offices, a doctor's office and the library.

Police Chief Chet Morris and Village President Mark Delaney are among the 13 people facing felony conspiracy charges in connection with a 15-month investigation of gambling at DJ's Tavern,

221 Main St. in Maple Park. While the police station was spared during the Wednesday burglary, about \$3,000 worth of items including cash, DVDs and a computer still in the box were taken from the village offices and elsewhere in the building.

The building also sustained \$4,000 in damage, which appeared to be "above and beyond" damage related to the theft, Kane County sheriff's Detective Brian McCarty said.

McCarty said the perpetrators didn't appear to be professionals and that it was being handled independently of the gambling probe.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Maple Park Police Department at (815) 827-3286 or the Kane County sheriff's office at (630) 232-6840. Callers to the sheriff's office can remain anonymous by leaving a tip on the Crime Stoppers hotline.

# Fence Post

## Don't condemn city businesses

I am writing to express my dismay at the plan that has been reported in the newspaper to condemn existing businesses along the river in St. Charles for the possibility of a future development to "rehabilitate" the riverfront.

I find the riverfront in St. Charles to be disappointing when compared to Batavia or Geneva, but I do not see where condemning three existing restaurants that have established clientele will improve the situation in any way. I have eaten at two of them and find them to be excellent restaurants in interesting buildings.

The idea of making a row of "cookie-cutter" establishments would help cement my lack of desire to come downtown. I like the areas of towns that look "real" and "established," not the areas that obviously have been reconstructed to convince businesses to move there and people to visit them.

Also, without a developer who is interested in the area, why do officials think this will be anything other than the fiasco along Route 38 where the shopping center was?

It would be even worse if such an eyesore existed on South First Street.

While attending the Venetian Night parade recently, I could not help but notice that across the river, along Highway 31, there is at least a block, maybe two, that are nothing but parking lots.

If officials feel an area must be cleared to entice a developer to come into the area, why not do something there? If a development were successful there, it

would be much easier to convince businesses and the citizens of the town to allow something similar to be done on South First Street.

Mary C. Hannah  
St. Charles

## Ethics are needed to guide troubled world

Many people are saying religion has nothing to do with morality and ethics. Evidently, they are right.

See, for example, the first book of the post-Crucifixion Christian canon, where people are urged to refrain from killing, stealing, lying, betraying their families, treating other human beings cruelly (Gospel of Matthew, 19:17-19). And compare these teachings with what we are doing to each other in America and around the globe, notably in Iraq, Afghanistan, the

former Palestine and Africa.

This divorcement of moral ethics from religion stems in part from natural proclivities ("easier is better") but is exacerbated by "godless marketism," anti-Christian activism and fatuous legalism.

How easy for the "separation of church and state" slogan to slide into no ethical principles for government at all (raw power filling the vacuum).

What we need to recognize is that if 6 billion people of diverse cultures are going to live together on our high-tech planet, we must set aside the old and shallow ways — double standards for death and destruction, might makes right, ends justify the means, he who pays the piper calls the tune — and turn with an open mind to the life-affirming ethic cited above (available equally to people of whatever religious piety or secular persuasion).

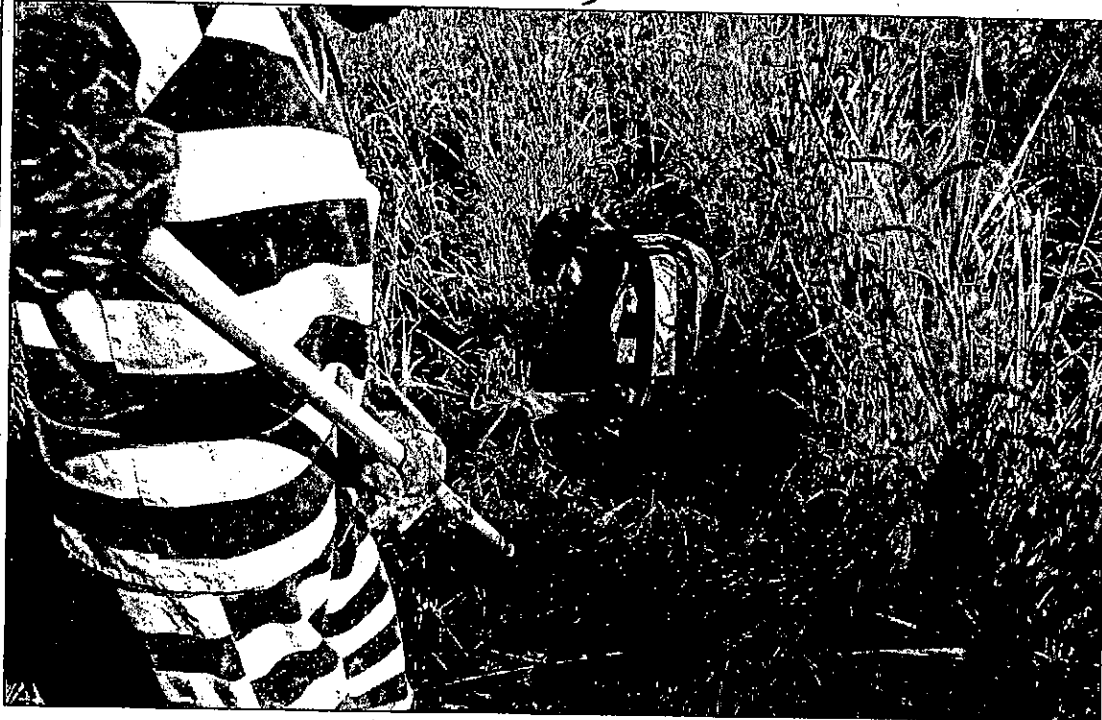
Or is there a better moral code out there hiding its light under a bushel basket?

Primitive Realpolitik served crusaders and conquistadors, supported the subjugation and genocide of native populations justified 200 years of black slavery in America, and re-emerged for 12 years of minority oppression in 20th-century Europe, leaving horrific scars that acted as anti-social behavior today. How much of this flagrant inhumanity to man is enough?

But if fear is a stronger motivation than enlightened benevolence, look east to where a billion energetic people are rapidly absorbing Western technology complete with superstructure, ideas and peculiar institutions. While we are busy self-destructing, that proud and ancient country is mastering the game of musical chairs.

Robert D. Wheat





Two inmates tend to crops in the Kane County Female Inmate Garden next to the jail. Tribune photo by Carl Wagner

# Life lessons in a garden

## Female inmates discover new values as they grow crops

Can a tomato teach work ethics? Can a corn crop cultivate a sense of community?

The answer is yes, according to participants in the Kane County Female Inmate Garden.

The program, initiated about nine years ago by Sheriff Ken Ramsey, allows qualifying female jail inmates to work outside tending a 2-acre vegetable and perennial garden adjacent to the jail on Fabyan Parkway in Batavia, or across the street in a 3-acre field of corn.

With the help of volunteer gardeners, the inmates get a chance to learn about the natural ecosystem in the gardens.

"I love doing this," said Barbara Cizza, a master gardener who has been volunteering with the program, along with Jayne Cates of St. Charles, also a master gardener, for six years.

Cates said inmates learn the difference between good insects and bad, a vegetable sprout and

a weed, and even the role a pair of hawks, which are often perched nearby, play in pest control.

Officer Trudy Felipos, who guards the gardeners, said she witnesses a budding sense of pride among them. Many even return to tell her how they're doing.

"Most of them tell me they have continued to garden, even if it's only a container garden on a balcony," Felipos said.

One former inmate discovered a passion for plants and turned it into a full-time career maintaining a local golf course, Felipos said.

While gardening, inmates get a taste of the daily routine of working. "Some of these women have never had jobs before," Cizza said.

The garden's produce is sold at a low cost to the public. All proceeds go to local charities that benefit women, and extra produce is donated to homeless shelters and even served in the jail.

Produce and perennial plants are available for sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday until the first frost, from a stand at Fabyan Parkway and Raddant Road in Batavia.

### HOW TO CONTACT US

Comments, questions and suggestions about articles in this section are welcome. Write:

**Terry Brown, bureau chief**

2000 York Road, Suite 115 Oak Brook, IL 60523

Call: 630-368-4269 Fax: 630-368-4266 Or e-mail: west@tribune.com

Chronicle  
8-21-04

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2004 PAGE 13A

day. You can put up as many lights and ball fields as you need. We have lived in Campton Township for more than 10 years. I drive past the park located on the corner of Peck and Campton frequently. Those fields are empty six months out of the year. The remaining six months you have active recreation for the area children, who, as we know, can use as much organized activity as possible. Just stand on that corner and look in all directions and ask yourself, which would you prefer? I know what I would prefer to see every day and that would be the view of the well-groomed green space as opposed to the cement and stucco. So, please, give them the congestion. I'll take the green space.

### No name change

I myself and others should be outraged at the idea of changing the Blackhawk Forest Preserve to the Jon Duerr Forest Preserve. This is a historical place, a historical setting in which there actually was a conflict between the Confederates and the Blackhawk Indians. This should not be done.

### Trade spaces

This is an open note to Campton Township Open Space Committee members and the Campton Township Parks and Recreation regarding the Poyner Park. Please, please, I beg of you, because you are receiving opposition from a few outspoken individuals regarding the proposed Poyner Park active recreation facility, located on Empire and Swanberg roads, see if you can trade the property with the developer that has proposed 1,200 three-story condos slated for the intersection of Beith and Anderson roads in my back yard of Campton Township. I would much rather look out at 120 acres of well-groomed green space than see cement and stucco with more than 2,000 additional cars traveling my roadways every single day, every hour of the

irresponsible.

### Courts need overhaul

I'm calling in regard to a recent article about a Hispanic man in Kane County court who was mistakenly put up for murder charges when, in fact, he was only in jail for a motor vehicle violation. Another recent story told of a gentleman who had not been transferred to McHenry County Jail from Kane for a court date and, in fact, had tried to escape and broke his legs. I recently had an incident where a driver supervision was inadvertently put into a computer by a court clerk, who turned my supervision into a probation violation and the state issued a warrant for my arrest. Unannounced to me because the state is so far behind, I was arrested by undercover state troopers on Randall Road and subsequently sent to jail in McHenry County, where I was told that by showing my documents from court I would be allowed to go home. When I showed said documents, I was asked by the judge if I had bond money. I said that I did not, and he said he hoped I enjoy my stay at McHenry County Jail until my court date. I spent a night in jail with a bunch of violent criminals from Kane County who were transferred to McHenry. I am a medical professional. My driving record is tarnished. I am a probation violator now and, subsequently, it won't be erased from my record unless I spend more money in McHenry County to get this taken care of. Our court system here between McHenry and Kane needs a serious overhaul and I just wanted to bring that to light.

### Park disservice

I am trying to understand why people have to change the names of things. I'm just reading the paper today. Tuesday, Aug. 3, and Blackhawk Forest Preserve was a nice name for that place and now you have to call it some silly name that doesn't make any sense. So I agree with the men in this article. You are doing Blackhawk a disservice by renaming the park.

8-23-04 Beacon News

# Kane County sheriff's office warns of Internet scam artists

The Kane County's sheriff's office is issuing a warning to residents and businesses that there has been a marked increase in the cases of Internet-related fraud complaints.

Scammers attempt to obtain personal information or offer nonexistent or damaged goods for sale through on-line auction services.

They approach their victims via e-mail, fax, telephone and occasionally by hard-copy letters referring back to internet-based transactions. In order to appear legitimate, their Web sites and communications might include language that sounds credible.

It is not difficult for scammers to construct official looking documents and Web pages, which appear to come from reputable businesses. It is also easy for them to disguise the origin of their e-mail messages and Web pages.

These Internet portals often require the completion of official-looking forms requesting personal

information, such as a person's date of birth, place of work, mother's maiden name, etc. Treat any unexpected telephone calls or e-mails offering "too good to be true" deals as being suspicious.

The sheriff's office suggests several tips to avoid becoming a victim of Internet fraud:

- Check contact details including physical address, country, e-mail and phone. If it's a business, check the terms and conditions of sales, its refund policy and internal

complaints procedure.

- Get clear and accurate information about the goods or services offered for sale, which should include description, price information and any limitations on purchases.

- Check that prices disclose the type of currency.

- Check requirements to pay taxes or duty on purchase.

- Postage-delivery costs should be itemized separately from the cost of the goods.

- Check for information on cancellations, returns or refunds and keep a copy of the return policy for future reference.

- If paying for the goods or services on-line, check to see if the transaction has secure payment facilities available and whether the browser is secure and encrypts personal and payment information.

- For example, look for a close padlock symbol or information stating that information is encrypted, or a Web site address

- or business.

- Research Urban Legends and Hoaxes Web sites, search bulletin boards for information on the seller

- or business.

that begins with "https."

- Credit card companies have some protections against the unauthorized use of a credit card.

- Retain a complete record of the transaction.

- Avoid doing business with sellers who use free e-mail services where a credit card wasn't required to open an account.

- Research Urban Legends and Hoaxes Web sites, search bulletin boards for information on the seller

- or business.

What's makes Knack House different?

aren.

8-21-04

## Jail shopping *BEACON NEWS*

I would like to know why someone incarcerated in the Kane County Jail needs a Link Card?

## Pricey pets

8-22-04  
*Chronicle*



**Greg  
Rivara**

# Truth and lies

One businesswoman said a potential competitor did not have the needed equipment to enter the market. In fact, it does.

One government administrator said there was not a significant increase in the cost of a specific service. In fact, the increase was zero.

One political leader said the new program was a windfall for central Kane County. In fact, the money already had been budgeted.

There always have been shades of gray when it comes to interpreting the outcome of a series of facts. After all, people form different opinions from the same event. But the facts themselves always have been pretty much black and white.

For example, we can debate how appropriate it is for city officials in St. Charles to consider redeveloping First Street. However, there can be no debate that city officials are considering such a redevelopment.

We can debate whether Alan Keyes' residence in Maryland should be fodder for his U.S. Senate candidacy in Illinois. However, there can be no debate that Keyes calls Maryland home.

We can disagree on the series of events that prompted the United States to use military force in Iraq. But there is no doubt we have soldiers in that foreign land.

So what should be done with the business leader, the government administrator, the political leader? Their assertions were not a shortsighted application of the facts. Their assertions were false. They

distorted the truth. They did so willfully.

Most newspaper reporters expect spin from government and business leaders. The convenient compilation of facts to support one's argument is the very essence of debate.

But insisting the sky is green when everyone can see it is blue? How should we react?

Better question: Why is it that some people in leadership positions find it necessary to brazenly twist the truth? Is it a lack of respect for those they serve? A feeling of inadequacy in their ability to navigate the crisis? A sense of superiority that they know better than the rest and therefore will not get caught?

Years ago, while making a living covering police and prosecutors and elected officials who actually had to work to be elected, there was no question on how to handle such people. You exposed them. Immediately. Brutally. Publicly.

Today, we are encouraged to privately set people straight. To give them the benefit of the doubt that they simply were misinformed and mistakenly passed along bad information. To take a moment and remind them that bad news revealed through the truth always is better than bad news exposed through a lie.

• *Greg Rivara is the Kane County Chronicle managing editor and co-host of Kane County News and Views each Wednesday at noon at WBIG 1280 AM. He can be contacted directly at (630) 845-5355 or by e-mail at [grivara@kcchronicle.com](mailto:grivara@kcchronicle.com)*

"Our aim:  
To fear God,  
tell the truth  
and make money."

H.C. Paddock  
1852-1935

# Opinion

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## Not thinking ahead:

It's nice enough, we suppose, that Dennis Haster delivered \$750,000 in grant money for up to 10 new Elgin police officers. Given it had to create a phone tax to fund six new officers, one might expect the city to use the grant for those officers and then maybe four more, rolling back part of the tax as a result. But, of course not. It is thinking of adding 16 officers now, despite a declining crime rate and the fact the grant requires the city to pick up 25 percent of the cost from the get-go and 100 percent after three years. No doubt it will be shocked to discover it can't cover its operations costs three years from now.

## Flare-up of interest:

It is not often you see a primary for municipal offices, but you could see one in North Aurora next year. A couple of weeks after North Aurora Trustee Dale Berman declared his candidacy for village president, Trustee

## Our View

John Hansen entered the fray. At least two others are thinking of entering the race, and one more would force a primary. In an area that sees a number of unopposed races for city government spots, this would be a welcome change for voters.

## All about leadership:

Oh, how the tales they do change. First, The Centre, Elgin's 2-year-old public recreation center, was going to pay its own way, even generate some profits. Now, it has been declared a "gift to the community" that won't pay its own way but will deliver important intangibles instead. "You can't get the bottom line by looking at the bottom line," said Mayor Ed Schock. And other council members want to make matters worse by lowering rates. What hooley. The leaderless Centre and the leaderless parks department that over-

sees it both need competent management. Until they have it, any major policy changes will be premature and ill-considered.

## Show of support:

Despite having the knowledge that one's boy has fought for his country, there is little one can do to console a parent who must bury a teenage son. But sometimes a community can help. When the Collins family of Crystal Lake buried 19-year-old Jonathan on Tuesday, people came by the hundreds to line the street and wave American flags or signs of encouragement as the hearse and the family drove by. This, his mother said, helped her. "He might have made a difference," Angel Collins said.

## Sound musical message:

Though their first attempt at using entertainment to draw young voters to the electoral process got a chilly reception in front of the Algonquin village

board, Kye Larson of West Dundee and Cristian Mach of Gilberts get credit for learning in a big hurry the first rule of politics — persistence pays. Now it looks as though one of their original food vendors will host their Musicians Political Awareness Fest in an unincorporated area near East Dundee instead. Their music fest will carry a healthy message, one all citizens could stand to hear: Get involved and vote.

## Kudos for loyalty:

Small-town police departments often are plagued by rapid turnover of officers looking to trade up to bigger departments and more opportunities for advancement. So it is commendable that 30 years after he started with the tiny Sleepy Hollow force as a part-time officer, Jim Montalbano is still hard at work, getting up every day at 5 a.m. "I've been lucky," says the 64-year-old, who was named Sleepy Hollow's chief 15 years ago. "The village has been so good to me." And you to it, chief.

FR 8-21-04

Daily Herald  
Saturday  
Soapbox

Some opinions require  
lots of words and  
elaboration. Some don't.  
This is Saturday  
Soapbox, briefly stated  
commentary from the  
Daily Herald's editors.



8-22-04 Daily Herald  
**Cougars attendance  
catches attention of  
big league teams**

Within the next six to seven home games, the Kane County Cougars should reach an impressive 500,000 mark in total attendance.

That's a lot of fans going through the gates for Class A baseball action and family fun at Ellstrom Stadium in Geneva this year.

This kind of success apparently has caused major league franchises to take notice — in a somewhat negative way.

In the future, major league teams won't allow a minor league team to locate within a 90-mile radius with the establishment of what baseball people are calling the "Cougars clause."

I suspect the Cubs don't particularly feel threatened by a Class A club drawing more than 500,000 fans a season, but the White Sox are likely wishing a few of those would stroll their way.

**Start the re-election engines:**

Next summer, St. Charles Mayor Sue Klinkhamer will take over as the vice chairman of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, which was formed in 1995 and consists of 271 suburban collar county municipalities and the city of Chicago.

Klinkhamer will be involved in studying the legislative — specifically school reform — housing and economic development issues for the region. She was eligible for this lofty status because of her role as president of the DuKane Valley Mayors and Administrators.

This sounds like a mayor who intends to seek re-election. She hasn't made an official announcement, but it appears Klinkhamer will be seeking another term.

If re-elected next March, another term would give Klinkhamer 20 years of service as mayor or alderman in the city. Folks in political arenas like the sound of 20 years when reflecting on their public service.

**Take time to stop:**

A reader in the Hampshire area is asking that I again remind bicycle riders that they have to follow the rules of the road.

My past columns about bike riders, motorists and pedestrians struggling for their space ignited some interesting commentary from readers — for about a month!

In this case, the reader is telling me "a herd of bike riders" failed to stop at a stop sign on Brier Hill Road, nearly causing a serious accident at the nearby Route 47/Route 72 intersection.

She claims if those bike riders would have been young boys on skateboards, everyone "would have been up in arms."

Skateboarders cruising around Routes 47 and 72? Well, at least I get the point — and agree.

**Some research time:**

Batavia High School basketball coach Jim Roberts and Mayor Jeff Schielke have had their "historian" hats on lately.



**Dave Heun**  
*Talk of the Town*

Apparently, when time allows, they have been researching the birth of high school sports at Batavia High School and in the Tri-Cities in general. The reason? They are speculat-

ing that we should be celebrating 100 years of prep sports in the valley here within the next few years.

What kind of celebration that means is open to the imagination at this point, but it appears Roberts and Schielke are getting a decent jump on things.

So far, they have found a record of a basketball game taking place in 1907.

They believe football was also being played then, but they are not certain just yet.

It's quite possible that the local prep sports scene will be 100 years old within the next few years.

Get out the party favors!

**Another golf chance:**

As if a round of regular golf isn't frustrating enough, now I'm hearing about a new sport that could be equally annoying.

In the St. Charles Park District's master plan for Campton Hills Park, a disc golf course is planned to the north of Campton Hills Road.

Rather than funnel my anger through the use of a bag of clubs and a small white ball, this game offers doing that with a Frisbee. Imagine trying to flip a Frisbee toward a target or, in this case, a hanging basket that serves as the "golf" hole.

Actually, it sounds like fun. The park district is promoting this as a great fitness activity for all ages. I'm not sure about the fitness aspects, but the mental challenge should be equal to a round of traditional golf.

**A fashion statement:**

I've been happily married for 20 years, partly because my wife and I still look out for each other's best interests.

"You're going to have a bad year," she recently warned.

"And why is that?" I asked.

"Because the fashion this year is for jeans to be flared at the bottom, so you can wear heels with them," she answered, while paging through a catalog displaying women's fashions.

Yes, I was as dumbfounded as you may be at this point.

"What does that have to do with me?" I asked.

She always tells me the truth.

"It will make you look even shorter."

Ah yes, marital bliss.

**Tell me your talk:**

I can be reached at [dheun@earthlink.net](mailto:dheun@earthlink.net), calling 630-561-1986, faxing 630-208-4806, or mailing to Dave Heun, Daily Herald, 3805 E. Main St., Suite A, St. Charles, IL 60174.

A reporter's only as good as his sources, so be a good source. OK?



# Sugar Grove police chief hangs on to roots

BY LESLIE HAGUE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer



## Sunday Spotlight

one of a handful of families he remembers being around for several generations. "There's not many of us around anymore," he said. The families, he does remember sticking around are often the ones who are involved in public life or volunteering, he said. Sauer's grandfather was on the Kane County Board and was a forest preserve commissioner. He helped build the Sugar Grove Community House. His father served on the village's plan commission and the fire department. "We always were pretty

family for 85 years. With the exception of two years at college, Sauer spent his whole life in Sugar Grove. From his myriad jobs, including forest preserve president, Kane County Board member and member of the Sugar Grove police department, plus growing up with a father and grandfather involved in the city and county, Sauer does know a lot of trivia. He knows that the back

See GROW on PAGE 12

# GROW: Chief still considers himself a farmer

Continued from Page 1

well involved in the village and the county," he said. Sauer would rather talk about his police force than himself. Although, inevitably more crime will come with the village's growth, Sauer has worked in his two years as chief, the first six months of those as an interim chief, to keep the small-town feel in the police department. Several years ago, riding in a car with another officer, a car passed them on the street and Sauer waved. "Who was that?" the other officer asked. "I don't know," Sauer replied. "Well, then why did you do that?" the officer demanded. "You need to give out the appearance that hey, you can talk to me," Sauer said later. "Because even if you don't know who they are, they probably know who you are." He wants police officers to

**Brad Sauer**  
Jobs: Sugar Grove police chief  
Former jobs: Farming, Kendall County sheriff's police, Kane County Board, Kane County Forest Preserve president, Sugar Grove Police Department  
The name game: Sauer Family Prairie Kame on Lasher Road was named for the three

generations of Sauers working for the village and county. Softball stories: Two of Sauer's life-changing decisions were made on the softball field. He decided to become a police officer after being on a softball team with several Illinois state troopers. He also met his wife, Dawn, through a friend he made through softball.

university to eventually take over the services. He ran the police department's first Citizens Police Academy this spring and plans to make it an annual training program. He likes to spend his free time with his wife of 22 years, Dawn, a teacher at Kane and John Shields Elementary

## School

He also helps out at his family's farm, taking vacation days to help his father plant corn and soybeans in the spring and harvest in the fall. He still considers himself a farmer. "That's where the roots are," he said. If several developments proposed are built in the area, the farm will be surrounded by houses and stores in several years.

But development isn't a new idea in Sugar Grove, and Sauer has had time to get used to the idea. "It's gonna boom" — we kept hearing that all through the '70s," Sauer said. "I've been pre-programmed for it. Now, in the next century, it's happening — big time."



MARY BETH NOLAN/DAILY HERALD  
Sugar Grove Police Chief Brad Sauer teaches proper technique in a session of firearms training at a meeting of the department's citizens police academy.

11M

"Third inning is a great inning of for a beer!" I bark.  
It might be a cheesy line, but at least it got some looks ..."

Heath Hixson



Photos by Bob Gerrard — Chronicle photo staff

Kane County Chronicle reporter Heath Hixson sells beer during a Kane County Cougars game.

# SALES PITCH



Director of Catering Mike Klafehn, right, gives Hixson a load of cold beer. As many as 20 vendors will work at Elfstrom Stadium during a Cougars game.

## Ballpark vendors play roles in celebrating America's pastime

If this journalist thing doesn't work out, I might have to look into singing beers at the ballpark as a future money maker.

Where better to find out how to peddle pints than at the neighborly confines of Elfstrom Stadium, the home of the Kane County Cougars.

After pulling a regular shift at work, I set out a little late to the stadium on Aug. 10. I managed to show up during the second inning. Vendors are usually selling about 30 minutes before first pitch.

It was a cold night, probably one of the coldest in the summer. The temperature hovered at about 60 degrees.

I wondered whether selling hot coffee would be a better route than cold beer.

The night before, I spent watching the usual vendors work the aisles and sell their beer to a crowd that wasn't really interested in purchasing much beer. It was church night.

Afterward, the vendors asked me if I was ready.

"No, not really. I think those stairs are going to kill me," I said.



*Note to Readers: On the Clock is a recurring series allowing Kane County Chronicle reporters to spend a day in someone else's job and share their experiences. The series continues with Heath Hixson spending a night at the ballpark as a concessions vendor for the Kane County Cougars.*

See CLOCK, page 5



Bob Gerard — Chronicle photo staff

Hixson opens a beer for a customer at a Kane County Cougars game. Vendors receive 15 percent of their gross sales, which is equivalent to 13.5 percent after taxes. They are paid 100 percent through commission.

## Clock: Vendors need the drive, right attitude to sell

Continued from page 1

### 'Good summer job'

Cougars director of catering Mike Klafehn said he usually has 10 to 20 vendors working the stadium on a game night. Many of them are teachers looking for some extra cash during the summer and college and high school students.

"How much money they make depends on how hard they work and hustle," Klafehn said. "You got to be outgoing... have a personality to get the tips."

I showed up near the bottom of the second inning. The plan was to sell one load of 24, 16-ounce, plastic bottles of beers. They took pity on me and gave me Miller beers because they sell faster.

At Elfstrom, Miller products are the big seller. Miller Lite is more popular than Miller Genuine Draft. Budweiser products capture half the sales of Miller. Heineken and Amstel Light are the third popular of all the "flavors," as they are described.

The vendors told me about the beer records this year: On July 4, \$1,190 worth of Miller products were sold by one vendor. The vendor earned about \$160 in commission. Vendors receive 15 percent of their gross sales, which works out to about 13.5 percent after taxes. They receive tips, but declaring those is up to them.

Vendors are paid 100 percent through commission.

"The money is good," said John O'Donnell, 47, of Aurora, "Good summer job. People here are great." O'Donnell is a Marmon Academy theology and English teacher. He has worked at the stadium since it opened in 1991.

Chris Morkert, 34, of Batavia, is a middle school teacher and working his first year as a vendor. He likes the job for a similar reason.

"I enjoy baseball, enjoy being outside, looking for extra cash," he said. "Love hanging out with the fans, like talking to them. It is a good time."

### 'Beer! Cold Beer!'

The harness they wrapped around my shoulders and waist clicked into a square, hard-plastic tray that holds the beer case. I had trouble adjusting the straps to my frame. It seemed like a shaky start.

I was given an apron, and cashier Jennifer Benson, 18, of Batavia, counted out \$60 in \$1s and \$5s to make change. I was told to keep the cash in my left hand for easy access and stash \$10s and \$20s in the apron.

They loaded my tray up with beer. The container had a little weight, but not as heavy as I had first thought. It just seemed a little awkward.

"I wonder if I will see anyone I know," I thought to myself.

Klafehn scooped some ice from a container and spread it on top of the beer. He said the ice largely is for show.

At the top of the third inning, I was ready. With a deep breath, I set off into the deck of the concourse. Klafehn followed me.

The weight of the beer pulled me forward, but as I walked, I adjusted the tray moving side to side.

I remembered what the vendors told me: other vendors were better at selling beer.

They also said disposition was important.

"You got to have a certain attitude," said George Hemberger, 47, Naperville, a community organizer. "They have to be able to look at you and see that you are into it."

Hemberger is a rookie this year. "Beer! Cold Beer! Miller! Miller Lite!" I started barking.

### 'Perfect timing'

Breezing through the deck area, my sales call did not capture any interest. My first descent down the stairs was in Sections 118-117.

"Beer, cold beer. Beer. Here. Miller. Miller Lite."

As I walked down stairs — my left hand filled with cash — I grasped the rail to help keep my balance.

By the time I hit the bottom of the aisle, there were no takers. I headed back up the stairs.

"People are looking at me. They seem like they want a beer. But maybe they are just laughing at me stumble up these stairs," I thought at the time.

*"How much money they make depends on how hard they work and hustle. You got to be outgoing... have a personality to get the tips."*

Mike Klafehn  
director of catering  
for the Kane County Cougars

"Maybe I need another pitch."

"Who wants a beer?" I said.

A young lady said, "Me."

"Perfect timing," she said.

It was my first sale. I had only 23 to go.

On top of the stairs, Klafehn reminded me, "Heath remember to take off the cap." Vendors remove the caps to prevent a fan from leaving the park with a beer.

My first sale was tarnished.

Onto the next section I went. No sales. I moved onto another section.

"Third inning is a great inning for a beer!" I bark.

It might be a cheesy line, but at least it got some looks. I made a couple of sales in Section 116-115. The sales made me feel more comfortable.

Even though there was a baseball game in front of me, I had no clue what was happening.

"When we get out there, it is about business," Morkert told me the previous night. "We work."

All I wanted to do was sell some beer.

"Beer! Ice cold beer! Miller! Miller Lite!" I called.

I sold at least six beers in the next two aisles and got a \$1 tip. I remembered the caps. My tray was half full.

### Greeting the customers

Moving from the third-base concourse to the first-base concourse, I took a short cut under the press box behind home plate. I ran into a U.S.

Army soldier that I recently interviewed.

He said he was going back to Iraq the next day. I wanted to give him the beer, but wasn't sure about the stadium policy. The soldier gave me \$5 and said "be safe."

I told him, "No, you be safe."

He seemed to be in high spirits.

In the next aisle, I heard, "Heath."

Sure enough, I ran into a person I have interviewed on several occasions.

"I didn't know that you double-dip," he said.

I explained the story to him and his wife, which drew understanding nods. He bought a beer.

I hit the stairs of the next two aisles, but only sold one beer. That left me with one Miller Lite and four Miller Genuine Drafts.

"Cold beer. Miller. Miller Lite. Beer. Beer, here!" I said.

Being my own worst critic, I thought, "I just can't get that 'beer here' snap like the other beer vendors." My sales pitch seemed to be more of a flat, baritone shout.

A lady in the next aisle bought my final Miller Lite, leaving me with four Miller Genuine Drafts.

Right after the sale, I heard, "Foul ball."

My first instinct was to duck with hands over head, even though I was carrying a tray full of melted ice swishing with four loose beers. I almost toppled over. A few fans chuckled.

The ball landed far off to the left. "That's it," I thought. I called it a night due to my depleted beer supply.

### Call it a day

I walked into the room where the cashier was sitting, and set the tray down on the table.

"How did it go?" Benson asked.

"It went all right," I said, not knowing whether 20 beers in 40 minutes, or about one inning, was a good sale.

She said I owed \$100 first to pay off the beer. Vendors are given the first load on credit and then use their sales to pay it off and get another load. A case of Miller is \$120, \$5 a beer.

I paid off the 20 beers and the bank of \$60. I had \$1 left over — my only tip of the night. Maybe I should have given more change in \$1s.

I gave Jennifer the tip. Vendors usually share their tips with the cashiers.

My beer run ended at the bottom of the fourth inning. I spent about 30 to 40 minutes slinging pints of Miller. If it would have been on commission, I would have pulled \$15 for that period, about \$13.50 after taxes. That's not bad for less than an hour of work.

I told Jennifer and others that my back and lower legs were probably going to hurt the next day. Both of my calves hurt for the next two days.

After my vendor tour was completed, I walked around the stadium. I spotted Hemberger and bought a beer from him. I assumed it probably had been a rough night for him, as he was selling Budweiser on a cold night. I remembered to slip him a tip.

Beer in hand and a few innings left of the game, I remembered what Klafehn said the night before when I asked him about his perspective of where the "beer guy" fit into the baseball game.

"Goes right along with hotdog," he said. "You get a hotdog and you get a beer."

# Hampshire officials push for transition fees

8-23-04 Chronicle

## Trustees to determine which services will benefit from fees tonight

By MEGAN EDWARDS  
Shaw News Service

**HAMPSHIRE** — Trustee Tom Brown wants a new fee imposed on future developers to soften the blow of an increasing population.

"The transition fees are like a parachute jumper trying for a soft landing," Brown said. "We're not trying to crash a meteor or make a hard impact for anyone."

Brown and other finance committee members want to charge developers at least \$3,000 per home in transition fees. The money is meant to

cover costs as new residents use libraries, schools and parks before their property taxes are collected.

The transition fees will be charged on top of an average of \$23,000 per home in impact fees, which cover sewer and water connection, road maintenance costs and other village services.

Trustees will determine which village services will benefit from the fees during tonight's meeting, Brown said.

Pasquinelli, Development Group will be affected first by the fees.

Project manager Keith Berg said he expects to finalize the

Tuscany Woods development agreement with village officials during a Sept. 2 village board meeting.

The development would include 369 houses, 124 duplexes and 148 townhouses at Route 72 and Romke Road.

If the agreement is approved, Pasquinelli could start building in spring 2005.

But Berg said the firm must see how the fees will be allocated before entering into the agreement.

"It's kind of hard for us to agree to something before we see it in writing," Berg said.

He said the fees could increase the cost of new homes built in the village, depending on the real estate market.

"(The fee) just affects the ability to have the homes priced appropriately," Berg said.

### Transition fees

- Hampshire officials expect to charge at least \$3,000 per home in a new transition fee to future developers. Officials want to give \$2,000 per home to District 300. The village could receive \$800 per home. The park district, library and fire department could get roughly \$100 each from each new home.

Trustee Orris Ruth wonders whether the higher cost of new homes will affect property taxes for current residents. If his research discovers that higher taxes would burden homeowners, he might not support instituting the fees.

"Transition fees are nice, but everyone pays," Ruth said.

8-24-04 Chicago Tribune

# Kane clerk wants more security

## Cameras sought to cut vandalism

By William Presecky  
Tribune staff reporter

Concerns about safety and fears of escalating vandalism to employees' vehicles have prompted an appeal for more security at the Kane County circuit clerk's headquarters in St. Charles.

Circuit Clerk Deborah Seyller wants \$30,000 reinstated in her proposed 2005 budget for a security camera system

to monitor the exterior of her main office at 540 S. Randall Rd. She said she will seek the support of the County Board's Judiciary Committee.

"Many of my managers, supervisors and employees have experienced uncomfortable situations and potentially dangerous situations in all areas of the parking lot," Seyller said.

Seyller and about 100 county employees occupy about half of the 90,000-square-foot former Montgomery Ward store. The circuit clerk's operations were moved to the Randall Road location from rented space in Geneva in

mid-2001. The county's plan calls for other offices eventually to be relocated in the building.

Since the relocation three years ago "employees have experienced increased amounts of vandalism to their vehicles," Seyller said.

Damage, some of it as high as \$2,500, has included deliberate key scratches, stolen headlights, broken or removed windshield wipers, and paint splattered on vehicles, she said.

Although lighting around the 9.5-acre site is adequate, "there is a strong need for the

outside security cameras," she said. Besides improving safety, the cameras would "provide evidence for prosecution purposes, which will be the biggest deterrent," she said.

Seyller said she believes most of the problems are unrelated to any circuit clerk-related business.

In addition to the vandalism, Seyller said loitering and homelessness have been an ongoing problem in the parking areas surrounding her office.

"Ganglike gatherings and arguments just short of fist-

cuffs have been observed in our back parking lot, and employees question the safety of leaving the building to go to their vehicles," Seyller said.

No county employees have been harmed in connection with any of the incidents, she said.

Monday was the final day for all county office holders and department heads to formally appeal any cuts in their proposed budgets for the fiscal year that begins Dec. 1.

The County Board's Finance Committee is scheduled to review Seyller's and other budget appeals Sept. 15.

# Kane inmates charged with mob action, battery

8-24-04 Chronicle

## Inmates were awaiting hearings when incident occurred

By DAN CAMPANA  
Kane County Chronicle

ST. CHARLES — A fight in a Kane County Judicial Center inmate-holding cell means two men have another date in court.

The inmates, Michael W. Mitchell, 20, of St. Charles, and Hector M. Mauricio, 18, of Aurora, have been charged

with mob action and battery for an apparent unprovoked Aug. 13 attack on a third inmate.

The three inmates were awaiting their respective hearings when the incident, which was recorded on a video surveillance tape, occurred.

During the altercation, Mauricio allegedly spit on a

court security officer who was attempting to break up the fight.

Prosecutors charged Mauricio with mob action and two counts of battery. He was in court on unrelated charges of possession of a firearm by a felon and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon.

Mitchell, previously charged with aggravated battery, now faces single counts of mob action and battery relating to the courthouse incident.

The two men return to court this week.

8-24-04

## Beacon News

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Thanks to Kid Card

I want to thank Captain Ron Smith of the Kane County Sheriff's Department and his volunteers for their Kid Card ID program. This program allows for vital information on children to be entered into a database to be used in case of an accident or emergency. The children receive an ID card to carry with them or in their parents' car. The kids also become exposed early on to the idea that police are people to be trusted and respected.

Captain Smith is a true gentleman who, I noticed, takes time to speak with every child and their parents about the importance of the card. Our campaign office was honored to host a Kid Card event during the Aug. 13 Downtown Alive! Eighty Kid Card IDs were issued.

I encourage all parents to call the Sheriff's office and find out about the next Kid Card ID event. Your child will be thrilled to have a personal ID and you will have the peace of mind to know that should something terrible happen to your child, help can be administered quickly.

**Bill Wyatt**  
*Aurora mayoral candidate*

Letter place

8-24-04 Beacon news

# Woodman's grocery store groundbreaking nears

■ **200-300 new jobs:**  
Grocer hopes construction will be finished by next fall

By **Brian Shields**

Special to the Beacon News

**NORTH AURORA** — The long wait for a Woodman's grocery to break ground at the Orchard Road corridor might end next week.

The Village Board was set to approve Monday the annexation and zoning of the 30 acres of land the Wisconsin-based grocery chain is trying to buy at the southeast corner of Orchard Road and Oak Street.

However, there has been a delay as Woodman's has waited to close on the property, and the deal still wasn't complete by Monday afternoon.

So the board voted to call a special meeting for Aug. 30 to give the grocer enough time to close on

the land. The special meeting will allow Woodman's to begin work on Sept. 1.

The company has picked a firm to do prep work at the site, and the Kane County Highway Department has given the village the go-ahead to plan work on the intersection improvements that are part of the deal, according to Rempe-Sharpe engineer Jim Bibby.

Between 200 and 300 people will work at the 240,000 square-foot store when it opens. Woodman's hopes construction will be

completed by next fall.

Village officials have long maintained that a large grocery store would prove to be a valuable economic engine for the area and lead to more retail development.

As part of the deal, Woodman's will pay North Aurora nearly \$2.2 million for road improvements and equipment, including \$1.75 million for the installation of new stoplights at Orchard Road and Oak Street, at the North Aurora Auto Mall entrance on Orchard Road and at the entrance that will be built for

Woodman's.

Woodman's will fund the purchase of a truck with a snow plow for the Public Works Department at a cost of \$100,000 and a \$250,000 ambulance for the North Aurora Fire Protection District.

The grocer will eventually be repaid that \$2.2 million, plus an additional \$3 million, through the village's share of the sales-tax revenue over the first 15 years after the store opens, starting on New Year's Day 2006.



8-24-04 Daily Herald

# Bid process not following rules, director says

By PATRICK WALDRON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The man who handles building projects for Kane County said Monday that too often of late contracts for new construction ventures have been arranged by individual officials and not his office, as mandated by county procedures.

In making his point, Larry Briggs, the director of the

county's central services department, referred specifically to the reconstruction of the Kane County Child Advocacy Center, the repaving of a parking lot at the county government center and the contract for a new animal control facility.

Briggs said his office has been getting calls from potential architects and builders upset that the county's bid system

wasn't centralized, in essence

putting up bureaucratic roadblocks to those companies.

"They are on the phone with us and some are getting rather rude saying, 'This is a bunch of bologna,'" Briggs said.

Briggs' complaint to the county board's administration committee came after a summer of high-profile projects moving forward but each with a point person outside the central services department.

For example, the parking lot was steered by board Chairman Mike McCoy, an Aurora Republican, while board member Lee Barrett took the lead on the animal control facility. Briggs

said he was aware of the animal control bid process but that most of the specifics were handled by Barrett, an East Dundee Republican.

Briggs never suggested any improper behavior on the part

of any elected officials running individual projects, but did say such a trend complicates his job and duties.

Briggs' comments prompted Penelope Cameron, an Aurora Republican, to suggest the administration committee write a letter to all elected officials that says the job of approving bids is dedicated to a specific committee.

Gerry Jones, an Aurora Demo-

crat, countered by saying the administration committee should stop short of that course and opt to simply talk to fellow officials and avoid "offending" anyone.

"We should probably talk to our colleagues and see what's going on," Jones said. "We have to find out why this is happening."

That's the course the committee decided to take.

standards on state tests in order to make adequate yearly progress were

8-26-04 Beacon news

# West Nile prevention critical as summer ends

By **Angela Fornelli**  
STAFF WRITER

**AURORA** — Don't let the recent cool temperatures fool you into thinking you won't get bit by a mosquito as summer comes to an end.

Despite a reduced number of biting mosquitoes because of early summer flooding and cooler temperatures, an increased number of the type of mosquito that carries West Nile Virus can be found during late summer and early fall, the Kane County Health Department warns.

"Believe me, they are in your shrubs and in your bushes," said Fred Carlson, director of environmental health for the department.

Humans can become infected with West Nile Virus after being bitten by an infected mosquito; mosquitoes become infected after biting a bird that harbors the illness. The potentially fatal

virus can cause inflammation of the brain or lining of the brain and spinal cord in humans.

The number of birds and mosquitoes found with the virus in Kane County this year has already surpassed that of the entire season in 2003, Carlson said. The season ends in late September.

Ten birds and six mosquito batches have tested positive for the virus this year in Kane County, compared to 11 birds and three mosquito batches last year, Carlson said. No human cases have been reported in either year for Kane County.

In Illinois this year, 49 counties have reported a total of nine human cases, 154 positive birds, 570 positive mosquito batches and three positive horses or other animals, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health Web site.

Carlson advised that people wear longer clothing and use

bug spray with DEET as summer picnics and sporting events continue through September. If possible, people should avoid being outside at dusk and avoid going near bushes, he said.

He said there is potential to be bitten by mosquitoes "until it starts cooling in the evening and until the first frost."

"We know the mosquitoes are out there ... they've just been less active because of the unusually cool weather," Carlson said. "If it gets warm — as it has the past couple of days — they will come out of their hiding places and tend to be more active and looking for a blood meal."

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8-26-04 Daily Herald

## Circuit clerk requests cameras to cut down vandalism at office

BY PATRICK WALDRON  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

Continuing acts of vandalism outside her office has Kane County Circuit Court Clerk Deb Seyller asking for the installation of outdoor security cameras.

Seyller told the county board's judicial committee Wednesday that employees cars and the building have been vandalized during the last two years.

The clerk's office is located on Randall Road in St. Charles. In a three-page letter to board members, Seyller outlined more

than a dozen instances of damage to cars and describes the area behind the clerk's office as a place of loitering and even a hangout for homeless people.

"The other concern is for the safety and well-being of our clerks entering and leaving the building," Seyller wrote to the committee. "Many of my managers, supervisors and employees have experienced uncomfortable and potentially dangerous situations in all areas of our parking lot."

The clerk's office moved to the

See CLERK on PAGE 14

Continued from Page 1

DAILY HERALD SECTION 1 PAGE 15

F3

# Clerk: Police support request for cameras

Continued from Page 1

site of a former Montgomery Ward at 540 S. Randall Road in June 2001. Most employees park behind and to the south of the building.

The lot behind the clerk's office backs up to the

Charleston Park Apartments and is separated by a five-foot-high chain link fence. "The fence is really worthless and just collects garbage," Seyller said.

The lot to the south is larger and sits between the office and a strip mall to the south.

Even if the fence were in

better shape, committee members conceded such a barrier likely wouldn't keep people out of a large public parking lot.

With that noted, the committee embraced Seyller's call for the \$30,000 needed for four cameras. The cameras will be mounted on the office roof.

St. Charles police spokesman Paul McCurtain said a check of computer records showed 16 incidents in which officers have responded to the clerk's office this year. Of those calls, one was for a curfew violation, one was for a suspicious person and another was for a suspicious

automobile. No criminal damage complaints at the clerk's office were on record this year.

McCurtain said many of the incidents drawing the ire of the clerk's office may not have been reported or were reported from different addresses. Whatever

the statistics, McCurtain said the department would support the cameras. "We welcome any increases in security," McCurtain said.

The judiciary committee recommended the cameras but forwarded the issue to the administration committee.

# Kane's updated phones panned

By William Presecky  
Tribune staff reporter

8-26-04  
Chicago  
Tribune

Kane County's new automated telephone system is too complicated, board members say.

"I have never reached a person that I wanted to talk to," said board member Jan Carlson (R-Elburn). "Frankly, I think it's a disgrace and it needs to be fixed."

Board member Jackie Tredup (R-Elgin) said some of her constituents opt to drive to the county government center in Geneva to speak to employees face-to-face rather than attempting to wade through the system's menu to try to do business.

"This has been a complaint for a long time," Tredup said.

"We just need to establish a policy," Carlson said, after complaining Wednesday that the automation capabilities of the roughly \$800,000 system, which includes features such as voice mail and caller ID, are being applied so extensively that in many cases they are burden to county customers.

The last of the county's more than 20-year-old phone system is scheduled to be replaced by Sept. 10 with the addition of the circuit clerk's office to the new network.

"We may have bought more [automation] than we need," said Carlson, who argued that anyone who calls the county should be able to speak directly with a county employee.

Along with developing the new system, the county has neglected to set what Carlson said should be "the policies needed to serve customers."

Roger Fahnestock, the county's information technologies director, said each department and office in the county has the discretion to employ as much or as little of the new Cisco Avid Telephone System's features as they choose.

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# Circuit Clerk asks county for security cameras

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Sketchy activity behind the Kane County Circuit Court Clerk's office in St. Charles has prompted Clerk Deborah Seyller to ask the county to purchase security cameras.

Seyller asked the Kane County Judiciary Committee Wednesday to approve a recommendation that the county board allocate \$30,000 to purchase four security cameras and related equipment to help deter vandalism and after-hours loitering at the building, 540 S. Randall Road.

She said the additional cameras would increase safety measures for employees, who have complained about their vehicles being damaged and questionable people lingering about in the parking lot when employees are entering their vehicles.

The cameras would be mounted on the roof of the building to give officials a 24-hour view of the property that

the county leases, Seyller said. The judiciary panel approved sending the recommendation to the Kane County Administration Committee, which is in charge of county offices and buildings. That panel could consider the funding request at its Sept. 27 meeting.

Kane County Board member Caryl Van Overmeiren, R-St. Charles, said the additional security cameras would not only help cut down questionable activity near the building and increase safety for employees, but also help residents in the area. The building is in her district.

"That neighborhood has a little bit of vandalism and a graffiti problem," Van Overmeiren said. "It would really help some of the neighbors in that neighborhood."

To help persuade county board members of the need for the cameras, Seyller presented a list of recent incidents that she and her employees say have taken place on the property that include various types of vandalism, loitering and

"questionable/suspicious interactions" at a fence on the building's east side that borders an apartment complex.

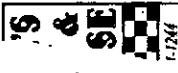
The list also alleges "gang-like gatherings and arguments just short of fistcuffs" being observed in the parking lot this spring. And it states that homeless people often are found in the parking lot, and graffiti is found on the building.

St. Charles Police Department spokesman Paul McCurtain said that since Jan. 1, officers have responded to at least 16 calls for service at the location.

Among the calls was a curfew violation, two domestic incidents and two suspicious activity calls.

But the many of the calls were related to traffic violations on Randall Road where officers ticketed the driver in the building's parking lot. Other calls involved motor-assistance and accidental damage.

The building housing the circuit clerk's office has only interior cameras, said Karin Herwick, chief deputy clerk.



8-26-04 Chronicle

# Local government to attend class

## Today's refresher course covers Open Meetings Act

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

**GENEVA** — A refresher course on Illinois' Open Meetings Act and Illinois' Freedom of Information Act will be offered today to local government officials.

The seminar will be presented by Kane County State's Attorney Meg Gorecki and her office.

The course has been an annual occurrence since Gorecki took office in 2000, said Katherine Moran, the state's attorney's civil division chief.

Scheduled to take place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the Kane County Judicial Center, the course also will include information regarding the state's new ethics laws for government offi-

cial and employees.

The state's attorney's office has invited officials from the numerous governmental bodies such as city councils, library districts and school boards.

Stephen Rotello, an assistant Illinois Attorney General, is scheduled to lead the seminar.

"It is an effort to assist the units of government and the people that serve in the units of government to understand and comply with the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act," Moran said.

The Open Meetings Act compels public bodies to conduct government business in meetings open to the public and requires notice to the public of what business will be conducted in such meetings, among other items. The act also spells out when meetings can be closed.

The Freedom of Information Act requires government bodies to allow the public to review certain types of information, including electronic documents. But the act outlines types of documents that can be withheld from the public.

The new state ethics law, which lawmakers approved in November 2003, went into effect at the beginning of this year. The law sets guidelines on accepted activity by employees and government officials such as limiting the types and amount of gifts that a public official can accept.

Gorecki on Wednesday told the Kane County Judiciary Committee that reports of violations of the open meetings and freedom of information laws are the No. 1 area of law that the state's attorney's civil division works on each week.

She said the top two complaints from the public are governmental bodies allegedly voting on a policy without proper notice and conducting business without a quorum.

# Hansen joins race for village president vacancy

8-13-04 Chronicle

## N. Aurora trustee vying with Berman

By ERIC SCHELKOPF  
Kane County Chronicle

**NORTH AURORA** — Another village trustee has decided to run for village president.

Trustee John Hansen on Thursday announced he will run for village president in the spring. He joins Trustee Dale Berman, who was village presi-

Hansen, 50, first was appointed to the village board in the 1980s. He has been on the board for 17 years, though not in consecutive terms. He last was re-elected to the board in 2003.

Hansen considers himself fiscally prudent.

"We should not overextend ourselves," Hansen said.

As a trustee, Hansen has worked to get the village's roads in smooth shape.

"We need to be constantly improving our infrastructure," Hansen said.



**Hansen**

who elected you, and it's the people who you should be listening to," Hansen said. One issue that is sure to be consid-

ered during the election is the future of the North Aurora Activity Center. Hansen said residents need a community center in the village, whether it is housed in that building or at another location.

"People need something that they feel has a local presence," Hansen said.

Berman said he favors the creation of an ad-hoc committee to determine what would be the best use of the activity center.

"We need to have the people in the village making the decision about what we need and what we don't need," Berman said.

# Group will analyze Kane's future energy needs

8-13-04 Chronicle  
Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn announces grant at Executive Committee meeting

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

**GENEVA** — A nonprofit group has launched a project to analyze Kane County's future energy needs and strategies to improve energy efficiency.

Community Energy Cooperative, a Chicago consumer group, has received a \$175,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to administer

the study.

The grant is part of Gov. Rod Blagojevich's Opportunity Returns program, an economic development initiative, and was announced Thursday at the Kane County Board's Executive Committee meeting.

One of the project's strategies is the extension of a pricing plan that charges consumers based on hourly rates. The Energy-Smart Pricing Plan charges the amount that energy costs during a par-

ticular hour. Consumers are informed about price changes the day before.

However, the analysis and Energy-Smart program will take place only in areas where residents are serviced by ComEd. Residents in the Tri-Cities are serviced by city-owned electric utilities.

The Kane County area was chosen for the project "because it is a fast-growing area, because it has already seen significant infrastructure issues," and because the area is planning for the future,



**Quinn**

said Kathryn Tholin, Community Energy Cooperative general manager.

Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn told board members that the grant and the program follow some of the recommendations put forth recently by the state's Energy Task Force, a committee appointed by the governor after the Aug. 14, 2003, blackout in the nation's Northeast.

The panel was formed to look into ways the state could avoid power outages that blanket large areas.

The grant also is a byproduct of negotiations between ComEd and area officials after the proposed power towers that were to be built on Randall Road.

Quinn said he asked the state's Department of Commerce and Economic Development to look into

## Energy efficiency

• For information on energy efficiency, visit [www.energycooperative.org](http://www.energycooperative.org)

ways to help Kane County and the areas energy needs.

While the Tri-Cities will not be serviced by the study or the pricing plan, St. Charles Electric Utility Superintendent Glynn Amburgey said the information collected from the analysis of the county's future needs would help the three cities.

"If the lights stay on in Kane County, that is good for all of us," Amburgey said. If the lights go out in Kane County, then that is bad for all of us."

8-13-04 Daily Herald

# Truck carrying bit of radioactive material rolls

BY LESLIE HAGUE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A rollover in Sugar Grove involving a pickup truck carrying a small amount of radioactive material didn't cause serious harm Thursday morning but tied up traffic for almost three hours.

The truck veered off Galena

Road about 7:30 a.m. Thursday, and a construction device containing a small amount of radioactive material rolled out.

The area was declared safe several hours later. The construction device didn't break, and even if it had, it wouldn't have been enough to pose a risk, police said.

"There was no harm or any

danger to people in the area," said Sugar Grove Police Chief Brad Sauer.

The driver of the pickup truck fell asleep, which caused the crash, Sauer said.

Fire department officials would not release the name of the driver, but the truck belonged to Schleede-Hampton Associates Inc., an engineering

consulting firm based in McHenry.

The driver was taken to Provena Mercy Center in Aurora to be treated for minor injuries.

The device that rolled out of the truck was a moisture density gauge, which is used in construction to measure groundwater content. The gauge contained a small

amount of cesium-137, a radioactive material.

In addition to the Sugar Grove Fire Department, Aurora and North Aurora hazardous material teams also responded to the incident. The state environmental protection agency and emergency management agency were at the scene as well.

amount of cesium-137, a radioactive material.

In addition to the Sugar Grove Fire Department, Aurora and North Aurora hazardous material teams also responded to the incident. The state environmental protection agency and emergency management agency were at the scene as well.

## 8-13-04 Daily Herald Officials want more affordable housing in Peck Road plan

City officials have asked a developer to consider including more affordable homes in a proposal to build 103 townhouses starting in the upper \$200,000 range.

Alderman Betsy Penny at Monday's planning and development committee meeting moved to table consideration of the 20-acre residential portion of a development planned on the northeast corner of Peck Road and Route 64.

"We've been trying to promote some not-so-expensive homes in that mix," Penny said. The proposal pushed by Elgin-based Remington Homes consists of 82 two-bedroom units and 21 three-bedroom units in addition to an 8-acre commercial area.

A plan for the property proposed by a developer in January called for 110 units, of which 38 were townhouses and 72 were less-expensive flats. Penny wants the new developer to consider

the flats. Penny, Mayor Sue Klinkhamer and other city council members have pledged to examine housing affordability issues in St. Charles. Klinkhamer recently returned from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where she spent

three weeks studying affordable housing and other topics in a program for senior executives in state and local government.

**Calories for a good cause:** The St. Charles Fire Department invites you to put the diet on hold for an hour this weekend and visit ice cream franchise Cold Stone Creamery's newest shop at the East Gate Commons shopping center (near Super-Target).

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, firefighters and paramedics will scoop ice cream, with half of sales and tips benefiting the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance burn camp and the "Fill the Boot" campaign for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Burn camp provides a safe, self-esteem-

building environment for children with significant burn injuries. "Fill the Boot" raises money for children battling muscular dystrophy.

Customers will receive free spoon samples throughout the day Saturday. The store is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Cold Stone Creamery is an independently owned franchise system with 650 stores across the country, including Geneva Commons. The ice cream is hand-crafted daily in each store and customized with a variety of candy and fruit mixed into the scoops on a frozen granite stone.

**Making room child-centered:** Superintendent Barbara Erwin

said this week she wants to create a "child-centered" school board meeting room. "If you walked in here, you might think we're an architectural firm," she said, drawing attention to the photographs of all the district schools hung on the boardroom walls.

Granted, it isn't often that students attend school board meetings, but Erwin wants the community to know "we are here for kids."

On display this week was artwork created by Haines Middle School students.

• Lisa Smith covers St. Charles, Wayne and Campton Township. To contact her, call (630) 587-8626 or send e-mail to lasmith@dailyherald.com.



Lisa Smith  
St. Charles



# 8-13-04 Daily Herald County tries to lower your electric bill

BY GARRETT ORDOWER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For most people, the difference won't make it onto their electrical bill. Today, nearly everyone pays about 88 cents per hour, no matter what. But almost 1,000 people enrolled in a pilot program that recently expanded into Kane County can choose how much they pay. In doing so, they'll help provide a model that could lead to cost savings

See ELECTRIC on PAGE 12



LAURA STOECKER/DAILY HERALD

## With care

A truck carrying a construction gauge that contained a small amount of radioactive material crashed on Galena Road in Sugar Grove Thursday. See story on Page 3.

## Electric: Cooperative points to California as a model

Continued from Page 1

County will also go a long way toward providing that model. "All of us have to be more efficient in how we use electricity," Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn said in announcing the grant to the Kane County board. "This grant is an opportunity for everyone in Kane County — a fast-growing county — to really be a model of how we plan for the future of energy."

The Energy-Smart Pricing Plan that allows participating customers to pay market prices for electricity is just one project the grant will support as it looks to changing how the electrical system evolves. The way the system works now, a small number of extra users at just the wrong time can strain the power grid to the point of blackouts and raise prices exponentially. Because those customers currently have no incentive to change the way they behave, when ComEd looks to the future, it assumes that pattern will stay the same.

The nonprofit Chicago-based Community Energy Cooperative, which received the grant, looks at the future a different

**Energy program**  
For more information about the Energy-Smart Pricing Plan, which can lead to savings of up to 20 percent on electricity, call (773) 266-4637 or visit [energycooperative.org](http://energycooperative.org). The program is open to ComEd customers only, not those in the 11 cities that receive municipal electricity.

way. Instead of trying to figure out how much power it needs to meet demand, it examines how to change demand itself, and in turn lay the groundwork for a grid with fewer peaks in both usage and price.

The result would help consumers and businesses, and help prevent blackouts like the one that gripped the Northeast almost a year ago.

"It is ComEd's job to make sure the planning they do meets energy needs," said Kathy Tholin, manager of the cooperative. "It hasn't really been their function to look closely at how their energy use patterns could be altered."

Tholin points to the Califor-

nia energy crisis as a prime example of how dramatically reducing peak demand can help.

A 2 percent reduction in peak demand could have averted most of the crisis, she said, and a 3 percent reduction could have reduced overall prices by 20 percent.

Aside from market pricing, the cooperative will be looking at a number of other ways to mitigate demand during the 15-month life of the grant. Another initiative it has already tried in Elgin is an air conditioner trade-in, where inefficient units can be exchanged for others that use half the energy.

The study could also lead to recommendations about renewable energy, energy-efficient building codes and incentives for more efficient appliances.

And hopefully for consumers, it will lead to more results like those of one participant in the pilot program, who has saved \$245 on the electricity bill for his single-family home in Carol Stream during the past 11 months.



# Campton Twp. fights Elgin land annexation

BY LISA SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A proposed 1,000-home development could extend Elgin's borders almost south of South Elgin.

And leaders of bucolic Campton Township are poised to stop it.

About 1,075 single-family homes and townhouses and a 56-acre commercial development have been proposed on 708 acres straddling the border between Campton and Plato Townships. The Campton Town-

ship board on Tuesday passed a resolution opposing the development, arguing it would destroy the township's rural character.

Homes in the township sit on larger parcels of land than those in surrounding municipalities. Lot sizes of the single-family homes proposed in this development range from 12,000 to 33,000 square feet.

"We're afraid of the high-density development as a result of the potential annexation," said

See CAMPTON on PAGE 12

## Campton: Township hopes to work agreement with Elgin

Continued from Page 1

Trustee John Kipar.

Landowner The Residential Land Fund I LP, an investment fund that purchases land to sell to developers, recently submitted the plans to Elgin for annexation. The proposal consists of three separate parcels located roughly between McDonald and Silver Glen roads on either side of Corron Road.

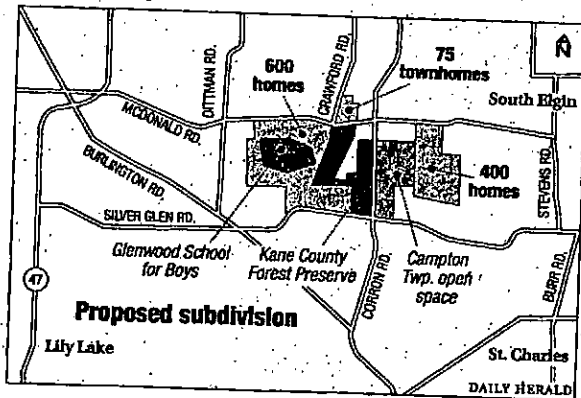
Most of the property lies in Campton Township.

Campton Township trustees on Tuesday approved a resolution formally opposing the annexation by Elgin of any property in the township. Elgin has never annexed land in Campton Township, which remains largely unincorporated except for Elburn and Lily Lake.

Seventy-five townhouses and 27 acres of open space are proposed on a 50-acre parcel north of McDonald Road east of Crawford Road.

The two single-family developments are proposed south of McDonald Road on either side of Corron Road. The westernmost parcel, a 229-acre site which would feature 400 homes, surrounds Glenwood School on all sides and borders Kane County Forest Preserve land.

To the east of Campton Township's Corron Farm, 600 homes are planned on a 373-acre parcel. The two single-family parcels together include nearly 200 acres of open space, which would include wetlands,



a wooded area and a path system, said property owner spokeswoman Marilyn Katz.

A 56-acre commercial area is planned near the intersection of McDonald and Corron roads.

If annexed, Elgin and South Elgin would share Silver Glen Road as a southern border. Elgin now ends at McDonald Road.

Campton Township Supervisor Neal Anderson wonders at what point the annexation would end.

"We'd like to have our own say in our own township rather than have someone come in and take it over," Anderson said.

Anderson said township officials hope to persuade the Kane County Development Department to create a comprehensive land use agreement with Elgin on the township's behalf.

"Hopefully we can sit down

again with Elgin and work something out," Anderson said. The two sides met earlier this week.

Elgin's community development department staff began reviewing the plans this week but has not yet scheduled a public hearing, community development Director Jerry Deering said.

About half of the single-family homes lie in the St. Charles school district, which has experienced explosive growth in the last few years and is expected to continue adding students.

District officials had not seen the proposal, but spokesman Tom Hernandez said the plan as described affirms the need for a fourth middle school, a 13th elementary school and additional space at the high school level.

The other homes would be built in Burlington Central Unit District 301.

8-13-04 Daily Herald

# Towns struggle to make housing more affordable

BY MARNI PYKE AND NAOMI DILLON  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

News that they're on a list of towns failing to meet affordable housing standards was met with some skepticism by Fox Valley municipalities.

In fact, several local communities joined a number of suburbs thumbing their collective noses at a new state law that aims to help low- and middle-income people find homes.

Forty-nine towns fell short of a state goal of 10 percent affordable housing units, the Illinois Housing Development Authority said Thursday. The state calls houses valued at \$124,000 and monthly rents of \$775 affordable.

Many local officials called the state goals unrealistic, given the cost of land.

"I'm sure the No. 1 question will be, how do we meet this requirement?" Sleepy Hollow Village President Stephen Pickett said.

"This is another one of those infamous unfunded mandates." State leaders claim the critics don't get the point.

"The idea is for municipalities to actively look in the mirror, roll up their sleeves and come up with a plan," said state Sen. Jeff Schoenberg, an Evanston Democrat and one of the bill's sponsors.

## 'Misplaced hysteria'

A law passed last year gives municipalities on the watch list until April to produce a plan on how to achieve affordable housing goals.

Towns have three options: achieve 15 percent affordable housing in new developments; attain 10 percent affordable housing overall; or reach 3 percentage points higher than current levels.

In 2009, a state appeals board will be created that can overturn municipal decisions on affordable housing proposals by developers.

"It's a deal everyone should be able to live with," said Bryan Zises, Illinois Housing Development Authority spokesman.

"We're not doing something off the wall; it has to be integrated into the community," he said. "A lot of the hysteria is misplaced. If they think it's building Cabrini Green in Kenilworth, it's not going to happen."

## Cool reception

McHenry, DuPage and Kane county towns failing to meet state goals were Algonquin, Gilberts, Lakewood, Sleepy Hollow, Spring Grove and Wayne.

Gilberts Village Administrator Cheryl Callahan said the figures have fluctuated from year to year. In a pre-

than 3 percent of Gilberts' nearly 400 housing units were deemed affordable. Yet on Thursday, that number had risen to nearly 8 percent.

Village officials have been trying to keep on top of the issue and will work to comply with the law, Callahan said.

"There is a lot of vacant land in the village," Callahan said. "So, there is certainly some opportunity."

In Sleepy Hollow, a community that has built a reputation by building its homes on a grand scale, opportunities for compliance are scarce.

"Sleepy Hollow is designed with large homes and large lots," Pickett said.

But by setting itself apart, Sleepy Hollow may have set itself up for rough times ahead.

Of the roughly 1,200 homes in the village, the state calculates little more than 6 percent is affordable housing — and there's not much town officials can do to change that.

"Sleepy Hollow is landlocked," Pickett said. "We don't have the expansion possibilities that others have. This will be very difficult."

Currently, the village has about three dozen vacant lots, as well as the 38-acre Michalski property, though a 17-home development has been pitched for the latter.

Besides a paucity of vacant land, Sleepy Hollow doesn't have a professional planning staff or the money to really hire any.

The village of Sugar Grove did its own affordable housing calculations several months ago and came up significantly higher than 10 percent, Village Administrator Brent Eichelberger said. The state reported that 9.4 percent of housing units were affordable.

Sugar Grove has an affordable housing plan to fall back on, which includes potential incentives for affordable housing developments, Eichelberger said.

The village of Wayne is in a difficult position in regard to affordable housing because the town doesn't have municipal water and sewer systems, said Village President Eileen Phipps.

That means every residence has to have a well and septic tank and is on at least one acre.

"We really can't control the land price," she said.

Although the village is working to update its comprehensive plan and that might help identify areas that can be used for more affordable housing, to take the percentage from the state's rating of 2 percent up to 10 percent by April is unlikely, Phipps said.

"If the state would like to pay for water and sewer to our homes, bless them," she said. "I just don't think that's going to happen."

## Lacking a stick?

# The Affordable Housing Act in the Fox Valley

How each town stacks up against the state's 10 percent rule.

	Affordable sales price	Total affordable units	Total units	% of affordable units	Exemption
Algonquin	\$123,720	765	7,827	9.80%	N
Aurora	\$123,377	23,372	47,833	48.90%	Y
Batavia	\$123,720	1,701	8,658	19.60%	Y
Burlington	\$123,720	67	164	40.90%	Y
Carpentersville	\$123,720	5,389	8,790	61.30%	Y
Cary	\$123,720	767	4,955	15.50%	Y
Crystal Lake	\$123,720	2,546	13,121	19.40%	Y
East Dundee	\$123,720	196	1,214	16.10%	Y
Elburn	\$123,720	253	1,051	24.10%	Y
Elgin	\$124,056	14,986	32,134	46.60%	Y
Fox River Grove	\$123,720	280	1,728	16.20%	Y
Fox River Valley Gardens	\$123,720	45	325	13.80%	Y
Geneva	\$123,720	771	6,877	11.20%	Y
Gilberts	\$123,720	31	394	7.90%	N
Hampshire	\$123,720	226	1,007	22.40%	Y
Harvard	\$123,720	1,796	2,745	65.40%	Y
Hebron	\$123,720	248	407	60.90%	Y
Huntley	\$123,720	362	2,370	15.30%	Y
Island Lake	\$123,720	839	2,828	29.70%	Y
Johnsburg	\$123,720	247	1,788	13.80%	Y
Lake in the Hills	\$123,720	1,435	7,759	18.50%	Y
Lakemoor	\$123,720	313	1,040	30.10%	Y
Lakewood	\$123,720	21	851	2.40%	N
Lily Lake	\$123,720	39	259	15.10%	Y
Marengo	\$123,720	1,148	2,387	48.10%	Y
McHenry	\$123,720	2,649	7,972	33.20%	Y
North Aurora	\$123,720	1,238	4,194	29.50%	Y
Oakwood Hills	\$123,720	111	706	15.70%	Y
Oswego	\$123,720	737	4,548	16.20%	Y
Pingree Grove	\$123,720	31	45	68.90%	Y
Plainfield	\$123,720	635	4,434	14.30%	Y
Prairie Grove	\$123,720	29	313	9.30%	N
Ringwood	\$123,720	32	166	19.30%	Y
Sleepy Hollow	\$123,720	75	1,220	6.10%	N
South Elgin	\$123,720	1,447	5,428	26.70%	Y
Spring Grove	\$123,720	82	1,149	7.10%	N
St. Charles	\$123,719	1,742	10,717	16.30%	Y
Sugar Grove	\$123,720	122	1,299	9.40%	N
Union	\$123,720	87	205	42.40%	Y
Virgil	\$123,720	19	81	23.50%	Y
West Dundee	\$123,720	564	2,116	26.70%	Y
Woodstock	\$123,720	3,336	7,414	45.00%	Y
Yorkville	\$123,720	748	2,296	32.60%	Y

Note: Y means town is above the minimum requirement; N for towns that fall below 10 percent

Source: Illinois Housing Development Authority

DAILY HERALD

ties shouldn't feel threatened by the policy.

"There is no stick in this law," Zises said. "If they think it's comply or else, that's the wrong paradigm."

However, the state appeals board does have powers that disturb some.

Joe Schatteman, who worked on the legislation for the Illinois Municipal League, said the process isn't arbitrary.

"The developer has to have clear and convincing evidence that the municipality is placing in barriers to the development," Schatteman said.

For those towns who call the law expensive to follow, the housing development authority says there are several ways to create lower-priced housing without expensive subsidies.

Those include density

units to a development, or tax incentives or federal loans.

Tammie Grossman, executive director of the Statewide Housing Action Coalition for Illinois, believes the policy could be stronger.

"The law is pretty tame," she said, adding that state data shows reforms are important.

More than 15 percent of Illinois residents spent more than 35 percent of their income on housing as did 28.3 percent of renters.

People should be able to live in the same communities they work in, Grossman said.

She added, "I don't know where they expect people — who wait on tables, or put out fires or teach their children — to live."

• Daily Herald staff writers Leslie Harue and Robert Sanchez

# Crash causes nuclear scare in Sugar Grove

*8-13-04 Chronicle*

*Truck was carrying device used to test soil moisture*

By KELLEY CASINO  
Kane County Chronicle

SUGAR GROVE — An single-vehicle accident on Thursday along Galena Boulevard quickly turned from bad to worse with one sentence from the driver:

"I have a nuclear device on board."

Hazardous material teams from Sugar Grove, Aurora and North Aurora were on the scene for nearly three hours to ensure that an engineering tool containing cesium-137, a radioactive metal, was not damaged in the accident. No leak was found.

The tool — a Troxler Model 3440 Moisture Density Gauge — is used at construction sites to determine soil moisture levels. The device was in the back of the pickup truck when the accident occurred.

"It's not uncommon that those are on the road," Sugar Grove Assistant Fire Chief Wayne Parson said.

However, Parson said that once involved in the accident, the device became a nuclear threat and needed to be dealt with by hazardous material teams.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to radiation from cesium-137 can result in malignant tumors and shortening of life. The magnitude of the health risk, however, would depend on exposure condi-

tions, such as types of radioactivity encountered, nature of exposure and time period.

Police records show that the truck's driver, John Daniel Cruz, allegedly fell asleep while traveling west on Galena Boulevard around 7:20 a.m. The truck left the road and flipped over just east of Route 47.

Cruz is an employee of the engineering firm Schleede-Hampton Associates Inc. in McHenry, Sugar Grove Police Chief Brad Sauer said.

Sugar Grove Officer Gary Fenili was the first on the scene.

Cruz told him he had a nuclear device in the truck, but said he didn't know exactly what it was.

"Nobody knew what it was," Fenili said. "I had never heard of anything like that before, and I had never heard anything described like that before."

Sauer said the Aurora team that assisted didn't detect any radioactive activity, but called the Illinois Emergency Management Administration as a matter of protocol.

State police confirmed that the device was not considered hazardous material for transportation, Sauer said.

Cruz was transported to Mercy Center Hospital in Aurora for minor cuts and bruises. The truck is believed to be totaled, Parson said.

The incident remains under investigation. Charges against Cruz are pending.

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# Sugar Grove sees more accidents on Galena Blvd.

8-16-04 Chronicle

## Officers say many drivers take curve too fast east of Route 47

By KELLEY CASINO  
Kane County Chronicle

Boulevard with different colors of spray paint to tell which marks go with which accident.

The volume of accidents on the SUGAR GROVE — Accident investigator John Sizer has resorted to marking skid marks on Galena has left the investigator in need of

more than one color of paint to keep his evidence in check.

"We have so many skid marks and so much debris out there it was getting difficult to determine which accident is which when you go out there and investigate ... I've got skid marks going over skid marks," the five-year veteran of the Sugar Grove Police Department said.

"I don't think there's any signs left out there anymore, either," he said.

With at least three serious accidents there in the past six weeks — the most recent on Thursday involving a truck carrying a tool containing a radioactive metal — officials are at a loss for what else to do.

"There have always been accidents there," Police Chief Brad Sauer said. "But there's really nothing defective about the road other than people going too fast and not paying attention."

As drivers negotiate around the soft curve at more than the regulated 50 miles per hour, tires often slip off the road, officials said, further deteriorating the condition of the shoulder by scattering the gravel and creating a drop-off.

"Lowering the speed limit is not going to help because people are already going too fast," Sizer said.

See ACCIDENTS, page 2

## Accidents

Continued from page 1

Many times, the motorist will lose control while trying to get back on the pavement, causing the car to run into an embankment near the road.

The Illinois Department of Transportation repaired the shoulder after a rather serious

accident on July 30, but less than two weeks later, the gravel is down a couple of inches again, Sauer said.

He said officials have thrown around ideas with IDOT about possibly paving a few feet of the shoulder.

"Then, if (drivers) swerve off a bit, they'd still be on pavement," Sauer said.

The 4- to 5-foot embank-

ment running parallel to the road also is a hazard that, if removed, could decrease the number of serious accidents, Sizer said.

"The seriousness of the accidents is partly due to the embankment because when the cars hit it, they dig in, and it's causing them to flip over," he said. "But that's going to be up to IDOT because it's their road."

8-15-04 BEACON NEWS

# Odds are you can't beat heroin; thankfully, some do

In January 2001, when this paper ran a front page story about the growing heroin scourge in Kane and DuPage counties, I wrote an accompanying column about my nephew's struggle with this evil drug.

At the time the story was printed, Tony (this time around I'll use his real name) was in the DuPage County Jail while waiting for a treatment bed to open up. Heroin had taken the then 23-year-old Wheaton man to death's door at least three times. And, after costing his parents hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills and lawyer fees, my nephew had been given one more option by a judge: Rehab or prison.



Denise  
Crosby  
*Columnist*

Three years later, heroin continues to claim many young lives here in the Fox Valley. Most recently, 19-year-old Nathan McIlvaine of St. Charles — a confessed heroin user — died on Aug. 6 of an apparent overdose just one day after being released from custody on a DUI charge.

And, as our front page story reports today, Kendall County is now gearing up for the onslaught they realize is heading their way.

Whatever you do, parents out there reading this in Yorkville and Oswego and

Sandwich (and Kaneland and Geneva and St. Charles, for that matter), don't think something this awful could never happen to your kid. Known on the streets by the gentle name of "nod," heroin is the ugliest of the ugly, and it's in the prettiest of our neighborhoods.

My nephew was as nice a kid as they come. Kind, artistic and bright, he was introduced to heroin one night at a party. Up until that point, he'd only smoked weed, but within minutes of shooting up the stuff, he says, "I knew I was addicted."

Thus began his descent into hell — a descent that brought his loved ones down, as well. When experts tell you that heroin destroys, they mean every word of it. It stops hearts. It breaks families. It kills spirits.

Heroin turns our loved ones into con men. Into liars. Into thieves and burglars and felons and lost pathetic souls.

My nephew, also a diabetic, would disappear for months on end. And more than once his mother received word from a hospital that her son was not expected to live through the night. On many occasions she would drive through some of DuPage County's toughest neighborhoods, searching for this child who was quite literally dying before her eyes.

Tony's story is horrific but, sadly, not all that unusual, as most parents in Judge James Doyle's Kane County drug court program will tell you. No matter how many times my nephew was thrown into a coma or a jail cell or a rehab center, the demon drug always rose up again to claim him.

Experts estimate the odds of kicking heroin addiction at a paltry 1 percent. Today, three years later, Tony seems to have beaten some pretty incredible odds.

His mom credits DuPage Judge Ann Jorgensen and a system that allowed middle-class suburban heroin junkies to chose treatment over prison. There are lots of Kane County moms who can, likewise, thank Judge Doyle. From jail, Tony went to a tough rehab center in Woodridge where, he knew if he left, prison would be his new home. From treatment he went to a halfway house, then to a three-quarterway house that allowed him a little more freedom. Crawling back from heroin addiction, no surprise here, requires the guarded trust of the system and the people these addicts have hurt the most.

I really can't tell you why this time was different. I can't tell you why Tony is winning the battle and Nathan McIlvaine lost his fight. My nephew has not only been clean for over three years now, he's retrieved the once-shattered trust of his father, has been promoted to manager with the auto parts company he has worked for since those halfway house days. And he's in a strong relationship with a beautiful single mom, whose 7-year-old daughter is the light of his life.

Still, his mother confronts the possibility this insidious drug will pull her son into hell once more.

"We don't talk about it," she says. "But that thought is never far from my mind."

8-15-04  
BEACON

News

## \$3 million to \$4 million to clean up pond

BEACON NEWS STAFF

GENEVA — It will cost Kane County \$3 million to \$4 million to clean up a pond on the county Judicial Center grounds.

The County Board learned of the multi-million-dollar price tag this week to clean the 9-acre pond that has been contaminated by lead-coated copper roof panels on the Judicial Center on Route 38 west of Geneva.

"Where's that \$3 million going to come from?" asked board member Jan Carlson, R-Elburn.

Another 1-acre site on land owned by Illinois Department of Transportation also will require cleanup.

The lead shows no signs of leaching into groundwater supplies or contaminating nearby Mill Creek, according to the county's consultant, Terri Blackmar of California-based Earth Tech.

Work on the pond could begin next summer.

The county has sued a number of companies involved with the roof's construction.

Alfonso... ..

# 8-15-04 Our Viewpoint Chronicle A punch to the county's pocketbook

The Help America Vote Act regulations insist that punch-card ballots be eliminated by the first federal election in March 2006. Punch-card ballots were used in Florida and are used in Kane County.

Federal election officials have put Kane County in a no-win situation. Officials want counties such as Kane and hundreds of others across the nation to change the way votes are cast as a result of the widespread confusion that occurred in Florida during the 2000 presidential campaign. You remember. Hanging chads.

The Help America Vote Act regulations insist that punch-card ballots be eliminated by the first federal election in March 2006. Punch-card ballots were used in Florida and are used in Kane County. However, there is no guidance as to what technology should be chosen as a replacement.

There is an incentive. In Kane County's case, the carrot is \$682,000 from federal coffers. Unfortunately, moving to a new technology likely will cost Kane County more than \$3 million.

And there still is the headache and additional cost and coordination of the Aurora Election Commission. So county officials are faced with a no-win situation. They can move deliberately, examine the technology and possibly lose

out on the federal assistance. Even though the amount is not much, a little help is better than no help at all.

Or they can try to move quickly to ensure they do receive some federal funds, all the while risking a hasty decision.

All because of Florida. Certainly, everything possible should be done to ensure the right to vote is however, why technology must always be sought to overcome human error. It would seem had more care been given to how the ballots lined up in the voting instrument, and more effort been exerted to train election judges on how to properly inform voters of what the ballot should look like, the Florida fiasco would have been minimized.

No one in good conscious would oppose technology improving our lives, including inside the voting booth.

But to put in place a deadline and federal money as incentives to ensure that technology will be improved, and to do so without offering guidance or enough financial help, is counterproductive.

And about as sensical as a hanging chad.

# Officials say animal facility long overdue

8-15-04 Chronicle

## Groups hope new center will help increase number of adoptions

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

creating more space for strays at private shelters.

Stray and lost pets confiscated by county animal control officials contribute to the overcrowding of private animal shelters while rescue groups are

overwhelmed with the number of animals in their care.

"While we are managing the stray population, we need a place for adoptions," said Melissa Amundsen, a spokeswoman with the St. Charles-based Homes for Endangered and Lost Pets, a rescue group.

County board members voted 11-10 to approve a contract with John Edward Construction, of Downers Grove, to build a \$1.58 million animal control

center near the intersection of Peck and Keslinger roads in Geneva.

The approval comes after years of debate among county officials. The building blueprints call for the facility to be 10,000 square feet.

The animal center will be able to hold 65 dogs and 65 cats, said Joseph Busch, Kane County animal control director.

See ANIMALS, page 2

## For information

• For information, visit the Homes for Endangered and Lost Pets Web site at [www.helpinganimals.org](http://www.helpinganimals.org), or call (630) 879-8500

## Facilities in neighboring counties

- **Cook County:** Cook County Animal Control has no countywide intake facility because of the county's size and because many communities have arrangements with veterinary clinics. Agency has three drop-off facilities, which are private organizations. Agency is looking into building own intake facility. No adoption services.
- **DuPage County:** DuPage County Animal Control operates its own county facility. The facility's capacity is 100 dogs, 125 cats. The agency accepts other domestic animals. Adoptions services at the facility are available.
- **Kane County (proposed):** Kane County Animal Control would operate its own facility. The facility's holding capacity would be 65 dogs and 65 cats. Adoption services would be available.
- **Kendall County:** Kendall County Animal Control operates its own facility. The facility's capacity is 20 cages of cats that can have multiple occupants and 38 single kennels for dogs. Adoption services are available at the facility.
- **Lake County:** Lake County Animal Control operates its own facility. The facility's capacity is 48 dogs and 24 cats. Also occasionally receives small farm animals. No adoption services are available at the facility; service is available through private organizations.
- **McHenry County:** McHenry County Animal Control operates its own facility. The facility's capacity is 40 dogs and 40 cats. The agency accepts other domestic animals. Adoption services are available at the facility.
- **Will County:** Will County Animal Control contracts with several different facilities, such as veterinary clinics, to hold animals. Agency plans to build a facility in the future.

## Animals

Continued from page 1

The capacity is similar to other suburban facilities. And the addition of an animal control center would bring Kane County inline with many neighboring counties that have such facilities.

"We have been talking about it for six years, and we have finally gotten approval for it. I have been saying for six years that we need it," Busch said.

The county currently contracts with Anderson Animal Shelter, a private facility in South Elgin, and the Aurora Animal Control facility, to take lost or stray animals found in the county.

But the county does not accept cats and actually tells concerned residents to call a private shelter or rescue group. That has left the burden of finding homes for the felines to groups such as HELP.

The building "allows us to take an enormous sigh of relief," Amundsen said. "It allows us to take an enormous weight off our shoulders. This will finally allow this county to have a facility."

Amundsen said that once the county facility is built, the

animals will be able to receive veterinary services sooner and be able to be adopted faster. The group, which is funded through private donations, cared for more than 700 cats and 200 dogs last year. At least 485 cats were adopted, and 195 dogs found homes.

Aurora Animal Control Executive Director Linda Nass said the city-owned facility is becoming crowded and eventually will not be able to house county animals. She already has turned away non-city residents.

She said the county facility would add more space to house animals and likely result in more adoptions.

"Sometimes we have to say no because we are basically here for the city of Aurora," Nass said. "I think this is a wonderful thing. I think this is kind of long overdue."

Busch said that construction of the facility could start this fall, and he hopes to have the center completed and open within one year of construction. He said the county's growth dictates the need for the facility.

"The county is growing rapidly," Busch said. "We figure with every two new people that move in the county, we probably have one animal that comes in with them."

CAR HOP



8-15-04  
Beacon News

# hetoric sears in Aurora

# New life for old enemy

### Heroin addiction: Uptick in usage fuels rash of purse snatching, burglary, forgery

By Matt Hanley and Mike Cetera  
STAFF WRITERS

From across the parking lot, Greg spotted the old woman's purse.

That purse was just hanging on her 70-year-old arm, waiting to be stolen. So, as his buddy drove, Greg leaned out the car's passenger window and grabbed it.

They dragged the elderly victim least 10 feet. Finally, she fell. But they kept going.

Greg opened the purse: \$40. That would be enough. Enough to keep the sick away for the day — no throwing up, no shakes, no soreness.

It was enough that Greg didn't have to spend any time figuring out which friend's house he'd break into. Didn't have to look for a checkbook to steal.

Forty dollars was enough to get him his heroin that day.

Not a bad day's work, Greg thought.

**Inside**  
Odds are you can't beat heroin addiction, but some do.  
Page A3

### 'A real eye-opener'

Small crimes — burglaries, break-ins, a rash of check forgeries or purse snatchings. That's when the Kendall County police will know they have a real problem.

They already know heroin has made its way to this rapidly growing but still rural area because they already see the evidence in traffic stops. But, according to Kendall County State's Attorney Tim McCann, users can still afford their habit so they don't have to resort to stealing ... yet.

"It's not a question of if it will come," he said. "It will become bigger. It is on its way."

Long considered a drug for junkies, heroin is getting a rebirth as a chic drug to snort in powder form, removing the dangerous and tell-tale needles. Heroin users aren't hanging out in the alleys anymore — they're your neighbors, or siblings or kids.

"We'll have to convince people it's not just going to be junkies," McCann said. "The burnout stereotype just doesn't fit anymore. In fact, it's the richer kids that can try these exotic drugs."

Heroin use has been documented for years in Kane County court cases, hospital visits and death investigations. But its abuse, at least

Turn to ENEMY, A2



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN HOUSE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Republican U.S. Sen. candidate Alan Keyes greets supporters Saturday at State Sen. Chris Lauzen's annual 'Porty Picnic' at Blackberry Farm in Aurora.

Other issues deal to conservatives, school choice, smaller government and lower taxes on citizens and businesses.

"Government doesn't create, and bureaucrats don't create jobs," he said. "People create jobs."

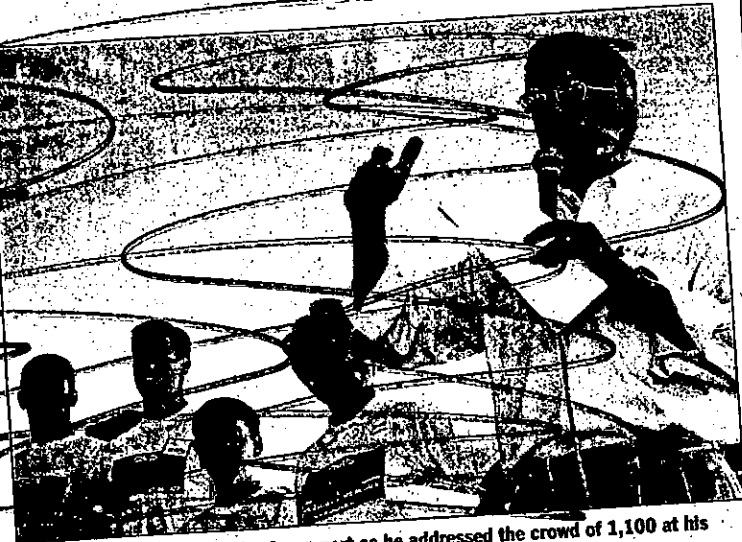
He also said that he "leapt for joy" when he heard this week that Capitol Hill Republicans were mulling a proposal to eliminate the income tax (and the IRS) in favor of a European-style national sales tax.

"It's about time this has come to the fore," he said, as those in the audience again rose to their feet.

Not everyone, though, was so enthusiastic.

Standing outside the picnic grove along Barnes Road was a small group of Democrats, one of them carrying a sign reading "Extremist Keyes Go Home."

"We're here to protest Keyes, his right-wing agenda and all the rest of the Republican Party," said one of the protesters, Paul Pangler. "Bringing in an outsider like him who doesn't even live in Illinois is a pretty feeble attempt to try to overshadow all of Obama's successes."



Sen. Chris Lauzen's family lends support as he addressed the crowd of 1,100 at his fund-raiser.

# ENEMY

From Page A1

anecdotally, appears to be on the rise.

"We're seeing a lot more heroin use across the board," Kane County Coroner Chuck West said.

## Increase in fatalities

The coroner's office has seen an increase in heroin-associated deaths since West took office four years ago. A coroner's jury most recently found heroin as the cause of death in the case of a 35-year-old man who overdosed this spring in a city park in Aurora. He was later found dead in a minivan.

Coroner records rarely show heroin as the lone cause of death. In many cases, tests in overdose cases show multiple drugs contributed, suggesting either the heroin contained impurities or abusers intentionally ingested more than one narcotic, West said.

Mark Henry, director of the North Central Narcotics Task Force, said authorities recognized several years ago local heroin use was increasing quickly. The appetite has not subsided, and the drug's appeal can be seen in who is getting arrested: The buyers come from Aurora, St. Charles, Geneva, Naperville.

"It's pretty much everyone," Henry said. "Almost every community seems to be seeing some degree of that issue."

Increased local demand hasn't translated into a greater local supply, at least not yet. One possible explanation appears in court documents, which suggest one Aurora gang is forbidden by leadership from selling heroin.

Instead, users predominantly get their heroin outside their community, traveling to the open-air markets on the west side of Chicago, where several street gangs control distribution. (This is also one of the places where Greg got his supply.)

Heroin is primarily imported by these gangs from South America, Asia and Mexico, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, and arrives in Chicago utilizing the area's vast transportation network.

It's mostly curious kids, looking for a different kind of high, who bring it back to the Fox Valley.

## 'You're living for the day'

Greg first felt the warm, mellow rush of heroin seven years ago, when he was 25. He and his buddies, who were recreational cocaine and marijuana users, were packing for a fishing trip when somebody asked if he wanted a quick snort.

Greg thought it was more cocaine, but suddenly he felt numb. They told him it was heroin.

"It was like heaven," he said. "This is how I want to feel."

In six months Greg went from casual user to full-blown addict. At first, he was able to finance his habit, but the costs began to mount. He lost his girlfriend and the trust of his friends and family. In the end, there was no pleasure in using it; he needed the drug just to avoid horrible withdrawal symptoms.

"When that happens you can't function without it," he said. "I would go to work on heroin and no one would notice because it would seem normal."

He had to economize. Instead of paying the electric bill or the mortgage, he'd buy heroin. He sold his car. He started main-lining — injecting heroin into his bloodstream with a needle because it cut down on cost.

Things turned nasty when he got caught in the cooler at work with a needle in his arm. With the option of seeking help or losing his job, Greg walked away.

With no income, Greg turned on everyone to get cash. He stole the title to his parent's car — twice. Other things were so awful, he says, he wouldn't allow his last name or any photo to be used with this story.

"You're living for the day," he said. "You're only thinking of the next fix. You're only thinking of, this is whose house I'm going to break into. These are whose checks I'm going to steal."

Over five years, Greg ended up in

the psych ward once. He hadn't talked to his parents in more than a year. He had shot everything he owned into his arm.

About a year and a half ago, Greg moved in with a prostitute in Gary, Ind. One day, as she was inhaling from a crack pipe she told him he had to leave; she was sick of him.

A woman who sold her body to men for money — and spent the rest of they day putting drugs into it — couldn't stand to look at Greg anymore.

"OK, I'm starting to get the message," he thought. "I am below the scum of the Earth."

## 'More intense, more rapid'

Greg's rapid descent into addiction isn't unusual. In fact, the reason police and doctors are so concerned about the spread of heroin is the quick chokehold it can take.

"The reason heroin is stronger is because the effect is more pronounceable, more intense, more rapid," said Alan Rosenberg, medical director of emergency services for Rush-Copley Medical Center in Aurora. "So the withdrawal is more intense."

Heroin is processed from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed of a poppy plant, and usually appears as a white or brown powder.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, heroin is so addictive because the drug can cross the blood-brain barrier. The instant rush of heroin comes from its ease in crossing that barrier which typically stops chemicals from entering the body.

From there, heroin follows the pattern of other drugs, using a tolerance to create a dependency that leads to a two-to three-day withdrawal that addicts will do nearly anything to avoid, Rosenberg said.

One of the few ways for law enforcement to combat the heroin importation is to stay ahead of the rush.

Four years ago, the drug Ecstasy hit Kendall County when authorities weren't expecting it. The county's efforts to fight that push helped redefine the laws on Ecstasy possession. That was a lesson for the growing county.

"They had to come in and educate us," McCann said. "We had to realize we couldn't get the drugs here and then react. We need to educate ourselves ahead of time."

"Unlike many drugs, breaking the cycle of heroin is going to be much tougher," McCann warned.

## 'I sleep like a rock now'

One day short of a year since he last used heroin, Greg sits on the back porch of Hope for Tomorrow, a long-term recovery home for addicts in Aurora. Clean shaven, wearing jeans and a blue T-shirt, he smokes a cigarette — the only vice he has left.

"I had to fall through three different doors to hit bottom," he said. "Bottom, bottom, then, 'Whoa, this is it.'"

After getting kicked out by the prostitute, Greg ended up at a Salvation Army facility. He stayed clean for 90 days and then transferred to another rehab facility for 110 days.

About to be released, he heard about Hope for Tomorrow, a long-term program that allows recovering addicts freedom within strict guidelines.

Hope for Tomorrow requires residents to hold a job and submit to random drug tests. Jeff Gilbert, who runs the center, regularly walks into Greg's house and holds out a hat filled with ping-pong balls. Depending on what they pull, the resident has to immediately take a breathalyzer test or urine test.

"What's cool is I don't have to worry about that," Greg said. "I can pull anything from that hat. It doesn't matter."

He goes to work, he attends regular recovery sessions, he's met a girl and he keeps himself busy. While he was using heroin, he'd often stay up for two or three days at a time, plotting where to get his next fix, which old lady he was going to knock over in a Target parking lot.

Now he uses the night like a regular person.

"I sleep like a rock now," he says, dropping the burned out cigarette into an ashtray. "I love sleep. I can't wait to go to sleep. I'm thinking about it right now."

# FIGHTING THE BITING

8-15-04  
Beacon  
News

*It's all in a day's work for Clarke Mosquito Control*

By Mike Danahey  
STAFF WRITER

Lauren Wright spends her summers by the water. Don't jump the gun on envy: Wright is a field inspector with Clarke Mosquito Control, and she's along the shore searching the shallows for the insects.

On a recent morning, Wright investigated a pond on the Bank One campus off Randall Road in Elgin, scooping out water samples for signs of mosquitoes in their pre-adult stages. This time, the water came up empty.

It was windy, which may have explained why there were no young mosquitoes in the water. In their larval stage, mosquitoes need to surface to breathe, and ripples can drown them, much as big waves in the ocean can harm humans, explained George Balis, an entomologist with Clarke.

Yet, the wet summer has meant bodies of water filled past their usual banks, plenty of standing water, and thus an overabundance of floodwater mosquitoes.

"Those are the most annoying kind," said Balis.

Actually, the females (of all mosquito species) are the ones that do the blood feasting, while adult males live on pollen. Female floodwater mosquitoes also lay eggs that can stay dormant underground for four to six years before they hit water and hatch, he said.

There are 40 different species of mosquitoes, which fall under three, broader genus categories: aedes, which are the floodwater mosquitoes; culex which breed in stagnant water, and anopheles which are found in fresh water.

## Dangerous bites

With the dog days of August upon us, the area typically sees more culex mosquitoes. Culex also are more stealthy blood-suckers than floodwater mosquitoes, Balis said. They hold the most potential for harm to humans and other animals.

"They can carry St. Louis encephalitis, West Nile virus and heartworm," Balis said.

This threat fuels community abatement programs. Clarke is the biggest mosquito control company in the U.S., Balis said. In Kane, DuPage and other area counties, more than 150 communities use Clarke's services.

John Lyell Clarke started up the Cook County mosquito abatement program in

the 1920s, and his son John L. Clarke, Jr. founded Clarke Mosquito Control in the 1940s. Today the company is headed by J. Lyell Clarke III.

## Breeding grounds

Wright may do about 30 inspections a day similar to the one at the pond off Randall Road, Balis said. Curb-side catch basins are checked and treated, as well.

Traps are set and checked to get an idea of the size of the mosquito population. Backpack-wielding workers get into some hard-to-reach areas. And, back at company headquarters in Roselle, other workers check specimens to determine the type of bugs found and whether they are carrying diseases.

Residents also perform a role in controlling mosquito populations, Balis said. This time of year, that means checking and clearing gutters and birdbaths of standing water.

The water in kiddie pools should be changed frequently. Bigger pools that are chlorinated and filtered pose little threat as mosquito havens — except for when they are covered and not in use for long periods of time.

Balis said a rise in aquatic landscaping also means more potential mosquito breeding grounds. Stocking such ponds with certain types of minnows can help control mosquitoes.

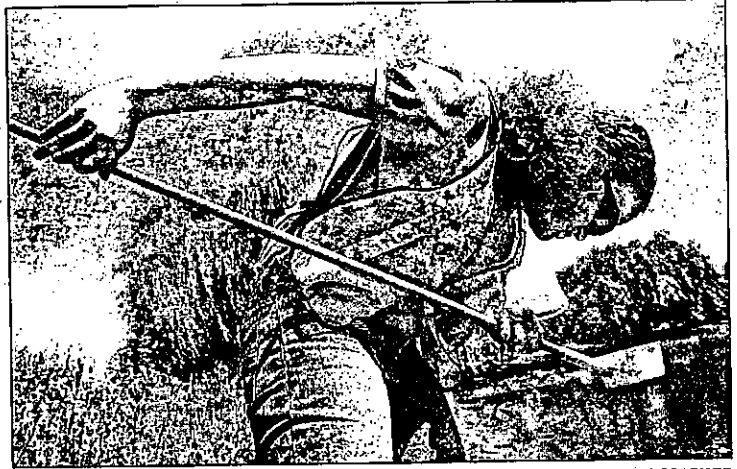
As for other natural predators, while bats do eat mosquitoes, Balis noted that they prefer larger bugs.

"There's a saying attributed to George Craig, a noted entomologist from Notre Dame. He said mosquitoes are like French fries for bats. But instead of getting to order them in a bunch, they have to go to a different McDonald's for each and every fry."

## Chemical barrier

As for products that are supposed to keep mosquitoes away from your yard, most aren't very efficient. For those hosting outdoor parties, lawn barrier applications can be effective, Balis said. Those are permethrin-based products which adhere to vegetation, the toxins working to kill mosquitoes after they make contact.

Permethrin is a synthetic version of a substance found in chrysanthemums. Its applications include tick and flea products for pets and head lice removal treatments



MARIANNE MAHER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lauren Wright, field inspector for Clarke Mosquito Control, checks a dipper of pond water for juvenile insects. In this inspection of a Kane County pond, no mosquito larvae were found. Wright said it could be due to windy weather.

## Critical period in West Nile prevention

The period from Aug. 1 through Sept. 15 is critical for West Nile virus prevention, the Kane County Health Department warns.

Despite reduced numbers of biting mosquitoes, seen during early summer flooding, and cooler temperatures, West Nile activity is running ahead of 2003. To date 45 counties in Illinois have reported West Nile virus activity. Kane County has documented eight positive birds and two positive mosquito batches.

The type of mosquito that carries the virus increases in number during

July and August and the percentage of infected mosquitoes also increases.

Personal protection measures against mosquitoes in August and early September are very important even if the number of mosquitoes seen by the public now are fewer than earlier in the summer, the Health Department said. Precautions should be exercised at typical late summer, early fall family gatherings or sporting events.

For information, contact the Health Department at (630) 208-3803 or at its Web site [www.kanehealth.com](http://www.kanehealth.com).

for people. There has been some concern that some forms of permethrin can kill fish and bees, so it should not be used close to bodies of water.

Mosquitoes generally feed from dusk until dawn, and one bite is enough to fill a female for most, if not all, of her 2-4 week life span. They also will feed during the day if the food source presents itself or disturbs

the mosquito's environment.

Deet-based sprays are effective repellents, but should always be used according to label instructions, Balis said. That means using a brand with a lower concentration for children, not using the product on those two years old or younger, spraying or applying in the correct dosage, from the correct distance, and reading the directions.

8-17-04 Beacon news

# It's official: Batavia gets water loan

■ **Confirmation:** State and federal money subsidizes local ratepayers

By **Steve Lord**  
STAFF WRITER

BATAVIA — Batavians already knew about it, but it was nice for them Monday to hear the official announcement that Gov. Rod Blagojevich's office had confirmed a \$3.5 million, low-interest loan to help pay for a new drinking water treatment plant here.

The Opportunity Returns program loan, which Batavia will pay back at only 2.5 percent interest, will go toward funding the water

treatment plant, one part of an \$18 million project that also includes installation of a cross-town water main and the addition of three deep wells and two water towers.

State officials confirmed the loan about two months ago to Batavia, but Water Superintendent John Dillon said it was nice to hear public confirmation from the governor's office.

"It's nice for the ratepayers to know that we are working to subsidize what they have to pay," Dillon said. "It's great that the money's down there for projects like this."

The Batavia City Council already has approved a rate increase for residents to help pay for the project. Dillon said grants from the state and federal government help defray

what residents have to pay.

Batavia needed the improvements to reduce the level of naturally occurring radioactive radium in the municipal water supply. The city is mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce that level.

In addition to the \$3.5 million loan announced Monday, the city has received a \$1.4 million grant from the federal government to go toward the cross-town water main. Dillon said the state has confirmed to the city another \$6.5 million Opportunity Returns loan for the main. State officials should be announcing that shortly, he said.

Opportunity Returns is Gov. Blagojevich's economic development plan for the Northeast region of Illinois.

"Though this new treatment facility is vital to protecting the health of Batavia residents, it will also strengthen the community's infrastructure, which we all know is critical to attracting and supporting new business," Blagojevich said.

The loan is actually being made from an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency revolving loan program that uses federal and state funding to provide loans for drinking water and wastewater treatment projects. The interest rate is about half the market rate.

As those who get the loans pay them back, the interest is put back into the fund for more low-interest loans in the future. About 80 percent of the funding for the state project actually comes from the federal government, Blagojevich said.

8-17-04 Daily Herald

# Former deputy, alderman dies

BY GALA M. PIERCE

Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Batavia man — formerly a Kane County sheriff's deputy, World War II veteran, Batavia alderman and building inspector — died Sunday at age 79.

George F. Evanovich was born in LaSalle to Frank and Gina Evanovich. He died at Provena Mercy Center in Aurora after spending some time in a nursing home.

"He was very much a jokester, very happy — very rarely did I ever see him in a bad mood," said Jeff Albertson, a Batavia city inspector who worked with him.

The 1943 Batavia High School graduate served in the Army during World War II. He then began his career as a self-employed plasterer, working on homes throughout the Fox Valley.

He later became a Kane County sheriff's deputy and also served on Batavia's auxiliary police department under Police Chief Charles Marshall.

Evanovich served one term as a 4th Ward Batavia alderman during the years that Robert Brown served as mayor, from 1969 to 1977.

"He was easy-going, happy and always had a smile," Brown said.

Evanovich also worked for the county as a building inspector. Upon his retirement in the mid-1980s, he worked as a building inspector for the city of Batavia until 1991.

Although Evanovich officially

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"He was very much a jokester, very happy — very rarely did I ever see him in a bad mood."

Jeff Albertson, a Batavia city inspector who worked with George F. Evanovich

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worked part time, he often would put in nearly full-time hours to help out the city during a busy time, Batavia's Community Development Director Kai Tarum said.

"He always brought sunshine to the job," she said.

He was an active member of the Geneva American Legion Post 75, where he married his second wife, Anna Heath, in 1991. Previously, he was married Jean Hermes until her death.

His favorite pastimes included playing cribbage with his best friend, Dennis Holm, socializing with friends and dancing. He also was known for chewing tobacco and bowled for 50 years, becoming one of Aurora's Hall of Fame Bowlers.

He is survived by his wife; daughter, Lynn Evanovich; stepchildren, Anna Sternad, Brenda Huffman, Linda

Torango and Eva Stokes; daughter-in-law, Terri Evanovich; two grandchildren, Angela Zabel and Michael Evanovich; and several nieces and nephews. His nephew, Greg Bohler, visited his uncle almost everyday in the nursing home.

He was preceded in death by his son, Tom Evanovich.

Visitation is from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Moss Family Funeral Home, 209 S. Batavia Ave., Batavia. Funeral services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, also at the funeral home. Interment will follow at River Hills Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions should be directed to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, 900 Jorie Blvd., Suite 24, Oak Brook, IL 60521. For more information, call the Moss Family Funeral Home at (630) 879-7900.

ALTER COVER

8-17-04  
Chronicle



Bill  
Page

## Protecting the wrong guy

Last May, former priest Mark Campobello pleaded guilty to aggravated criminal sexual abuse of two teenage girls. The abuse occurred while Campobello worked at churches and schools in Geneva and Aurora, and his case had been marked by clashes and controversy from the start. It appears it continues to do so.

This past Friday, Kane County judge Tim Sheldon ruled that the Diocese of Rockford doesn't have to release internal church documents related to Campobello, even though the diocese had been ordered to do so by the 2nd District Appellate Court. Sheldon's reasoning was that since Campobello already had been convicted and sentenced, the request to release records had become moot.

Sheldon has more than likely made the correct legal decision, and that's really not in question. What still is in question is the diocese's intransigent stance throughout this whole awful affair. As protective as have they been of Campobello and his records, they have all but ignored his acts and his victims. Although the diocese claims to be concerned about the problem of sexual abuse by priests, their actions seem to indicate they are more interested in their own image.

Mark Campobello is a sexual predator, and he preyed on young, impressionable girls. If anything, you'd think the diocese would want to open all of his records for review by authorities to determine if he had committed other such acts. To keep them locked away, indeed, to fight their release, could mean important information is being withheld. Church members can't be blamed if they start to wonder just whose side their leaders are on.

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Another subject that came up last week was affordable housing in the Fox Valley — or more precisely, the lack of it. This is indeed a very real problem in our area, but unfortunately it also might be a

case where reality clashes with good intentions.

Affordable housing, as defined by the Illinois Housing Development Authority, would be a home in Kane County priced at \$123,000. When we first moved to this area, there were plenty of nice homes priced at that level and below, but time has passed and home values have soared. I have no idea what the inventory is of existing homes in that price range in central Kane County, but it can't be all that many.

New homes are out of the question, mostly because the lot to build them on is so expensive. A builder friend of mine just paid more than \$200,000 per lot in a new development, and while that is definitely the high end, it does underscore the problem.

The solution, if there is one, will probably be to build more attached housing (as in townhouses) or to renovate the older, smaller homes in our towns. Whatever path is chosen, however, it has to be profitable for the builder or developer. Without that, there's no incentive to create something in the \$123,000 range when essentially the same amount of bricks will bring five times that in a different part of town.

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OK, this is one of those bits that has absolutely nothing to do with anything earth-shaking, but I really do want to know if I'm the only one that regards events such as the opening of the Olympics as so much overblown silliness.

C'mon, is there anyone at all who is glued to their set to see this nonsense?

I feel the same way about Super Bowl halftime and the Oscars opening goofy dance bit they always do, too. Maybe it's me, but I wish they'd all just sit down and get on with the real show.

• Bill Page lives in St. Charles and writes about local issues on Tuesday and Thursday. Calls and e-mails answered at (630) 584-0809 or [wpage@mediaworks.org](mailto:wpage@mediaworks.org).

8-17-04 Chronicle

# Batavia alderman Richard Hart dies

**Richard Hart, 1929-2004**

• Batavia aldermen to wait until next month to appoint a replacement.  
Page 2A

• Former Batavia alderman and building inspector George F. Evanovich also died Sunday.  
Obituary, 4A

By DAN CAMPANA  
Kane County Chronicle



Hart

BATAVIA — Richard Hart's city council colleagues remembered him in many ways Monday, but most simply as "a people's alderman."  
Hart died Sunday at Delnor Community Hospital of unknown causes. He was 75.

"He knew what the people wanted, and what the people needed," said 2nd Ward Alderman

Charles Beckman, who has spent nearly 30 years on the council. "He read every page of every thing that came to him. He was probably the best alderman at doing that."

Beckman and others offered nearly identical descriptions of Hart, a U.S. Navy veteran, also brought a sense of humor to meetings.

Wolff said Hart frequently would lean over to him during discussions and unleash one-liners that would

Added 3rd Ward Alderman Linnea Miller. "He just cared so much... and brought so much of his experience. Dick liked to talk and he put it all out there."

Hart represented Batavia's 1st Ward. He was in his fourth term. Hart, a U.S. Navy veteran, also brought a sense of humor to meetings.

Wolff said Hart frequently would lean over to him during discussions and unleash one-liners that would

have Wolff holding back smiles and laughs.

Beside his community work, Hart also was an accomplished pianist who loved to share his music. Miller remembers receiving a CD of Hart playing Christmas music. Just a few weeks ago, another CD showed up in Miller's mailbox.

"He was very proud of it," Miller said.

See HART, page 2

## Hart

Continued from page 1

Hart is the second sitting Batavia alderman to die in the past year.

In September 2003, 5th Ward Alderman Norm Hagemann died at age 71. He

had served on the council for 20 years.

"This is just another big shock to me," said Wolff, who has been with the council for a little more than a year.

Hart is survived by his wife, Beverly, and two sons, Jeff of Aurora and Scott of Tulsa, Okla.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Moss

Family Funeral Home, 209 S. Batavia Ave., Batavia. The funeral will be private at West Batavia Cemetery.

Also Sunday, former one-term Alderman George F. Evanovich died at an Aurora hospital at the age of 79.

Evanovich had worked for the city as a building inspector before he retired in 2000.

8-17-04 Beacon news

# Accused murderer head-butts lawyer

**■ Charge expected: Attorney knocked to floor; nose is broken**

By Ed Fanselow  
STAFF WRITER

ST. CHARLES TOWNSHIP — Aggravated battery charges are expected to be filed today against an accused murderer who head-butted his attorney, breaking the man's nose during an appearance Monday in Kane County Circuit Court.

Frank Aquino — who is accused of shooting two men and then setting their bodies ablaze in July 2002 on Aurora's East Side — was in court with his lawyer, longtime DuPage County defense attorney Jack Donahue, who was seeking to be taken off the case because Aquino had failed to pay him.

As Donahue leaned to whisper in Aquino's ear, Aquino, 25, reared back and slammed his head into Donahue's, breaking his nose and knocking him to the floor.

"I let my guard down," Donahue

said in a telephone interview. "In 43 years as an attorney, I've never had any problems like this, and I just wasn't expecting it. It was an unfortunate thing, and I feel sorry for his family."

Donahue, who is perhaps best known for his role in defending convicted murderer Marilyn Lemak in 2001, was treated at an area hospital and returned to work later in the day.

Aquino, meanwhile, remains in custody at the Kane County jail, where he has been held since his arrest in November 2002.

For the last year, Aquino has been in solitary confinement for his role in a cellblock riot, during which a female guard was grabbed by her hair and pelted with feces and urine. He has been charged with aggravated arson, aggravated battery and mob action in connection with that incident.

A date for Aquino's murder trial has not been set. He will now be defended by Kane County Public Defender David Kliment, who was ordered on the case Monday after Donahue's motion was granted.



*8-17-04 Chronicle*

## **New traffic signals will start Friday in STC**

ST. CHARLES TOWNSHIP Motorists should expect — New traffic signals on delays of approximately 15 Randall Road will be activated minutes and be prepared to stop on Friday.

The signal at Randall and Crane roads will be activated Szabo, Kane County Division at 10 a.m., and the signal at of Transportation traffic manager, at (630) 208-3139. Randall and Bolcum roads will be activated at 11 a.m.

— *Kane County Chronicle*

# GOP turning to consultants

## ■ Kane County races: McConnaughay using campaign donations to buy advice for friends

By Nathaniel Zimmer  
STAFF WRITER

GENEVA — With plenty of money in the bank and an underfunded political unknown for an opponent, Kane County Board member Karen McConnaughay is spreading the wealth, spending thousands of dollars in campaign donations on political consultants she said are now working mainly to elect fellow Republicans.

In the past year, McConnaughay has spent nearly \$20,000 for advice from Christine Dudley of Chicago, who was executive director of the Illinois Republican Party throughout most of the 1990s and the Midwest field representative for the Republican National Committee during the 2000 presidential election.

Dennis Cook received more than \$30,000 from McConnaughay during the same period. Cook, an Orland Park resident, worked on DuPage County State's Attorney Joseph Birkett's unsuccessful 2002 bid for Illinois attorney general and is chairman of the suburban Cook County Young Republicans.

"As a candidate for County Board chair I do feel it is important to help County Board candidates," said McConnaughay, who is running against Democrat Tom Meadath of St. Charles. "When you're at the top of the ticket, you have a responsibility to help."

There are seven contested county board races this year, and McConnaughay said Cook and Dudley "spend a lot of their time working on all of those races," with Cook involved on a day-to-day basis and Dudley handling overall strategy.

Republicans don't consider all seven races to be truly competitive, however. Instead, they're focused mainly on assisting Republican incumbents Margaret Scalfaro of Carpentersville, Jack Cook of Elgin and Mary Richards and Penny Cameron, both of Aurora.

All represent districts with substantial numbers of Democrats at a time when the left is united in opposition to President George W. Bush and Illinois Republicans are worried that their candidate for U.S. Senate, Alan Keyes, could alienate moderate swing voters.

With the Dundee Township Republican Party only lately having recovered from a contentious, two-year power struggle, Scalfaro in particular is thought to be vulnerable to her challenger, Carpentersville's Hollie Kissane.

Kurt Kojzarek, a friend of Dennis Cook's and a fellow officer with the Federation of Illinois Young Republicans, said that although fears of Democratic upsets in county board races are for the most part overblown, Scalfaro "does have a pretty tough

race, I'll give that to the Democrats."

While local Republicans keep a close eye on individual races, Dudley said she's monitoring the big picture.

Moderates and swing voters have become increasingly important in fast-growing Kane County as independents and Democrats from Chicago and Cook County arrive in ever-greater numbers.

"What you're seeing in Kane is what you're seeing in the other collar counties," Dudley said. New residents "tend to be nonaffiliated and independent" and candidates "have to be aware of who those people are."

Not that Dudley is offering policy, as opposed to political, advice, she noted.

"I'm there to discuss politics," she said. "The policy is driven by Karen."

Besides which, Dudley added, "Good policy is good politics."



Karen  
McConnaughay

## BATAVIA Wal-Mart closer to construction

The long-awaited Wal-Mart store at the southeast corner of Randall Road and Fabyan Parkway inched closer this week to being built, the City Council learned Monday.

Wal-Mart Corp. officials announced they have decided to proceed with the redesigned store after a long construction bid process, said City Administrator Bill McGrath. "We are looking to them now for a construction schedule. We and they have to coordinate with the county to make the needed improvements to Fabyan Parkway," McGrath said.

Wal-Mart first asked Batavia to annex the parcel and approve plans for the store two years ago, said Community Development Director Kai Tarum. "The project went through intensive staff and Plan Commission scrutiny," she said.

The City Council approved the project in May 2003.

After delays negotiating with the Kane County Department of Transportation over widening Fabyan Parkway to accommodate traffic flow in and out of the store, the corporation shelved the project while redesigning its stores nationwide, Tarum said.

Denise Linke

EAST AUBURN

Fox Valley

DAILY HERALD SECTION 1 PAGE 5

# Dog abuse case to stay put

8-18-04 Daily Herald

BY TONA KUNZ  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Daniel Joyner lost a chance Tuesday at getting probation on charges that he molested a pit bull.

Kane County Judge James Doyle refused to let Joyner try his case of alleged sexual abuse of an animal in drug court, unless his attorney can tie the abuse to drug use.

Entry into drug court would have set Joyner on the path for probation and having the charges eventually dropped from his permanent record.

Officials had tried to get Joyner's case heard in drug court because he already has two other criminal cases going

on there. He is awaiting sentencing there on heroin possession and failing to show up for a drug court hearing.

Consolidating similar cases into one courtroom is part of a county policy to save time and prisoner transportation costs while giving the judge a broader picture of the defendant's actions.

Prosecutors said that so far Joyner's defense attorney Tim Martin of Naperville, who missed the Tuesday court hearing, has not filed any paperwork claiming drug use was an issue in the alleged June molesting of the dog in Geneva.

Joyner, 27, of 40W019 Hughes Road outside Elburn, has said he is not guilty of the attack.

In drug court, typically, defendants get probation in exchange for attending counseling, and treatment sessions as well as submitting to periodic drug tests. After a person completes the two-year program his record is wiped clean of that charge.

Because Doyle won't hear the animal abuse case, Joyner will have to take his chances in a regular courtroom where probation is only one of several potential sentences. He also would be eligible for up to nine years in prison and a \$75,000 fine.

Judge Grant Wegner, who heard Joyner's animal abuse case earlier this month, said at the time that he did not think

the abuse should qualify for drug court. The case now returns to his courtroom.

The drug court denial wasn't the only setback Joyner got Tuesday from Doyle. Because Joyner's attorney failed to show up in court, Doyle declined to consider lowering Joyner's bond on the drug court cases.

Joyner had success earlier this month getting the bond lowered in his animal abuse case and had hoped for similar success with the cases pending in drug court. His attorney has said the combined bonds are too expensive for him to pay and get out of the Kane County jail. He has been in jail since July 16 when he turned himself in to police.

# 2030 land plan feedback includes housing concerns

BY PATRICK WALDRON  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

During a round of public hearings, Kane County's master development guide received a mixed bag of criticism and praise with, as expected, much of the feedback concentrated on traffic, schools and even affordable housing.

Plus, with more than 1,000 copies of the 275-page 2030 Lane Resource Management Plan in the hands of municipal leaders and residents, this summer's response also illustrates how several cities aren't exactly in line with the county's vision.

"Our plans and their plans," said county planning director Sam Santell, "in some areas won't match up."

As part of the 2030 plan, the county has outlined where it sees new residential and commercial growth coming. An overall look at how much agricultural land and open space will remain and how much will be developed is included.

In Sugar Grove, Hampshire and Elgin, the county's vision for the size of the towns comes in smaller — covering less new open land — than the plans created and touted by local community leaders.

That mismatch is no surprise to Santell and leaders in Sugar Grove, Hampshire or Elgin. Still, Santell said his department continues to work closely with the towns to map out long-term growth strategy.

As with the last planning guide the county created, it cannot force municipalities to follow its vision, rather county

leaders can only make recommendations.

He stressed that the county vision does show growth and makes room for a county population in 2030 of 750,000 people, up from 404,000 in 2000.

In other areas discussed during a summary presentation to the county board's development committee Tuesday, Santell said he was surprised at the number of comments received about the availability of affordable housing in Kane County.

Taking up those suggestions, Santell said the 2030 plan's section on affordable housing will be expanded. The draft already

calls for a higher priority to be placed on building residences that can be bought by lower income families.

In recent months, some board members have pointed out how most new residential developments that came before the county board have only homes priced at \$400,000 and above.

That needs to change, some members say.

The county's regional plan commission will have one last meeting to consider its recommendation of the 2030 plan at 7 p.m. today in the auditorium at Building A of the county government center, 719 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva.

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# Public: Build 'affordable housing' into 2030 plan

8-18-04 Chronicle

## Kane County also asked about unclugging congested roads

BY HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Public response to Kane County's 2030 Land Resource Management Plan shows a desire that more detailed "affordable housing" directives be included in the document.

A list of more than 200 comments regarding the land-use plan also shows that residents are clamoring for stronger language explaining how the county expects to unclug congested roads and smooth traffic flow in the future. And some communities question the

county's mapping of its future growth. The comments were presented Tuesday to the Kane County Development Committee. They come after county officials accepted public comment for nearly two months and held three public meetings regarding the plan's draft version. "I did not expect so many comments about affordable housing," said Sam Santelli, Kane County planning director. Another public hearing will

be at 7 p.m. tonight concerning the county's proposed blueprint for future land use. The meeting is scheduled to be held in the auditorium of Building A at the Kane County Government Center.

Comments from that meeting will be used to craft the final plan that could be presented to the Kane County Regional Planning Commission at its Sept. 1 meeting, Santelli said.

The 2030 plan updates the county's 2020 plan and takes into account expected future

county expects to handle the need for "affordable housing," which commonly is defined as housing that costs less than 30 percent of an individual's gross income. "Not enough specifics about how they were going to accomplish achievable affordable housing in Kane County, especially in critical areas," said Darlene Bakk, Kane County Housing Action Coalition facilitator.

Another public hearing on the plan will be at 7 p.m. today in the auditorium of Building A at the Kane County Government Center.

The document includes planning and land-resource management policies to accommodate up to 750,000 residents.

Among the many comments are suggestions to integrate more details of how the

See PLAN, page 2

## Plan

Continued from page 1

The land-use plan divides the county into three vertical areas: the urban corridor of Fox Valley communities, the critical growth area that includes communities such as Elburn and Sugar Grove, and the agricultural area to the west.

Santelli said the comments might lead to an additional paragraph in the plan that addresses housing for multiple incomes. The current draft has one paragraph of 15 pages dedicated to such housing.

Kane County Board Chairman Mike McCoy said that costs often prevent a dramatic addition of affordable housing in new development. He said such housing could

come from current homes. "I think our (affordable housing) goal in Kane County has to be in our existing housing stock," McCoy said.

The public comments also show concern from a few "critical" area communities related to how much the county thinks their villages will grow.

Sugar Grove village officials question the plan because they feel that their community will grow faster than the county expects, said Scott Buening, Sugar Grove community development director.

Santelli said the county plan likely will show different expected growth boundaries than some communities have included in their maps. The county land-use plan can be amended in the future, he said.

# Kane will debate land-use plan

Hearing to address conflicting views

By William Presecky  
Tribune staff reporter

A proposed comprehensive land-use plan for Kane County that promotes renewal of its urban corridor, refinement of the open areas where intense development pressure is likely, and a recommitment to farming will be the subject of a public hearing Wednesday.

County planners said the

roughly 80 written responses to the draft 2020 Land Resource Management Plan that have been reviewed this month are as diverse as the county itself.

Some, from environmentalists and regional planning groups that endorse the so-called sensible growth principles on which the plan is based, say it is "a bold, clear-cut approach to addressing the desired distribution of growth."

Others, from groups representing Kane's real estate and land development interests, declare its goal to preserve half the county's land as open space and

farmland to be "noble," but not "very realistic."

A public hearing on the non-binding plan is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Kane County Government Center, 719 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva. The latest draft plan is an updated version of the 2020 plan adopted by the county in June 1996.

The Regional Planning Commission is set to review the draft Sept. 1 and make revisions in response to the public comments.

Sam Santell, county planning director, said the full County Board could consider the plan for adoption as soon as October

300,000, based on a projected growth rate that is nearly double that of the last 30 years.

A major challenge is how and where to accommodate the new arrivals while maintaining as much of the county's diverse character as possible.

Kane's proposed land-use strategy divides the 522-square-mile county into three general areas. The first is an urban corridor that straddles the Fox River between Elgin and Aurora.

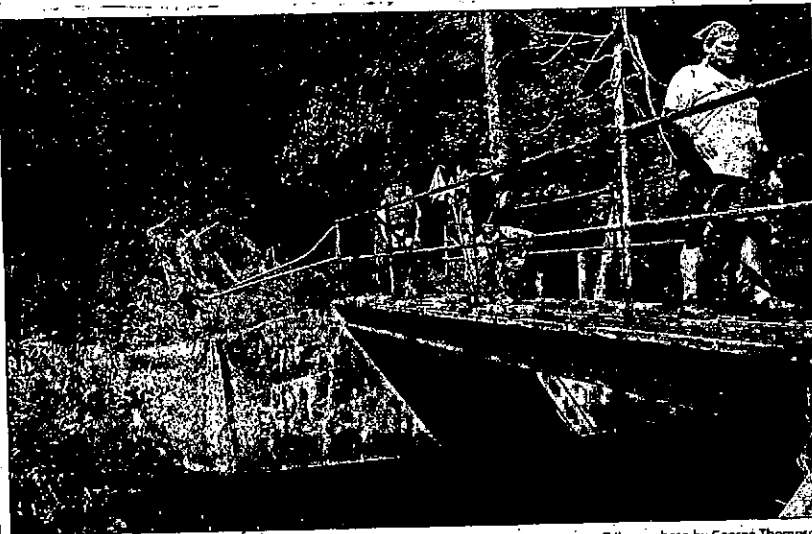
The second is a rural or agricultural area along its western and southern borders with DeKalb and Kendall Counties. The final zone is a critical growth area in between, where Kane makes the transition from city to country and where development pressure is keen.

From 1970 to 2000, Kane added about 153,000 residents. Between 2000 and 2030, the county is expected to grow by almost

The draft plan calls for a recommitment to protecting farmland as a valuable natural resource and an economically productive land use; renewal of the urban corridor through so-called in-fill development; and refinement in development activities in the central, critical growth area.

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Tribune photo by George Thompson

Campers hike over the former site of the Brewster Creek dam at Camp Tu-Endie-Wei in Elgin. Notches had been cut into the dam over several months to remove the structure gradually.

8-18-04 CHICAGO TRIBUNE

# Notch one up for nature

## Native plants take root after dam's gradual removal

By Lynn Van Matre  
Tribune staff reporter

Six months after an aging dam on Brewster Creek in Kane County became the first in Illinois—possibly the first in the country—to be taken down by an incremental “notching” process, a new stream channel has formed, and what was once a lakebed is sprouting a lush layer of native vegetation.

“I think the project is a suc-

cess,” said Karen Kosky, a watershed engineer for the Kane County Environmental Management Department, one of seven national, state and local agencies that provided funding for the \$777,000 dam removal on the grounds of YWCA Camp Tu-Endie-Wei. The camp is in Elgin at Illinois Highway 25 and Stearns Road.

“But it’s still a trial run in the eyes of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and they’re waiting to make a

final judgment call on the environmental impacts,” she said.

The state EPA recently awarded the project an additional \$190,000 to monitor sediment levels and aquatic life of the Fox River tributary as indicators of environmental health.

“We get approached fairly regularly by people who want to do a dam removal,” said

PLEASE SEE BREWSTER, PAGE 6

## BREWSTER: Dam removed by cutting notches in it

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marcia Willhite, state EPA water bureau chief. “If aquatic communities remain intact and sediment levels are lower using the gradual removal method [of a dam], we can recommend it more confidently.

“Brewster Creek is a fairly small creek,” Willhite said. “But ultimately there might be a way of transferring this methodology to larger projects.”

David Hewitt, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers, said that although a few dams had been notched in the U.S. to improve aquatic habitats, he knew of no other dams that had been removed by the gradual notching process or in carefully planned steps.

In recent years, removing dams has sparked debate in the Chicago region and elsewhere, with proponents citing environmental benefits and dam supporters arguing that such

claims are largely anecdotal and that dams can add scenic charm.

In the case of Brewster Creek, virtually everyone agreed the dam had to go. Built in 1929 to create Camp Tu-Endie-Wei’s 4.3-acre Willow Lake, the 10-foot-tall, 20-foot-wide structure had deteriorated to the point the state EPA declared it a potentially life-threatening hazard.

Faced with repair bills expected to total as much as \$400,000, the cash-strapped Elgin YWCA instead opted for the innovative dam removal project that could be funded with state and federal grants. Eventually, the project also would involve the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Taking out the dam all at once was not feasible, because sediment and erosion control regulations in Illinois dictate that no sediment can move off of a construction site,” Kosky said.

Complying would have meant engineering costs around \$1.2 million, he said, leading to the idea of notching the dam.

“It was a less expensive option that hopefully would have

minimal environmental impact,” Kosky said. The state EPA allowed the movement of sediment if it was monitored.

Four notches were cut out of the dam between June and December of last year, with the fifth and final piece removed in February.

“One of the concerns with dam removal is that the big slug of sediment that has accumulated behind the dam moves downstream,” Willhite said. “By taking out small pieces of the dam over time, not as much water is moving the sediment and it stays in the lakebed.”

The creek, part of an 8.3-acre wetland that is undergoing restoration, has formed a naturally meandering stream channel and is home to fish and other aquatic organisms. And the one-time lake bottom that some feared would become a stagnant mudbed has sprouted native vegetation, Kosky said.

Felicia King, development director for the Elgin YWCA, said that many youngsters miss the lake.

“Canoeing is more difficult, because we have to take the kids to the Fox River,” King said.

“On the other hand, ... the dam removal opened up a lot of educational opportunities, and the kids have gotten a little closer to nature.”



Chavez Saulsberry (left) lifts a computer onto a recycling pile while others line up in cars to drop off their used electronics and books Saturday afternoon at the Kane County Circuit Clerk's Office in St. Charles. Every second Saturday of the month the office accepts used electronics to be recycled. About 250 cars a week pass through. The used equipment fills two semi-trailers.

MICHAEL R. SCHMIDT / SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

8-18-04 Beacon News

## Kane expands recycling program

By Anne Marie Apollo  
STAFF WRITER

Gary Mielke jokes that Kane County's new recycling program takes everything involved with information technology, both new and old.

In reality, books and electronics are the only items collected each month at the Kane County Circuit Clerk's Office under the program.

What's really behind the pairing is that both are things people rarely throw away and that they attach some value to, said Mielke, who is recycling coordinator for the county.

"Now, when the time comes, we have an option for people," he said.

After several years of successfully collecting electronics three times annually in locations spread

throughout the area, the county in May began accepting books and holding the events each month.

Not counting the most recent collection on Saturday, 1,016 people have dropped off materials already this year, compared to 1,453 in 2003.

Mielke said 80 percent is electronics. Commonly known as e-waste — particularly computer monitors and cell phones, which can be filled with lead — it has been increasingly targeted for recycling by municipalities.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 3.2 million tons of electronic waste ends up in landfills annually.

Last year, Kane County diverted 207,000 pounds of the waste.

The collections were expanded this year due to demand, according

to the county.

Mielke said monthly collection drives are scheduled in St. Charles for the second Tuesday of every month through April.

The county contracts with a West Chicago company that destroys all the electronics, then separates the waste out into plastics, metals, glass and other substances, Mielke said. The books, too, are destroyed and shredded after their hard bindings are removed.

The company involved in the recycling does not charge the county but recoups its costs by selling the processed paper. There is cost involved for the electronic recycling, fees Mielke said the county pays through charges assessed on the Settler's Hill landfill in unincorporated Geneva.

"We're taxing the problem to

### Kane recycling program

**When:** Collection is from 8 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday of the month. Upcoming dates include Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11.

**Where:** At the Kane County Circuit Clerk's Office, 540 S. Randall Road in St. Charles.

**Accepted materials:** All computer parts, including monitors, printers, modems, keyboards, mice and cables, as well as telephones, televisions, stereo equipment and many other electronics. A full list of acceptable items can be found at [www.co.kane.il.us](http://www.co.kane.il.us) under the Environmental Management Web page.

fund its solution," he said.

For more information, call (630) 208-3841.



8-7-04

# Beacon News Long-awaited bike bridge down the road

By Nathaniel Zimmer  
STAFF WRITER

GENEVA — After years of delay, Illinois and Kane County officials finally are moving forward with a plan to build a \$2.4 million pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Route 56 between Sugar Grove and Aurora.

The bike bridge will be a link along the 12-mile Virgil L. Gilman Trail, which runs through the south side of Aurora along abandoned railroad tracks, crosses the Fox River on an old truss bridge and continues beyond Route 56 through Prestbury Golf Course and two forest preserves to Waubesa Community College north of Sugar Grove.

"This project, as everyone knows, has gone on forever," said John Hoscheit, president of the Kane County Forest Preserve Commission.

Preliminary work on the bridge could start as early as this fall after bids are received and a contractor is selected, according to consultant Nabi Fakroddin, a former head of the county's transportation department. Construction could conclude next summer.

The county has received nearly \$1.6 million in grants for the project.

Fakroddin said the bridge will be some 500 feet long and will clear Route 56 by more than 16 feet.

County Board Chairman Mike McCoy noted the bridge will provide a welcome alternative to the many people who race across the busy, four-lane Route 56 on foot to continue on the Gilman Trail.

Also at Friday's Forest Preserve Commission meeting, members voted to pursue negotiations to acquire the 135-acre Meyer farm north of Rohrsen Road near the nearly 800-acre Muirhead Forest Preserve in Plato Township.

In addition, commission members debated but reached no conclusion regarding a proposal by Forest Preserve District Executive Director Monica Meyers to spend \$10,000 to \$20,000 to have an outside consultant study the organizational structure and salary levels within her 63-employee department.

Hoscheit and several other members expressed interest in the proposal, with Hoscheit saying that a study of the department conducted by Northern Illinois University a decade ago had proved beneficial.

McCoy and board member Don Wolfe of Elgin took a different view.

"I think these kinds of things are a waste," McCoy said. He suggested performing the study using county employees.

# Hampshire residents aim to open liquor store

8-9-04 Chronicle

By MEGAN EDWARDS  
Shaw News Service

HAMPSHIRE — Three entrepreneurs say they will continue trying to open a second liquor store in Hampshire, despite opposition from Village President Bill Schmidt.

The liquor commission denied their application for a liquor license weeks ago, citing a lack of parking at the

proposed location, 278 N. State St.

But Schmidt said one liquor store was enough for Hampshire when two of the applicants, Hampshire resident Chris Obeid and Alexander Gemignani, of Schaumburg, spoke to him after Thursday's village board meeting.

Obeid and Gemignani said they hope increasing parking at their building, formerly Hampshire House Antiques, will sway other members of the liquor commission, Trustees Tom Brown and Bill Swallow.

"If we can get two trustees on our side, maybe (Schmidt) will change his mind," Obeid said.

Brown said he probably will not approve a liquor store on State Street.

"Get another location and reapply," he told the applicants.

Obeid and Gemignani said they are considering other locations in the village, but would prefer the location on State Street.

They bought the building for \$300,000 on July 16 after conversations with village officials convinced them they could open a liquor store there.

It now is back on the market.

8-8-04 Daily Herald

### Landfill money sought:

Kane County officials this week said that the dumping of 201 tons of benzene-tainted soil into Settle's Hill Landfill in Geneva was not a mistake — that Shell did not follow proper procedure in paperwork for what it was dumping at Settle's Hill — and is seeking financial compensation from Shell Oil Co. for it. The soil is not going to be removed, as experts say it will not pose a danger to the landfill or the groundwater below.

## Kane trail bridge finally to be built

After waiting six years and watching cost estimates roughly double, Kane County Forest Preserve District officials were told Friday that construction could begin this fall on a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Illinois Highway 56 near Galena Boulevard in Sugar Grove.

The state is scheduled to open bids Sept. 17 on the Virgil Gilman Nature Trail project, which includes a five-span, 500-foot steel bridge, Nabi Fakroddin, an engineer with McHenry-based Smith Engineering Consultants Inc., told the district's Executive Committee.

The district's costs for final engineering and construction were estimated by Fakroddin to top \$2 million, compared with the original estimate of \$1 million.

The committee recommended payment of its share.

The district has earmarked a \$200,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the project, to which it will add more than \$1 million in federal funds.

Fakroddin said the bridge and trail project is expected to begin in October and be completed about a year from now.

8-7-04  
Chicago Tribune

# Bike-bridge work may begin soon

By PATRICK WALDRON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After nearly five years of engineering and planning delays, Kane County Forest Preserve District leaders say construction of a bike bridge along the Virgil Gilman Trail over Route 56 in Sugar Grove should begin this fall.

The forest preserve commission's executive committee Friday recommended moving forward with funding for the estimated \$2.4 million project, of which about \$861,000 will come from the forest preserve.

"This project, as everyone knows, has gone on forever," said Forest Preserve Commission President John Hoschelt, a St. Charles Republican. "It's good that we are getting it done."

Much of the project's delays

focus on plans for the reconstruction of Route 56, a long-term project from the Illinois Department of Transportation. The designs of the new road directly affect how the bike bridge should be built, said Nabi Fakroddin, an engineering consulting working on the project.

Originally, Fakroddin said, IDOT told the bridge planners that the elevation of Route 56 would be raised 3 feet when reconstruction is finished, but revised plans call for a 7-foot shift.

"As a result the bridge went up and we made it longer," he said.

The bridge plans now call for a 500- to 600-foot steel span over Route 56 that will ultimately have a 16.5-foot clearance. Building a bridge there

remains a priority because of the deteriorating condition of the existing tunnel that takes bicyclists under the road. Some have stopped using it and are crossing Route 56 at street level.

County Board Chairman Mike McCoy, an Aurora Republican, described the existing tunnel as snake-filled.

"I wouldn't go in that tunnel," he said.

The project is being run by state transportation officials and paid for primarily with federal highway money. Construction proposals are expected to be opened next month in Springfield.

If the state and county approve one of those proposals, construction could start in October with work wrapping up sometime next summer, Fakroddin said.

# Damages in contaminated soil dumping will be up to lawyers

By TOM SCHLUETER  
Kane County Chronicle

Shell Oil Company is one of those large firms with branches throughout the industry and around the world. Shell Pipeline Co. is at the center of a controversy after they knowingly or unknowingly sent dirt contaminated with gasoline to Setzler's Hill Landfill in Geneva.

The county appointed two special prosecutors, Michael Childress and Timothy Dwyer, to investigate the matter. So far the investigation has shown that the company did not

follow its own protocol when dealing with such incidents.

A skeptical person might say Shell does not care one way or another. In fact, for them it might be less expensive doing it this way. They got rid of the soil and will have to pay undetermined damages to the county, which may or may not be less than what it would have cost the company to send the soil to a hazardous waste site.

At one point, Childress said Shell was "all lawyered-up."  
Now that Kane County is lawyered-up, too, we'll see whose

lawyers are in the best position to help their clients. . . .

The tax administration system is on its way to being fixed. The county board should approve the contract with DevNet to modernize some of the county's equipment.

For the most part, this has been an insider problem. The average taxpayer, some board members have said, does not care in the least when their tax bills come. He or she would prefer one never come.

County and township officials are the ones battling this fight.

There are two reasons why the regular Joe should care at least a little bit.

Taxing bodies rely on timely disbursements of the taxes to keep operating. School districts especially need a smooth flow of cash.

And, then, anything that keeps government officials from bickering among themselves cannot help but be a positive step forward.

While Sleepy Hollow resident Mark Peterson's effort at honoring Chief Blackhawk by protesting at Monday's renaming of the Blackhawk Forest

Preserve was admirable, it is hard to imagine Chief Blackhawk himself would much care.

Europeans took a lot of American Indian names and used them for themselves (Illinois, for example). We name sports teams, automobiles, towns, rivers and dozens of other things after the original inhabitants, as if that is some-how compensation for taking their land.

The forest preserve is now named after Jon Duerr, the district's retired executive director. It is a fitting tribute, and I don't think Chief Blackhawk is spinning in his grave at least over this.



8-7-04 Daily Herald

# Kane forest officials may seek ideas from outsider

BY PATRICK WALDRON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With a new executive director in place, leaders of the still-growing Kane County Forest Preserve District are looking at hiring a consultant to review how the district operates and how much employees are paid.

"Step back and look back 10 years and we had a small number of employees and 4,000 acres and now we have

13,000 acres," said forest preserve commission President John Hoscheit, a St. Charles Republican.

Today the district has 61 full-time staff members and is interested in creating a master plan to guide development of all that new property and the job responsibilities of the staff.

It's the kind of planning men-

tality that was key to the hiring of new Executive Director Monica Meyers, who took over last month.

On Friday, Meyers presented the commission's executive committee with a plan to recruit a firm to conduct the organizational assessment and salary review.

Such a study is not unheard of at the district. In 1994, the

district hired experts from Northern Illinois University to look at how the governmental body runs things.

Years later, that analysis led to the creation of the executive director spot and the elimination of what was essentially a three-person leadership team that lacked a true boss.

Members of the committee

agreed with the premise of an organizational review, but disagreed about who should do it.

"I think these kinds of things are a waste of money," said county board Chairman Mike McCoy, an Aurora Republican, dishing out skepticism about what a consultant could come up with.

McCoy argued that Meyers,

Consultant considered to help commission manage 13,000 acres, growing staff

who said she has been part of two such analyses in her career, could do as good of a job at the study and not cost \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Hoscheit, Meyers and others, including Jan Carlson, an Elburn Republican, seemed to favor an outsider who could come in with fresh, independent perspective.

The committee decided to delay action on the assessment request and will consider it again next month.

# Kane prosecutors juggle three capital murder cases at once

Kane County finds itself shepherding three capital murder cases through the judicial system this year.

No problem, said First Assistant State's Attorney Bob Berlin.

With access to the state's capital case litigation fund and multiple attorneys on both sides qualified to try the cases, Berlin expects things to run smoothly.

The three cases are a mix of old and new.

Last month, Kane County State's Attorney Meg Gorecki told prosecutors to seek the death penalty for Joseph Foreman, the Batavia man accused of killing his former mother-in-law and beating his ex-wife into a coma.

Edward Tenney is back in Kane County courtrooms regarding the 1993 murder of Virginia Johannesen in Aurora. The original guilty verdict and death sentence were struck down by the Illinois Supreme Court on appeal because the jury was told another person originally was charged with the murder. His new trial is expected to be certified as a capital murder case in August.

Gorecki announced she will seek the death penalty if Vivian Mitchell, a 38-year-old homeless woman from Elgin, is convicted of stabbing Lynn Weis, a 32-year-old West Dundee resident, more than 90 times and setting her house on fire. That case could go to trial later this year.



Tona Kunz & Adam Kovac  
Kane County Crime & Justice

**No free rides:** A tight county budget means everyone has to help out, even prisoners.

Saying he was taking the financial state of the county and sheriff's office in consideration, Kane County Judge Grant Wegner refused to have taxpayers pony up the salary of six sheriff's deputies needed to escort a convicted felon to his mother's funeral.

The judge did offer to let Emmitt T. Tiner, 37, go to the funeral but only if he paid for his escort, Wegner told the man and his family last week.

Tiner has complained he's broke, but much of his dilemma is of his own making.

Wegner said he would have let the man go without an escort if it weren't for the litany of charges against him.

Of the eight felonies he faces in Kane County, he's already

## Crime:

### Bicyclist sues over trail fall

Continued from Page 1.

been convicted on six of them. He is scheduled to be sentenced on those charges next month and each of the six requires a mandatory prison term.

He also has a history of not attending court dates, and getting his bond revoked for not following the rules of drug court.

**Bike responsibly:** William Huber of Batavia is suing the Geneva Park District and Kane County Forest Preserve because he fell off his bike. Huber contends that slippery conditions on a trail bridge about 2 miles north of Wilson Street in Batavia caused him to break his hip. The lawsuit contends the government bodies owe it to bicyclists to post warnings about potential dangers.

• Tona Kunz and Adam Kovac cover Kane County courts. To contact Tona, call (630) 587-8631 or send e-mail to tkunz@dailyherald.com. To contact Adam, call (847) 608-2728 or e-mail akovac@dailyherald.com.

See CRIME on PAGE 2

under the influence of alcohol on 5:09 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4, on the 200 block of North Kirk Road. He also was charged with improper lane usage, refusing the breath test, driving without a valid driver's license, not wearing a seat belt, and leaving the scene of a property damage accident. Sanchez-Hernandez struck a parked car on the 400 block of Division Street, 100 feet west of Sixth Street.

- Someone broke a car window valued at \$200 at 3:40 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4, in the parking lot of the Fox Valley Ice Arena, 1996 S. Kirk Road.
- Someone stole plumbing tools valued at \$500 from a car parked on the 700 block of North Lincoln Street between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4.

## Former Geneva mayor charged with DUI

### 87-04 Chronicle

### Coughlin says he was not drunk

Police of West State Street also charged him with refusing a breath test in proper lane use and driving in the wrong lane. Coughlin served one year term as mayor, losing to Kevin Burns in 2001. He also served as alderman from 1985 to 1988, and from 1996 to 1997.

**By BRENDA SCHORY**  
Kane County Chronicle

**GENEVA** — Former Mayor Thomas Coughlin has been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. According to reports, Coughlin, 60, of 370 Brittany Court, was arrested at 11:24 p.m. Wednesday on the 1600

heel-to-toe walk to test his sobriety, he had trouble with it. "I'm sorry it happened," Coughlin said. "It was stupid. I was coming home, I was only a block away and the officer stopped me as I crossed over the yellow line improperly to make the left turn to where I live."

"I have to go to court in September. I'm sorry. This is an extreme embarrassment to me. I don't conduct myself that way. I'm disappointed in myself and embarrassed. I only had a couple of beers. I was not drunk. I know I was not drunk."

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8-8-04 Chronicle

# A volunteer voice for children

## Kane County CASA steps in when others will not

By DAN CAMPANA  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Two children sat loaked outside their second foster home, waiting for a state case worker to take them into custody.

Again. The foster mother, apparently discouraged after a year of caring for the children, called the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to have the young-sters picked up. DCFS originally placed the pair in foster care because of alcoholism and domestic violence issues involving their birth parents.

### CASA info

- For information about Court Appointed Special Advocate, call (630) 232-4484 or visit [www.casakane.org](http://www.casakane.org).

Vanhournout, a Kane County Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer, arrived to find the children, both under age 5, sitting with just the clothes on their backs.

Having been involved with the children for more than a year, Vanhournout knew more about the family than the DCFS representative. That familiarity helped Vanhournout talk with the mother and eventually get her to allow the

children's clothing and personal items to be collected.

The children eventually would live in three more foster homes before finally being adopted in August 2003.

"The fifth home proved to be the winner," Vanhournout said. "That was a pretty happy ending."

Vanhournout, now CASA's program specialist, and others involved with the nonprofit organization certainly would agree that children win be-

cause of CASA's work.

CASA has been around nationally for nearly three decades. The Kane County organization began its work in 1988 in a small office with two volunteers handling five cases.

Now, in an office that occupies half of the Kane County Courthouse's fourth floor, CASA runs on the strength and diversity of nearly 200 volunteers and a 10-person staff. In 2003, CASA represented 428

children in Kane County's judicial system.

"We've grown in numbers, quality and reputation," case manager coordinator Kathy Furgason said.

The idea behind CASA is simple: Represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in court and give them a "powerful voice," as their motto states.

However, providing that voice can be difficult, especially when it involves the

sometimes horrific circumstances of child abuse and the complexities of the legal system.

### No attachments, agenda

Volunteers, or CASAs, as they are called, are appointed by a judge to provide a direct representation of the child during custody cases involving abuse or neglect.

See CASA, page 2



Ben Jenkins — Chronicle photo staff

Linda Berny, executive director of CASA, listens to Case Management Coordinator Kathy Furgason during a recent CASA meeting at their offices in the Old Kane County Courthouse in Geneva.

# Kane County Chronicle

The Kane County Chronicle is published Sunday through Saturday. USPS No. 386190

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Kane County Chronicle  
1000 Randall Road  
Geneva, IL 60134

Periodicals postage paid in Geneva, IL 60134

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES		
	3 mo.	6 mo.
Kane County	\$35.10	\$58.50
Out of county	\$45.00	\$84.50

(Local rates include Wayne and West Chicago)

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## CASA

Continued from page 1

Through observation, research and consistent contact with a child, the volunteer puts together reports and recommendations on where the child should be placed, while also encouraging the child to offer their opinions and hopes. They investigate the child's background — everything from their medical records and schooling to family history — to offer judges an opinion on the child that is not connected to the wishes of birth parents, foster parents or DCFS.

Last year, 93 percent of CASA's recommendations were adopted by the court. Unlike social workers, CASA volunteers typically handle just one case at a time and stay with it until the child is adopted or turns 18. While the average case lasts nearly two years, at least one lasted more than 10 years; CASA Executive Director Linda Berry said.

With the help of nearly 30 pro bono attorneys from the area, CASA also has legal representation to assist in the sometimes complex cases.

### The volunteer spirit

He raised four kids of his own, but 62-year-old grandfather Pat Phillips always thought about helping

other children.

In January, he stepped into the life of another child. However, the circumstances of this child's life differed from anything he dealt with as a parent. The experience has brought on certain revelations. "As you get older, you realize that as a parent you do a lot of things wrong," Phillips said.

As a CASA volunteer, Phillips' perspective on abused and neglected children and their parents has changed. He now thinks some parents just do not know where to draw the line with discipline. Others go through denial and are afraid to admit problems such as abuse exist. Phillips quickly points out that the parents are not his concern as a volunteer. His focus, like CASAs, remains solely on improving the life of children in foster care. To do that, he uses his parenting experience and the CASA training.

"My job is to relate to the child," Phillips said. "I use my experience to judge a situation." In one instance, Phillips realized the slow pace of a child's speech development. As a result, the child was placed into speech therapy. After her youngest birth child went away to college in 2001, Berry and her husband welcomed a 12-year-old foster son into their home. It was the

12th home he had been placed in.

"We were his last hope," Berry said.

Using a combination of her experience as a foster mother and several years in the business world, Berry applied for the position as CASAs director as a way of helping a greater number of children.

Volunteers are predominantly women who work full-time jobs in addition to their CASA casework. Many come from a teaching background or volunteer after raising their own children, but there are no specific requirements to become a case advocate. CASA checks applicants for any criminal history or child abuse charges, in addition to an interview with case managers.

"They're asked some very personal questions," volunteer and training specialist Deb McQuaid said.

Applicants accepted by CASA then must complete 40 hours of training before being assigned to a case. Among other things, training classes teach volunteers about the legal system and cultural awareness.

The cultural aspect is particularly important because 37 percent of children CASA represented last year were black, while 92 percent of volunteers were white.

No. 1 © Sh

# Route 56 bike bridge funding given approval

8-7-04 Chronicle

## Bridge is in Sugar Grove Township

By TOM SCHLUETER  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — The forest preserve's Executive Committee authorized \$800,000 be spent for its share of the Gilman Trail bike bridge over Route 56 in Sugar Grove Township.

The total cost of the bridge will be \$2.4 million.

The Gilman Trail currently passes beneath the four-lane divided highway, but the underpass floods and riders avoid it.

Consulting engineer Nabi Fakroddin on Friday told committee members that the

Federal Highway Administration's portion will be \$1.37

million and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will pay \$200,000.

The Illinois Department of Transportation will open bids Sept. 14, and preliminary site work could begin by October, Fakroddin said.

Work on the bridge has been stalled for five years as forest preserve officials awaited a decision from IDOT. The state plans to raise the grade of Route 56 in the area, but the district did not know how high.

Fakroddin said Friday that the bridge will be built to accommodate a 7-foot increase

in the level.

"As everybody knows, this project has gone on forever," forest preserve President John Hoscheit said. "I think it's important that we go forward with this."

Fakroddin said raising the bridge proportionately means an additional 400,000 to 500,000 square yards of fill to construct the approaches.

"When the grade is raised, the bridge is raised," Fakroddin said.

Commissioner Mike McCoy, R-Aurora, said bike riders avoid the underpass and cross the highway on foot.

"I was out there this morning, and I saw people crossing," McCoy said. "I don't blame them. There are snakes in there."

Fakroddin said the bridge span will total 500 feet. He said the soonest it could be completed is next year.



McCoy



# Group asks Gorecki to void school boundaries

8-7-04 Chronicle  
**Tanner Trails residents say board violated Open Meetings Act.**

**By ERIC SCHEIKOPF**  
Kane County Chronicle

**NORTH AURORA** — A group of residents wants Kane County State's Attorney Meg Gorecki's help to void the West Aurora school district's new boundaries.

Chicago attorney Steven Donnelly, who represents residents from the Tanner Trails subdivision on the village's far west side, said the board approved the boundaries without giving proper notice as required by the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Donnelly wants Gorecki to file a

declaratory action against the district in Kane County Circuit Court requesting the modified boundaries be declared null and void, and that a Dec. 4, 2003, school board meeting be found in violation of the open meetings act.

The school board Dec. 4 voted 4-3 to approve new boundaries that have students from the Tanner Trails subdivision along with students from Schneider Elementary School feeding into the new Herget Middle School in Aurora rather than Jewel Middle School, which is on North

Aurora's west side.

The new school is expected to open in fall 2005.

"We believe the district modified these boundaries without proper notice as required by the Illinois Open Meetings Act," Donnelly said in his letter to Gorecki.

School board members could not be reached for comment.

Katherine Moran, chief of the civil division of the state's attorney's office, said she had received Donnelly's letter but had not reviewed it.

Donnelly said that in September

2003, students were sent home with a notice of a proposed boundary change.

"This notice made no mention that the children of Tanner Trails would be impacted by the boundary change," Donnelly said.

According to Donnelly, many Tanner Trails residents first learned their children would attend the new middle school by reading a story in the Dec. 5, 2003, edition of the *Kane County Chronicle*.

See BOUNDARIES, page 2

## Boundaries

Continued from page 1

After the board approved the new boundaries, 130 Tanner Trails residents signed a petition that the boundaries be revised so the subdivision will continue to be in Jewel's boundaries.

"We feel the board acted both immorally and illegally as they enacted a different set of boundaries than those presented in open meetings," Tanner Trails residents John and Gerri Vaughn said in a letter to Gorecki. "We feel it was their responsibility to communicate with their constituents, and they failed to properly do so."

After the December boundary ruling, the board decided to allow Tanner Trails students to choose between Herget Middle School or Jewel Middle School. Staff recommended Tanner Trails parents be given the option because they erroneously were told they would not be affected by the new boundaries.

School board members gave them that option as part of a transition plan they approved for the newly redrawn school boundaries.

However, those Tanner Trails parents who choose to send their children to Jewel would have to drive them to the school themselves.

8-7-04  
**Forest Chronicle**  
**preserve  
to study  
salaries**

By TOM SCHLUETER  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — The Kane County Forest Preserve might pay an outside consultant \$20,000 to study employee salaries.

Members of the Executive Committee voted Friday to consider the matter in a month.

Director Monica Meyers told the committee that unions actively have been recruiting forest preserve district employees.

**Bike bridge**  
• Executive Committee OKs funding for bridge over Route 56.

Page 3A

"Those organizations that have happy, satisfied employees are less likely to go union," Meyers said.

Friday's discussion centered on whether the district should send a request for proposals to consultants or have Meyers do it.

"They may open up to a third party," said Jan Carlson, R-Elburn. "It's good to have a third party come in."

Commissioner Mike McCoy, R-Aurora, said Meyers, having just started in June, would be able to take an objective view.

"I think those things are a waste of money. I'm totally confident (Meyers) could accomplish everything in here. That's why we brought her in here," McCoy said.

Preserve President John Hoscheit said a 1994 study of the district's structure called for a reorganization of the chain of command.

The district did not implement the changes until last year, after it had grown from 4,000 to 13,500 acres, he said.

## **\*Salaries**

Continued from page 1

"I'm not a big fan of consultants and spending a lot of money," Hoscheit said, but he added, "we have multiple issues we've never had to deal with."

Meyers said one reason to hire someone from outside is that the consultant would treat her the same as any of the district's 62 other employees.

"You're going to get a much more objective view," she said.

Some of the committee members believed a consultant will provide a report that tells the district what it wants to hear.

"I've seen consultants regurgitate exactly what you want," said Douglas Weigand, R-Batavia. "They dance to the tune of the people who pay them."

District salaries have a low range of \$19,422 to \$29,132 for a receptionist to \$102,000 to \$125,000 for the executive director.

See SALARIES, page 2

# Event brings awareness to area Red Cross efforts

By DAN CAMPANA  
Kane County Chronicle

WASCO — Fred Dornback's work for the American Red Cross has taken him to many places as a disaster worker.

On Sunday, he and many others joined together to help the organization's Fox River chapter during a \$25-a-ticket steak fry fund-raiser at Silverado Grill in Wasco.

Local businesses contributed coffee, 200 steaks and the 20 pounds of chocolate used for a large chocolate "fountain" that resembled hockey's Stanley Cup.

Bands also played classic rock throughout the afternoon, as Red Cross volunteers grilled steaks and corn on the cob.

"We like to do these things," Silverado owner Dave Waltradt said. "They're fun."

See RED CROSS, page 2

Maeve Lucas of South Elgin dips a marshmallow in a chocolate fountain for her daughter Maggie during the Summer Steak Fry fund-raiser sponsored by the Fox River Chapter of the Red Cross on Sunday at the Silverado Restaurant in Wasco.



## Red Cross

Continued from page 1

The designed for people who never have been involved with the Red Cross," Robertson said. "It's a fun, family-oriented, community-oriented thing that's meant to raise money for the disaster relief fund-raiser." Ky Catlin added, "This is really a Wasco event."

Catlin said the Red Cross is starting to have more fund-raising events that differ from expensive black-tie dinners.

She's trying to make things fun, Catlin said. Laura Osborne, a high school teacher from St. Charles, said she attended the fund-raiser because the Red Cross serves many people throughout the community who need its services in times of disaster.

Osborne pointed out that some of her students learned water safety through a Red Cross class. They later put those skills to use to help a classmate.

# Resolution encourages government involvement

8-9-84 Chronicle

## Two N. Aurora commissioners must resign

By ERIC SCHELKOPF  
Kane County Chronicle

**N. NORTH AURORA** — Village officials want more people involved in local government.

To do that, village trustees recently approved a resolution that prohibits people from serving on more than one commission that pays a stipend. The resolution also prohibits village employees from serving on a commission that pays a stipend.

"It allows more people to get involved, which is a healthy feature," Trustee Mike Herlihy said. "We do need to attract more people and insight as the village grows."

Village Administrator Sue McLaughlin agreed.

"It provides for more varied opinion and avoids a conflict of interest, especially when an employee is on a commission," McLaughlin said.

The village has three commissions that pay stipends — plan commission, police commission and police pension board. Each commission pays a stipend of \$35 per meeting, finance director Meg Morgan Dolasinski said.

But the village also has several committees that do not pay stipends, such as the Route 31 Committee and the Beautification Committee.

As a result of the new rules, two commissioners must resign.

Plan commissioner Linda Ruhl must resign because she also is the village's administrative assistant. Ruhl said she has been on the plan commission for more than 10 years.

"It's fine. They should get a more diverse group of people in here," Ruhl said. "New blood is always nice. The day I was hired (as administrative assistant), I said I would be happy to step down from the plan commission."

## Resolution

Continued from page 1

The nine-member plan commission makes recommendations to the village board on proposed housing and commercial developments and other matters.

Mark Gaffino serves on the plan commission and police commission. Village President Mark Ruby said Gaffino told him that he will stay on the police commission and leave the plan commission.

Ruby urged residents to contact him if they are interested in being on a commission such as the plan commission. He said residents should submit a brief resume.

"The main qualifications are having common sense or interest," Ruby said. "We need more people in the community that are involved."

Village building inspector Dan Sauter is on the police pension board. But village attorney Kevin Drendel said he would not have to step down from that board because state law mandates an employee be on the police pension board.

Drendel said state law permits the village to set rules that govern commissions.

"There is no prohibition as a policy matter," Drendel said. "The policy of getting a broader base of people involved, that's a good one. It is simply a decision to encourage broader involvement. It is not aimed at anybody."

# Teen dies from overdose day after getting out of jail

BY TONA KUNZ  
Daily Herald Staff Writer



he often thought about others.

He played video games with the neighbor boy 10 years his junior, just so the boy wouldn't feel so alone in a neighborhood full of girls.

Nathan would send search parties of friends out when he thought his little brother, Cory, got lost biking in the summer.

He was the first to volunteer to clean up around the Salvation Army center where the neighborhood children played basketball.

Even after the natural-born leader started taking heroin, he

Nathan McIlvaine called his mother Friday morning to tell her that he loved her and that he was a new man.

One day out of jail on a DUI charge, Nathan was planning a drug-free future.

"I am going to start getting my life in order," the St. Charles 19-year-old had said.

Hours later he died alone in a friend's basement.

"I just don't know why he took that last dose," said his mother, Leslie. "He wasn't happy doing heroin, and he wouldn't want other people to do it."

Fiercely independent, with a leather jacket and sometimes sporting a 3-foot tall mohawk, Nathan didn't seem to care what others thought about him, but

he often thought about others.

He played video games with the neighbor boy 10 years his junior, just so the boy wouldn't feel so alone in a neighborhood full of girls.

Nathan would send search parties of friends out when he thought his little brother, Cory, got lost biking in the summer.

He was the first to volunteer to clean up around the Salvation Army center where the neighborhood children played basketball.

Even after the natural-born leader started taking heroin, he

See **OVERDOSE** on PAGE 8

Continued from Page 1

# Overdose: Teen wanted to overcome addictions

Continued from Page 1

would think of others and tell them not to follow in his footsteps.

"Under his tough shell, he had a good heart," Cory, 16, said. "He was as good a brother as he could have been."

Although heroin has been in the suburbs for almost a decade, Nathan was too busy meeting new people, playing pranks with friends and dreaming of becoming a rock star to mess with it at first.

In fact, at St. Charles East

High School, Nathan had worn his drug-free lifestyle like a badge of honor.

"He would see people doing drugs and say it was stupid. He would lecture his brother and the neighborhood kids," Leslie said.

Things changed after high school. The teen who had been content to play his guitar on the back deck, serenading the neighborhood, had trouble finding his niche as an adult.

Others went to college. Nathan stayed in the area and started taking classes to

become a welder. He struggled to overcome a drinking problem that had plagued him since junior high. The punk rock bands that he led in high school were going nowhere.

And Nathan, a perfectionist, wanted everything to happen fast.

So when an older friend introduced him to heroin last October, at first he asked questions out of curiosity, then, he thought he'd try it — just once.

He threw up, but he didn't care.

He told his mom it was the

best feeling he had ever had.

He used for a while, but the boy with the big heart couldn't ignore what his using was doing to others, or what it might do.

Charismatic with a smile that lit up a room, others followed his lead.

As a boy, he took the biggest jumps on his BMX bike. As a teen he gave a speech and the room hushed to hear his every word.

"He was the first one to try something and then everyone else was after him," said Jason

Hellmich, a childhood friend.

Nathan didn't want that to happen with heroin. He tried to quit.

He joined Helps Ministries, a local support group for heroin addicts. After two weeks clean, he tried to go it alone without the support group.

It is a mistake many new addicts make, said ministries leader Angelo Valdes, himself a former cocaine addict.

"Changing your life is a process," Valdes said. "It takes time."

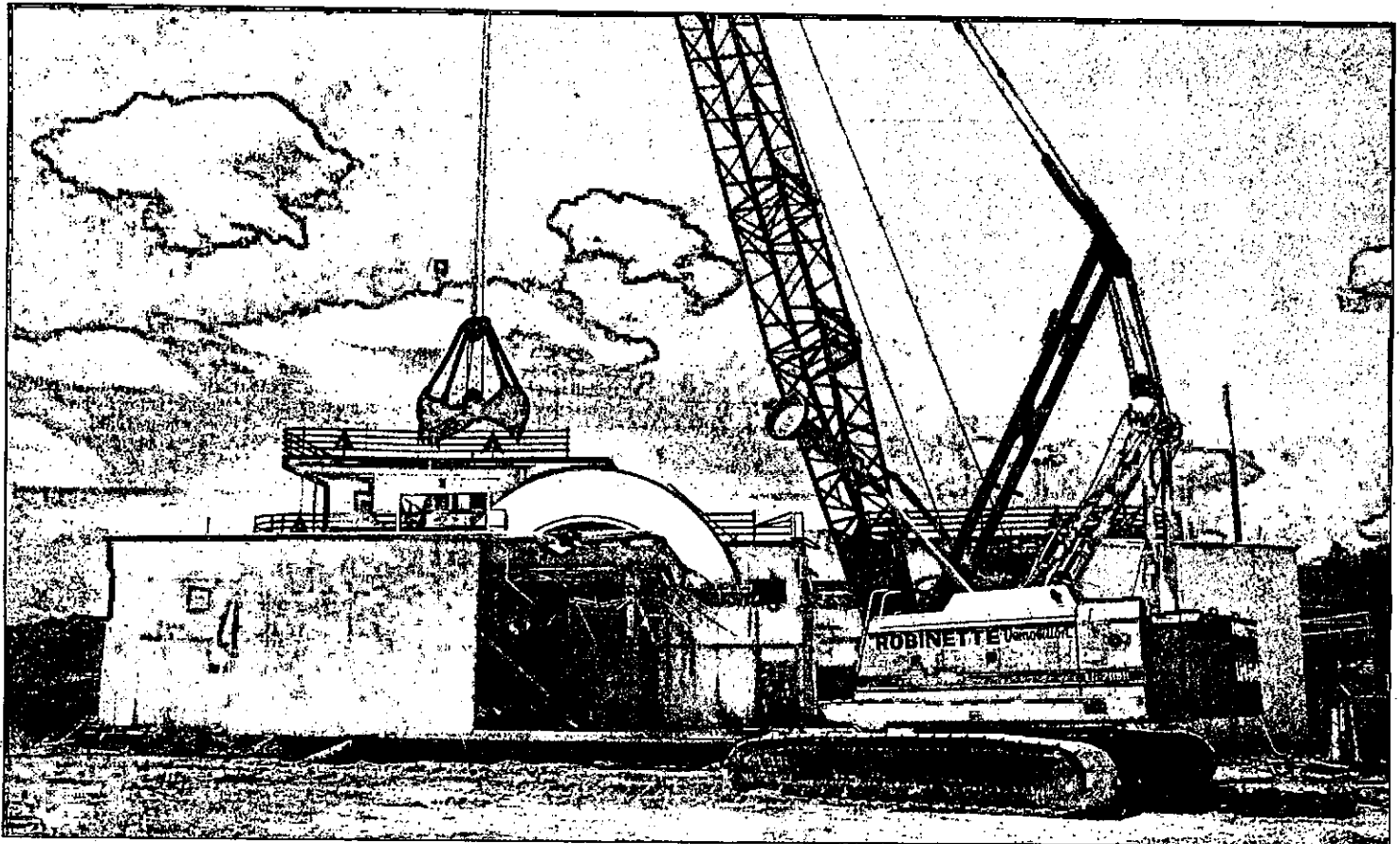
Back with his old friend, he

went back to his old habits: booze and heroin.

"He was struggling because he said he never had such a good feeling as when he was doing heroin," Leslie said.

A stint in jail forced him to get clean again, but it also left his system unprepared for the next time he fell off the wagon. It took just one night of partying to end his plans for a new future.

"They say when you go back, you go back hard," Valdes said. "And unfortunately, that is what happened."



Using a clamshell bucket, a crane operator works at dismantling the City of Lights II, one of Hollywood Casino's gaming boats.

DONNELL COLLINS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Casino riverboat is scrapped

## First boat could still be "possible future asset"

By Dave Parro  
STAFF WRITER

AURORA — For the past two years, the abandoned riverboat docked upstream from Hollywood Casino has represented how much gambling in Illinois has changed since coming to Aurora more than a decade ago.

From cruising to floating dockside to a land-based dockside facility, gambling on the Fox River has become more and more of a permanent part of the landscape here. The City of Lights II riverboat has stood for what gaming was when the Aurora boats were launched in 1993.

Now, as Hollywood Casino looks to the future, that particular riverboat will never again host high rollers or slot machine junkies. After receiving final assurance last year that Illinois won't return to the days of requiring casinos to actually float, the dismantling of Hollywood's second boat has begun, 11 years after being launched with much fanfare.

"The reason is that we have the new facility that we're very excited about, and it satisfies our needs," said Jim Hopp, Hollywood Casino's director of marine and property operations. Until recently, he said, "there was always the possibility of being required to go

back to cruising."

That possibility disappeared in May 2003, when new legislation that increased the gaming tax included a clause that no longer required casinos to have a back-up plan to dockside gambling. They are now allowed to operate knowing that cruising is a thing of the past.

City of Lights II was launched in May 1993, shortly after City of Lights I. At the time, the two boats were identical — 11,000 square feet and 420 tons, including 350 tons of steel. The first boat was eventually expanded to double its size.

Because Hollywood Casino now only has

space for one boat at its facility on New York Street in downtown Aurora, City of Lights II has sat alone in the Fox River off Route 25 since being decommissioned in February 2002. While there was some talk of selling the boat or donating it, the maintenance costs are ultimately too high for anyone outside the casino to run it up and down the Fox River.

City of Lights I will be maintained as a "possible future asset," Hopp said, because it's the bigger boat. That made City of Lights II expendable, so crews started gutting the

◆ Turn to CASINO, A2

## CASINO

From Page A1

inside about two weeks ago and will take about two months to dismantle it completely.

Currently, there's a hole in one side of the boat, and a crane is being used to hoist the large sections of the boat being cut away every day.

Alan Rosenzweig, Hollywood's marketing director, said the casino doesn't have any specific plans for City of Lights I but will keep it around because of its size. The

boat currently isn't being used.

"At the moment, there are no plans to dispose of City of Lights I," Rosenzweig said. "I can't tell you we have specific plans, but because we can't dictate the (gaming) climate, we want to hang on to it."

Hopp said it took nine months to a year for Garbe Iron Works to build the boats a decade ago. R.C. Wegman Construction is dismantling City of Lights II and plans to salvage the steel.

Contact staff writer Dave Parro at (630) 801-5495 or dparro@sca1.com.

# Parents contest school boundary

■ **Tanner Trails issue:** Group says board met improperly in deciding attendance areas

By **Matt Hanley**  
STAFF WRITER

**NORTH AURORA** — A group of parents from the Tanner Trails subdivision have asked the Kane County state's attorney's office to declare the revised West Aurora middle school boundaries null and void.

An attorney representing the parents in the subdivision north of Interstate 88 claims the West Aurora School Board misled parents and violated the Illinois Open Meetings Act, a contention strenuously denied by the district.

The Open Meetings Act requires that government bodies (including school boards) take all votes in public and post notice of meetings. Chicago attorney Steven Donnelly, who wrote the letter to the state's attorney, admitted he didn't know if the Dec. 4, 2003, meeting in question was posted or not. But he said Tanner parents were told they wouldn't be involved in a boundary change.

"The fact that (the district) then later gave people the wrong information and told people that Tanner Trails was not going to be discussed ... makes any notice null and void," Donnelly said.

## BOUNDARY

From Page A1

Donnelly acknowledged he did not know of any precedent for this type of Open Meetings Act challenge.

West Aurora Superintendent Sherry Eagle said unequivocally that the board never acted improperly and that Donnelly never contacted the district to review any board minutes before sending his letter.

"There was no breaking of the Open Meetings Act," she said. The Dec. 4 meeting was posted, held in a public place and advertised in the local media, as required in the Open Meetings Act, Eagle said.

"It is in no way required that every resident get a personal invitation," Eagle said.

At the end of 2003, the board rejected a proposal that would have excluded Tanner students from the boundary changes. The board then

asked the district administration to come up with a new proposal, and that proposal was approved at the Dec. 4 meeting.

The Open Meetings Act challenge comes from an effort by Tanner Trail parents to have their children go to Jewel Middle School with their Fearn Elementary School classmates. As of now, Tanner students would go to Herget Middle School, scheduled to open in 2005.

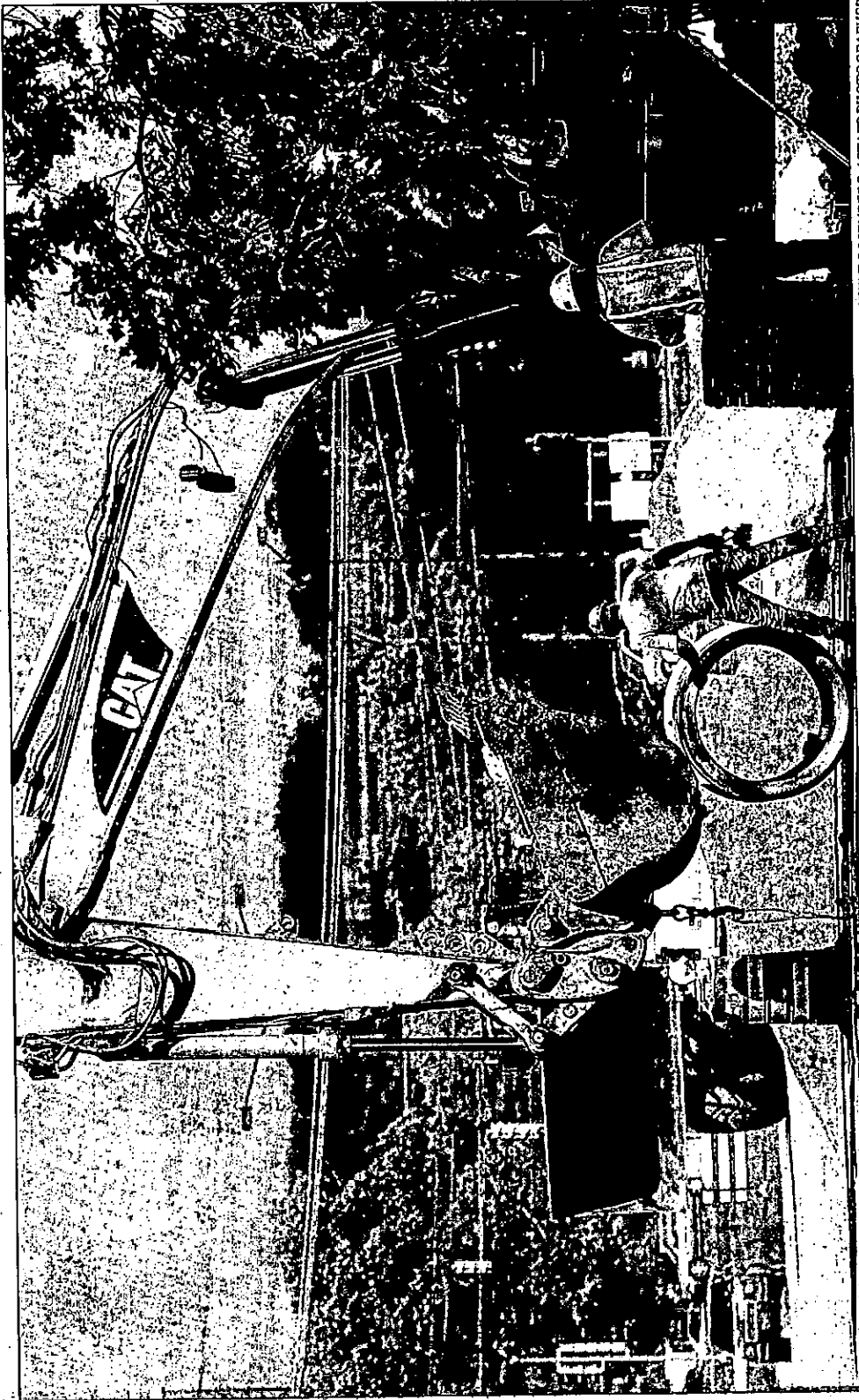
"I'm hoping that they'll put us at Jewel," said Linda McArdle, the Tanner parent who brought the complaint to Donnelly. "I'm hoping they go back to a feeder system because that makes sense."

The board has previously conceded that any Tanner Trails student already born may choose their middle school, but no busing board is expected to consider whether parents should be allowed to pay for busing.

The Kane County state's attorney's office did not return calls for comment.

8-10-04

# BEACON NEWS ON ROAD TOWARD BRIDGE



STEVE ROSENBERG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Employees of A&L Construction of Chicago begin work Monday on replacing the sewer lines along Sullivan Road west of Route 31 along the Aurora-North Aurora border. The stretch of Sullivan Road from Route 31 west to Highland Avenue will be closed for eight weeks as the road is expanded to four lanes to accommodate the traffic that will eventually come off the long-awaited Sullivan Road bridge. The \$13.8 million Sullivan Road bridge is expected to be open by summer 2006.



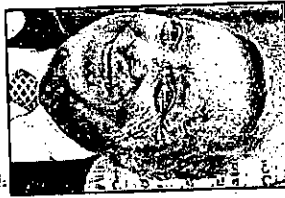
8-10-04 *Business*

# Durbin to address Kane farmers

U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin, R-Ill., will meet with members of the Kane County agricultural community Wednesday at an Elburn farm.

Durbin will meet with area farmers at 9 a.m. in the farm shop at the home of Mike and Helen Bidle, 42W611 Campion Hills Road.

The senator is expected to discuss legislative issues of importance to farmers in the 108th Congress. Among the topics expected to be addressed are ethanol and renewable fuels in the energy bill; river transportation of agricultural commodities; animal identification; product traceability and food safety; and international trade agreements.



Dick Durbin

# 8-10-04 Daily Herald Elburn says if no hookup, no OK

BY DARRYL MELLEMA  
*Daily Herald Correspondent*

Well and septic systems and the village of Elburn just don't mix well anymore.

That was the opinion voiced by the Elburn village board at Monday night's committee of the whole meeting. There, an 89-acre, 41-unit development with well and septic systems to handle home water and sewage was proposed.

"We're just not in the septic business," Mayor James Willey said. "Once you start talking well and septic, to our lingo, it should be a county development."

Ron Russell Jr. of Wheaton-based R. Russell Builders brought forth the idea for Bellefleur Homes.

"It's not an active development," Village Administrator Dave Morrison said. "It's an opportunity to have an early conference with the village board before staff spends any time with the project."

Russell described the development as one with an average of 1.4-acre lots that would be located east of Route 47, south of Hughes Road and west of the existing Hughes Creek development. Blackberry Creek runs through the property.

"We request that you consider

this as a large-lot, low-density development," Russell said. He acknowledged the problems with his well and septic request, which would require a variance from existing village ordinances.

That request did not find favor with the board.

"Without even considering hooking up to the village water, I wouldn't consider this," Trustee William Grabarek said. "I think the creek really has to be looked at in a much harder light."

Trustee Jeff Humm said fire protection issues would exist without a hookup to village water sources. Blackberry Creek would be the only source for water and, with the wells tapped into the existing system, insufficient capacity might be created.

"You need the hydrants and the water system for fire protection," Humm said. Russell said he would take the board's comments to his partners. He said the small size of the development could make the expense of connecting to the village water and sewer too prohibitive.

"This parcel is small enough that to do major sewer and water improvements would be a great hardship," Russell said.

Russell said the board's concerns may make Bellefleur Homes "economically unfeasible at this time."

8-10-04 Beacon News

# Woodman's grocery gets board approval

By Brian Shields

SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

**NORTH AURORA** — All that needs to be done for the Wisconsin-based Woodman's grocery chain to come to the village is for the company to close on the land.

The Village Board unanimously approved annexation and incentive agreements during its regular meeting Monday. The actual ordinance putting the annexation into law will likely be approved Aug. 23.

The 240,000-square-foot store, which is tentatively scheduled to open in the fall of 2005, will sit on 30 acres at the southeast corner of Orchard Road and Oak Street.

According to the incentive agreement, Woodman's will pay North Aurora almost \$2.2 million for road improvements and equipment.

Specifically, the village will use \$1.75 million of the money to install new stoplights at Orchard and Oak and at the North Aurora AutoMall entrance on Orchard, as well as signal at an entrance to be built for Woodman's.

Additionally, \$100,000 will be used to purchase a truck with

snow plow for the Public Works department and \$250,000 for an ambulance for the North Aurora Fire Protection District.

In exchange, North Aurora will pay back the \$2.2 million and give Woodman's another \$3 million, all to be repaid through the village's share of sales tax revenue over 15 years after the store opens.

**In other business**, the board passed a strengthened fireworks ordinance which gives the police department wider discretion to issue tickets for people caught with fireworks, instead of making an arrest with its additional paperwork.

Violators can be fined between \$50 and \$750 for each offense, again at the officer's option. Trustee Max Herwig, who was a strong proponent of the ordinance, said the fines could deter violations and save police time on the street for more serious offenses.

Police Chief Tom Feitzer and Assistant Fire Chief Mark Bozik wholeheartedly endorsed the ordinance.

"They can write a ticket, on the spot, and that's the end of it," Herwig said.

# Trustees concerned about septic systems in new development

## Project planned east of Route 47 in Elburn

By KELLEY CASINO  
Kane County Chronicle

**ELBURN** — The proposal of a septic and well development south of Hughes Road and east of Route 47 did not win the approval of village board members Monday night.

The pre-annexation conference was held to give developer Bellefeur Homes and the three builders they are collaborating with feedback on the proposed 89-acre, 41-unit, septic and well development.

Board members expressed concern about 41 septic tanks and suggested the development be hooked up to city water and sewer.

"Without even considering hooking up to village water, I wouldn't want to consider this," Trustee William Grabarek said.

"This is a pretty big deal, and we're running from septic as a village," Trustee Jeff Metcalf said.

Ron Russell Jr., co-owner of R. Russell Builders, said the pro-

posal for septic and sewer was based on the village's lack of excess sewer treatment capacity and other infrastructure problems. The only solution would be a plant expansion, which Russell said their project could not afford.

"We don't have a 1,500-unit development to fund a plant expansion," he said, adding, however, that any alternatives for water and sewer hook-up would be considered.

Blackberry Creek subdivision's water supply was brought up by some as a possible water source, but Russell said they did not overcompensate so other developments could hook on.

"We certainly did not plan for this capacity to be added on to the Blackberry Creek subdivision," Village President James Willey agreed.

Village Administrator David Morrison added, however, "There are possibilities... This is a solvable problem."

Russell said had the developer and builders known that the village was so adverse to septic and wells, they would not have wasted the board's time with that particular plan Monday evening.

He added, however, "We'd like to continue to work with staff and see if there's a sewer and water plan available to us."

# Geneva school board considers \$41.5M November referendum

*Officials will decide Aug. 23*

By GRANT MILLER  
Shaw News Service

GENEVA — School officials will decide later this month whether to put a \$41.5 million building referendum before voters in November.

The request is far cheaper than the \$48.9 million referendum for a new middle school that failed in March. Board members agreed on Monday to drop plans for a \$10 million, 800-seat auditorium.

Polling of district voters showed high costs doomed the March referendum. District leaders appear determined to cut costs in an effort to get a new middle school built by August 2007.

Along with eliminating auditorium plans, school officials will shift existing funds to cover costs for two other projects initially included in the March referendum.

The first would draw upon existing operating balances to pay for a \$350,000 pre-school at the district's existing middle school. The second would shift \$1.2 million from district reserves to pay for renovations at the existing middle school. The district also is considering shifting funds to develop 6 acres at Mill Creek Elementary.

Board member John Bassett said it was difficult to eliminate the auditorium plans.

"There are a lot of kids in band and art and choir, and it hurts me not to do it," Bassett said.

The board agreed to keep the new middle school on 30 acres adjacent to the existing facility. The site posed annexation problems for a proposed northern access road that ultimately hindered the March referendum. School officials remain in negotiations for a northern access road to the site.

Board member Susan Shivers said the district should at least consider other locations.

"We don't own the access

## Next step

- Board members expect to make a final decision at the Aug. 23 meeting.
- Officials have until Aug. 30 to place a referendum on the November ballot.

so the land still comes with a price tag to use it," Shivers said.

Board member Tricia Stewart disagreed.

"The most compelling reason is that we already own the land (for the new school). We don't own anything else that could house a middle school," Stewart said.

Superintendent Michael Jacoby said the district is determined to keep costs low, but said materials and labor prices continue to rise.

"We already have seen some escalations because of the delay from the March referendum," Jacoby said.

School officials have until Aug. 30 to place a referendum on the November ballot. Board members expect to make a final decision at their Aug. 23 meeting.

See yourself in Neighbors ... [neighbors@kcchronicle.com](mailto:neighbors@kcchronicle.com)

8-10-04 Daily Herald

# North Aurora cracks down on fireworks

BY JOHN JOHNSTON  
*Daily Herald Correspondent*

North Aurora has passed an ordinance that will give it a buck for your bang.

The village board voted 5-1 Monday night to give police the power to fine people who possess firecrackers up to \$750 per offense.

Trustee Max Herwig said the ordinance will unite the hands of police who, under state law, have to arrest people with fireworks after someone calls with a complaint.

Herwig said completing an arrest for having fireworks takes about 45 minutes. He said police will now be able to handle the matter in five minutes.

"If there was an arrest on every call, police would be off the street for hours on busy nights (like the Fourth of July)," Herwig said.

The ordinance would allow police to issue tickets for all fireworks in any part the village, public or private, and any sparkler on public property.

"We're not changing the state law, we're making it more efficient for police to enforce the law," Trustee Mike Herlihy said.

North Aurora already has added an ordinance to the state law that bans the sale of most fireworks in Illinois.

Assistant Fire Chief Mark Bozik said sparklers, which can burn at a heat of 1,800 degrees and can cause serious injury,

cannot be sold in the village.

Trustee Mark Guethle, the only board member to vote against the ordinance, said he did not like allowing police to ticket children.

He said the thought of giving a child the maximum \$750 fine was going overboard.

"I'm not condemning the

ordinance, I just think the fine is a little steep," Guethle said.

Police Chief Tom Fetzer said the fines will be at the discretion of officers, and that he did not think police would issue many tickets to minors.

The minimum fine for the offense is \$50.

Officers also have the option

of confiscating the fireworks without issuing a ticket.

"This is just a more efficient way of enforcing the law," Mayor Mark Ruby said. "The village spends a lot of money on (public) fireworks, and we'd rather have it that way than having major indepen-

dents."

8-10-04 Daily Herald  
\$42 million

# referendum moves ahead

*Geneva district wants  
second middle school*

BY GARRETT ORDOWER  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

The Geneva school board decided Monday night to forge ahead with a November bond referendum to build a second middle school more focused and scaled down than the one defeated by voters in March.

The roughly \$42 million bond referendum would not include funds for an auditorium, preschool, renovations to the existing middle school or an expansion of the Mill Creek School site. If successful, construction would start in April 2005 and the school would open in August 2006.

"What we have essentially done is isolated the referendum to be totally about the middle school," Superintendent Michael Jacoby said.

The total price tag for the bond referendum comes in at about \$7 million less than one narrowly defeated by voters in March, though the exact total was not available because of spreadsheet errors in figures

## Page 8

• Geneva to put fiber optics to vote on November ballot.

prepared by Chicago-based Bovis Land Lease.

Because of how the district structures its debt, the referendum proposal would not raise property tax rates if passed.

The board will also hold off on asking voters to approve an education fund tax rate increase, opting to focus solely on the middle school for the time being. Voters defeated a 35 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation increase in March.

Though the board agreed the \$10.2 million auditorium would be an asset to the district and community, it opted to shelve the project for now in order to bring down the total referendum cost.

A community survey conducted after the March questions indicated voters wanted a less costly, more detailed and focused proposal, which the board sought to

See **SCHOOL** on **PAGE 8**

# School: Building would cost more than \$33 million

*Continued from Page 1*

accommodate with its decisions Monday night.

The other projects cut from the referendum proposal, including a preschool and renovations at the current middle school, and expansions to the Mill Creek site, will be pursued with other sources of funding.

The referendum proposal now includes \$33.8 million for a middle school, \$5.8 million for site work and about \$1 million for a northern access road.

That road remains one of the

uncertainties and concerns board members mentioned regarding the plan for the second middle school.

The board voted 6-1 to continue planning for the school on the same site as the current one on Viking Drive off Fabyan Parkway, despite northern access being at least a month away. Susan Shivers cast the no vote.

A final vote to place the bond referendum question on the November ballot will take place at the board's regular meeting Aug. 23.

# A sinking feeling over plans to ease river pollution standards

By Bob Maciulis

SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

It might not be possible to judge a book by its cover, but you can certainly get a pretty good idea whether a stretch of river is healthy or not by the way it looks. And, by the way it smells.

The water was very low on the lower Fox River, so low that only the west side of it was flowing around a large round bar in mid-river that had surfaced during recent weeks as the water levels slowly dropped. The large eddy that was usually swirling and pushing clean, cool water from the feeder stream into the main channel was a shallow, scummed-over pool that looked like the dirty puddles left when flood water recedes from farm fields, filled with oozing strands of algae and bubbling as things in its bottom rotted and re-

leased gases. It was a miserable sight and I couldn't shake loose from it after I'd returned home, so I logged on to reread a letter of concern that Dr. Dave Horn, assistant professor of biology at Aurora University and the president of the Friends of the Fox River, had recently sent to the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District managers, with copies to others in the waste water treatment industry.

In it, Horn expressed grave concern that "the proposed reduction

in dissolved oxygen criteria will not improve the condition of Illinois streams such as the Fox River, rather it may have the opposite effect by further degrading water quality and harming aquatic life."

In a summary Horn provided, he pared down his fears for the river. "In February 2004, over 150,000 residents in Aurora were recommended to boil their water as a result of high coliform levels in the drinking water. A report by Weston Solutions stated that the majority of the blame for the boil order could be attributed to the deterioration of the Fox River. Given the fact that poor water quality on the Fox River already has impacted the well-being of the citizens who live here, as well as the aquatic life, we should expect that organizations will advocate the strictest environmental protections for our rivers.

"In fact, in one case, the opposite is occurring. "In April 2004, the Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies (IAWA) has proposed to the Illinois Pollution Control Board that the state dissolved oxygen criteria be reduced from 5.0 mg/l to 3.5 mg/l. "Members of IAWA include the two largest sewage treatment plants along the Fox River: Fox Metro Water Reclamation District, which services Aurora and Fox River Water Reclamation District, which services Elgin. ...

"It is disappointing that after the boil order in Aurora, and recent reports of species extinctions in the Fox River, that there are still organizations that are proposing rules that can only weaken the environmental protection our river is afforded, and have the potential to harm aquatic life."

You might argue that you do not

want a dam removed here or there, that you do not want a mud flat in front of your deck where there had been a pool backed up by one of the dams.

You might think that the dams should be kept because of some eminent domain arguments you had heard. You might like to fish below dams, water ski above them or you might enjoy the sound of rushing water on a soft, summer evening when you enjoy walks along one of the paths along the river.

In many of the positions we have covered, the debate was usually more about our convenience, what we were used to, about aesthetics. Horn's letter, coupled with the miserable condition of the river I saw, sounded a terrifying alarm.

This is the water you drink, after all.



Bob Maciulis  
Foxcurrents

8-10-04 Chronicle

# N. Aurora will give Woodman's \$3M incentive

By ERIC SCHELKOPF  
Kane County Chronicle

**NORTH AURORA** — The village will give Woodman's Food Market an economic incentive of \$3 million to build a 240,000-square-foot grocery store on the village's west side.

Village trustees on Monday approved an annexation and incentive agreement with the Janesville, Wis.-based company, which has a contract to buy about 45 acres at the southeast corner of Orchard Road and Oak Street.

Woodman's would build its store on 30 acres. Other stores

would be built on the rest of the property.

Trustees said the agreement will move the project forward, at the expense of Woodman's.

"The village has no contribution to this. All improvements are being funded by Woodman's," Trustee John Hansen said.

Under the agreement, Woodman's will give the village \$2.1 million upfront to pay for roadway improvements on Oak Street and Orchard Road and other items.

The roadway improvements, which include traffic signals, are expected to cost \$1.7 million. The money also will pay for a new vil-

lage truck with a snow plow, an ambulance and Kane County road impact fees.

"We don't have to issue bonds and take on debt to pay for this," Trustee Mike Herlihy said.

The village will reimburse Woodman's for those costs and will give the company a \$3 million sales tax rebate. The village and Woodman's will share the sales tax revenues from the store for up to 15 years.

The amount Woodman's would receive from the village is capped at \$5.1 million, which is the combination of the reimbursable expenses and the \$3

million sales tax rebate.

"It could be paid off in eight years if the revenues are there," Hansen said.

He compared the agreement to one that helped bring the North Aurora Auto Mall to the village.

The North Aurora store would be Woodman's 11th and its third in Illinois. The store could open late next year or in early 2006.

This is the fifth store that Bret Backus, Woodman's vice president of corporate real estate, has worked on.

"We have not worked with a more talented and cordial group

of professionals," Backus said in complimenting the village.

Village President Mark Ruby returned the compliment.

"I think it was a very professional discussion. It will be a great new addition to our community," Ruby said.

The proposed store would be about half the size of the 460,000-square-foot Geneva Commons and larger than the 200,000-square-foot Meijer in St. Charles.

It would be about the combined size of a SuperTarget, which generally is 174,000 square feet, and an average Jewel or Dominick's store, which are about 67,000 square feet.

## Agreement

- Woodman's will give the village \$2.1 million upfront to pay for roadway improvements on Oak Street and Orchard Road, as well as a new village truck with a snow plow, an ambulance and Kane County road impact fees.

- The village will reimburse Woodman's for those costs and will give the company a \$3 million sales tax rebate. The village and Woodman's will share the sales tax revenues from the store for up to 15 years.

8-11-04 Daily Herald  
N. Aurora OKs

# Woodman's deal

BY JOHN JOHNSTON  
Daily Herald Correspondent

North Aurora and Woodman's finalized incentive and annexation agreements at Monday's village board meeting to bring the 240,000-square-foot store to the corner of Oak Street and Orchard Road.

The ordinance putting the agreements into law is expected to be passed at the Aug. 23 board meeting.

As part of the agreement, the Wisconsin-based Woodman's will pay the village close to \$2.2 million up-front for road improvements and new vehicles. Around \$1.75 million will go to install traffic lights on intersections along Orchard Road at Oak Street, Orchard Gateway and White Oak Drive.

Woodman's also will pay the fire protection district \$250,000 for a new ambulance and the public works department \$100,000 for a new plow truck.

The village will reimburse the \$2.2 million and provide an additional \$3 million economic incentive to be paid over as many as 15 years. The money will come from the village's share of the sales tax at Wood-

man's.

The state sales tax essentially pays the village 1 percent of gross sales. The deal means the village will split that revenue with the store, with the village receiving money first.

The agreement provides the village with a minimum amount of revenue per year before Woodman's receives its part of the incentive. For the first five years, North Aurora will see \$250,000 per year before Woodman's starts collecting an equal amount.

After that, the incentive increases to \$300,000 for five years then steps up to \$350,000 for the last five years. Any revenue the store generates above the minimum per year will be split equally until the \$5.2 million has been paid.

Trustee Mike Herlihy said the village also collects an additional half percent of sales as part of a local ordinance. He said that money is not part of the incentive agreement.

Herlihy said he liked the agreement, which was unanimously passed by the board, because the village will see improvements without taking on debt.

## Fox Valley in 60 seconds

8-11-04 Daily Herald

### County court fees increased:

It will cost you an additional \$3 to sue someone in Kane County. The new filing fee for civil cases, approved this week, is expected to bring in \$56,000 a year, which will help upgrade technology and offset rising on-line and periodical subscription costs in the county's law library.

### University gets \$400,000:

Aurora University has received a donation of more than \$400,000 from the estate of a late East Aurora School Dist. 131 teacher. A teacher for 41 years, Margaret R. Dehn Dobbin, an Aurora native and Aurora College alumna, died in 2002. Ted Parge, the university's vice president for advancement, said the bequest will establish the Margaret Dobbin Scholarship Fund. It will support deserving students pursuing careers in education or music. Scholarship selection criteria are financial need,

academic performance, and participation in student activities and community services.

### Marklund milestone coming:

Marklund is 50 years old this year, and the facility is throwing a party. Everyone is invited. Sept. 18, the Marklund Mill Creek facility is hosting Septemberfest, a celebration of the group of facilities that care for both children and adults with developmental disabilities. Marklund, located at 1 S. 450 Wyatt Drive west of Geneva, will have Septemberfest from 3 to 10 p.m. at the Mill Creek facility. Events will include games, activities and will culminate with fireworks.

### Elburn to replace sidewalk:

Elburn Mayor James Willey said the village will shortly begin the process of replacing sidewalks in the village. Willey said the intent of the program is to "get

the links established with downtown." He cautioned that sidewalks needing replacement near downtown will receive priority. Maintaining a unified link to downtown has long been an Elburn village board priority, Willey said.

### ECC approves budget:

Elgin Community College board members Tuesday night unanimously approved a \$48.3 million operating budget for the coming year, about \$6 million more than last year. The college's total budget comes to \$76.9 million, up from \$70.2 million last year. Despite an anticipated dip in state funding, ECC officials said they will stay in the black given a steady influx of tuition dollars and property taxes. Operating revenue is expected to climb by 13 percent given the influx of tuition and taxes, according to a press statement.



8-11-04 Beacon News

# Provena fitness center to focus on wellness

By Angela Fornelli  
STAFF WRITER

AURORA — Provena Mercy Center announced Tuesday it plans to open a fitness center in Aurora by fall 2005.

The 40,000-square-foot Provena Health and Sports Complex will be built at Sullivan and Deerpath roads on the northwest side of Aurora. PHS Partners, an Aurora development group, will design and build the \$4.5 million project.

Jim Johnston, chief operating officer for Provena Fitness, said the hospital wanted to build the larger facility to accommodate the area's population growth and to follow the recent emphasis on wellness and hospital-based centers.

He said the fitness centers Provena Fitness currently owns — Gold's Gym and Provena Fitness for Women, both in Aurora — are not large enough to cater to the demand.

"We expect to draw people from further west than traditionally," Johnston said, adding that one reason for choosing the location is its easy access from Yorkville, Oswego and the tollway.

Johnston said he expects some competition with Fox Valley Park District's Valley Athletic Center, currently under construction only about a mile away from Provena's site. But, he said, the two centers have different focuses, and the athletic center makes up only a small portion of the park district's building.

Park District Executive Director Robert Vaughan was not available for comment Tuesday.

Johnston said Provena's center will compete with the four existing hospital-based fitness centers within a 20-mile radius of the site. He said he thinks Provena's complex will attract people because membership fees are expected to be \$49 per person upon opening while others charge at least \$70 per person.

The new center, which will be open around the clock, will have a particular focus on catering to families, Johnston said.

A Kid Zone, with free babysitting and activities for children, will be available while parents use the fitness facilities. There also will be sports and fitness classes for children. The complex will have a gymnasium with a basketball court and a track with a state-of-the-art running surface. The workout area will be equipped with 88 pieces of cardiovascular equipment, each with its own TV.

Certified instructors and trainers will provide personal training and teach classes including step aerobics, yoga and women's weight training in the complex's two exercise studios. A massage therapist also will be available by appointment.

Provena Mercy Center will move its outpatient and occupational health therapies to the complex, allowing for triple the space of its current physical therapy area in the hospital.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2004

Daily Herald

## Thanks, legislators, for preserving funds

On behalf of the Conservation Foundation and its 3,000 members in DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will counties, I'd like to thank our local state senators and state representatives for supporting keeping the Open Space Land and Development Fund (OSLAD) and the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) in the state's 2005 fiscal year budget.

The OSLAD program will continue to provide grants to local units of government for land acquisition for parks and open space and funds the development of park facilities and forest preserve district facilities. It is a mainstay of funding for park districts and forest preserve districts in northeast Illinois.

The NAAF will continue to protect high quality natural areas, including habitat needed by endangered and threatened species, and wetlands. The funding has enabled the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to acquire more than 20,000 acres of natural lands throughout the state, including many areas in northeastern Illinois.

Thousands of acres of open space have been protected through the use of these funds. Eliminating these funds would have had serious negative effects on open space protection efforts throughout Illinois, but especially in Kane and Kendall counties, where development pressures are the greatest and where open space is being lost at a tremendous rate.

Remember, open space is the ultimate tax cap!

Brook McDonald  
President/CEO  
The Conservation  
Foundation  
Naperville

# County board OKs animal control facility

## Plan calls for portion of 40-acre site to be sold to Geneva

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — A \$1.58 million animal control center near the intersection of Peck and Keslinger roads narrowly was approved on Tuesday by Kane County Board members.

The approval comes after years of debate about the proposed center, which would house and handle lost,

stray and unwanted animals. Some of the animals likely would be held for adoption.

Board members voted 11-10 to approve a contract with John Edward Construction, of Downers Grove, to build the center. Five board members were absent for the vote.

The slim majority overshadowed concerns by some members who blasted costs for the 10,000-square-foot building and questioned whether the facility's funding source was proper.

About \$1 million of the project's costs is expected to come from the county's capital projects fund. The remaining portion of more than \$580,000 would come from the county's animal control fund, which is funded through rabies tag fees. Board members raised

the fees about four years ago to help pay for the facility.

County board Chairman Mike McCoy said the board has considered the animal center proposal for at least six years. He said construction likely would begin this fall.

"I am glad it passed," McCoy said, "and I am glad we are going through with the intergovernmental land-use agreement with Geneva."

The plan calls for a portion of the 40-acre site, where the animal facility will be built, to be sold to Geneva.

The city plans to purchase at least



**McCoy**

"I believe this capital project needs to be self-funded," said board member Karen McConnaughay, R-St. Charles.

McConnaughay and other critics of the plan said they objected to using the county's capital construction funds at a time when other priorities, such as a new jail, should receive the funding.

She also objected to a rabies tag fee increase from \$8 to \$10 that might follow once the animal shelter is opened.

### Local

# North Aurora approves fireworks fine ordinance

## Minimum fine \$50, maximum fine \$750

By ERIC SCHELKOPF  
Kane County Chronicle

NORTH AURORA — Those caught possessing fireworks in the village now face a minimum \$50 fine.

Village board members this week voted 5-1 to approve an ordinance that gives police the power to ticket those who possess or use fireworks. The minimum fine is \$50 and the maximum fine is \$750.

Trustee Mark Guethle voted against the ordinance, saying that it went "overboard."

"What is wrong with state law? What happened to the police officer just taking them away? If it is already the law, why are we creating another ordinance?" Guethle asked.

The village's ordinance previously had followed state law, which deals primarily with the sale of fireworks. Supervised public displays are exempt from the rules.

Trustee Max Herwig pushed for the new ordinance. Herwig was upset that many residents tried to outdo the village's Fourth of July fireworks display by illegally setting off their own.

"It gives them (police) the power to

write a ticket on the spot with their discretion," Herwig said.

Those who use or possess sparklers also could be ticketed. In North Aurora, sparklers on public property are against the law.

"Sparklers burn at 1,800 degrees," North Aurora Assistant Fire Chief Mark Bozick said in talking about the dangers of sparklers.

Trustee Mike Herlihy supported the new ordinance.

"They (people using fireworks) are creating a safety hazard for their neighbors. What we are doing is not changing state law, we are just making it more effective for police officers," Herlihy said.

# Kane animal shelter gets thumbs up

By Nathaniel Zimmer  
STAFF WRITER

GENEVA — With five members absent, the Kane County Board Tuesday voted by the narrowest of margins to build a controversial \$1.6 million animal control facility amid competing accusations of political jockeying and shortsighted planning.

The measure was approved by an 11-10 vote, giving victory to board Chairman Mike McCoy and other supporters, who have fought for more than four years for a new building to handle the county's strays.

Board member Lee Barrett, R-East Dundee, chairman of the committee that has overseen the project, accused the shelter's detractors of maneuvering for power ahead of McCoy's approaching retirement.

"Some people would just like to flex their political muscles," he said.

Veteran board member Karen McConaughay, R-St. Charles, who is running to replace McCoy as chairman, opposed the plan.

McConaughay said the facility, to

be built in Geneva, ought to be funded entirely by fees and fines generated by the animal-control department. She argued that municipalities within the county should pay for a portion of the construction.

Some \$1 million for the building will come from the county's capital fund, while its operations will be paid for with fees and fines.

McConaughay also questioned whether the facility will meet the county's needs decades from now.

## Absent members rapped

Barrett suggested that, among those absent from Tuesday's meeting, were backers of the project who preferred not to challenge McConaughay openly.

"I don't think they wanted to tell the apparent heir they were supporting it," he said.

Dorothy Sanchez, D-Aurora, was incredulous that board members were criticizing a project that has been discussed for years.

"I've gotten whiplash from watching it be batted around," she said. "The

work has been done. It has been beat to death."

Last year, the board voted 15-10 to build a new animal shelter to relieve overcrowding at the privately owned Anderson Animal Shelter in South Elgin, which currently handles many of the county's lost or abandoned animals.

## Cost, other concerns

No one has stated publicly that a new facility is not needed. But board members objected to the proposed building on a variety of grounds, with some saying that the money instead should be set aside for a new jail expected to cost some \$47 million. Others said that too many essential features have been cut from the project.

Gerald Jones, D-Aurora, said a decision to eliminate a crematorium in order to save money actually will cost the county more in the long run.

"You can't go half stepping," he said. "You wind up spending more money over the years."

Both McCoy and Barrett said a cheaper building would be inade-

quate. Responding to a number of comments about the length of time the project has been under consideration, Jan Carlson, R-Elburn, said that "just because we talked about it for five years doesn't make it right."

Voting for the animal-control facility were Barrett, Sanchez, Ken Griffin, D-Aurora; Catherine Hurlbut, R-Elgin; Bob Kudlicki, R-Hampshire; Mary Richards, R-Aurora; Margaret Scalfaro, R-Carpentersville; Dan Walter, R-Elgin; Doug Weigand, R-Batavia; Don Wolfe, R-Elgin; and William Wyatt, R-Aurora.

Nays were cast by McConaughay, Carlson; Allan Jones, Rudy Neuberger, D-Aurora; Penelope Cameron, R-Aurora; Jack Cook, R-Elgin; Robert McConaughay, R-Geneva; James Mitchell, R-North Aurora; and Caryl Van Overmeiren, R-St. Charles.

Absent were John Hoscheit, R-St. Charles; Jackie Tredup, R-Elgin; Paul Greviskes, D-Aurora; John Noverini, R-Carpentersville; and Barbara Wojnicki, R-St. Charles.

# Provena, PHS plan new health facility

By ROALD HAASE  
Kane County Chronicle

**AURORA** — A new fitness center has been planned to join the lengthening list of health clubs sprouting in the Fox Valley.

Aurora-based Provena Mercy Center and an area development group, PHS Partners, said Tuesday that they will build a new complex on Aurora's far northwest side, near Interstate 88.

The 40,000-square-foot facility, projected to open in autumn 2005, would be at Sullivan and Deerpath roads, a hot new development area that's also immediately accessible from North Aurora.

The health club's chief operating officer, Jim Johnston, said the facility will be designed to accommodate the fitness needs of the entire family.

"Everybody in the industry has been moving this way, toward wellness and a family-based focus," Johnson said Tuesday. "We had been knowing we had to do it for three years."

Some details about the club apparently remain to be filled in. Johnston said, for instance, that the ownership interests have not

decided whether it will contain a swimming pool.

Johnston said he had managed a health club that Provena Mercy had operated in Batavia. He also remains the operator of the Gold's Gym in Aurora, under a firm called Provena Fitness, a combination of hospital and private ownership interests.

Gold's will remain open at least until the new, as yet unnamed Provena fitness center opens in 2005, Johnston said.

"We are going to evaluate what we will do with Gold's," Johnston said.

Of the 40,000 square feet at the new center, it is expected that the hospital will occupy 7,500 square feet for certain outpatient facilities, with the remainder of the space for the health and sports complex.

The club is expected to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There will be full service locker rooms, a sauna-steam room and a towel service. A full gymnasium will include a basketball court and an indoor track, and the building also will contain a running surface.

The announcement also said there will be 88 pieces of cardiovascular equipment, each with its own TV monitor. There will be

certified instructors and trainers available to teach classes and also work one-on-one with customers.

Also included will be a massage center and a juice bar, in addition to a pro shop. There are plans to provide for free baby-sitting, as well as for children's sports activities.

In the announcement, Johnston said the prices will be "20 to 25 percent less than other hospital-based fitness centers and will have all the amenities of an upscale club."

Over the past decade, there has been a steady infusion of health facilities in the area. They include the Delnor-Community Health and Wellness Center in Geneva, the Sportsplex in St. Charles and the new XSports fitness center on Randall Road in St. Charles.

Additionally, area park districts have launched sports facilities, including one being built on Aurora's west side by the Fox Valley Park District.

Johnston praised the location of the planned new Provena facility, noting it is near a number of newer business complexes, including the new Total Living Network facilities on the opposite side of I-

# Developer says Huntley water park plan on track

By JEFF KOLKEY  
Shaw News Service

**HUNTLEY** — Village President Chuck Sass said he is convinced that plans for a hotel and indoor water park in Huntley will not suffer the same fate as a similar project in Harvard.

Developer Joe Buralli has privately told village officials that the Huntley project is proceeding, but there have been no plans submitted since trustees approved the concept in February 2003.

"I think it will happen," Sass said Tuesday. "I have confidence it will happen."

The project looked promising in March 2003, Buralli said he had 34 signed letters of intent to buy condominiums in the 380,000-square-foot hotel, conference center and water park in the Regency Square development on Route 47.

In February of this year, Buralli said he expected to have financing for the proj-

ect within 90 days.

However, there never was any indication the financing had been secured.

Huntley officials said a larger project — conversion of the abandoned Motorola campus in Harvard into a gigantic indoor water park — was taking up Buralli's attention.

But last week Motorola officials said a contract with Buralli's company, H2otels USA LLC, had been terminated when a July 30 closing date was not met.

Buralli could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Marketing efforts touted the Huntley water park project as an opportunity to create 250 jobs and generate \$750,000 in sales tax revenue the first year.

Trustee Dennis Beeskow said he sees the proposal as a development that could bring jobs and economic gains to the village and region.

"I think a lot of time was taken up with the Harvard project, but I have all the faith in the world in Joe, and if anyone can pull it out, he could," Beeskow said.

Not all village board members are as optimistic.

Trustee Harry Leopold said he has his doubts.

To make the project a success would take a confidence of great management, investors willing to take a risk, people willing to buy condominiums, and tremendous follow-through, Leopold said.

"I don't think it will ever come to pass, to be honest," Leopold said. "No. 1, it is a big risk. And No. 2, the location is terrible. To me, anything that is going to succeed like that has to be visible from the interstate."

"Frankly, as a village trustee looking out for the residents, I don't know if I want that big thing built and have it go down the tubes."

8-11-04 Daily Herald

# County to get shelter of its own

*Animal control facility squeaks by board, but many questions still swirling*

BY TONA KUNZ  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After nearly four years of debate, Kane County officials on Tuesday took the final step toward building a bigger animal control facility.

By an 11-10 vote, officials approved a contract to let Downers Grove-based John Edward Construction start on

the \$1.58 million animal holding center.  
It's unclear how soon crews can break ground.

"This is something that I feel we are obligated to do," said board member Dorothy Sanchez, a Democrat from Aurora.

The state requires that the county take in strays in rural areas and dangerous animals,

but the county also has made it a practice to help out municipalities with their stray and unwanted animals.

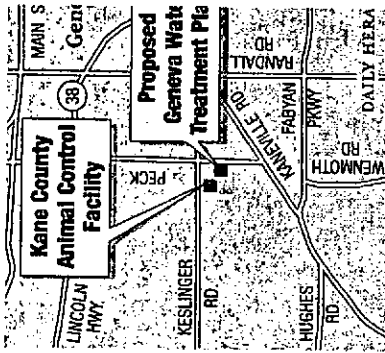
The county keeps animals at the Aurora Animal Control shelter and Anderson Animal Shelter in South Elgin, but both facilities have said they can't guarantee they will have room in the future.

If the county gets cut off by

those shelters, outsourcing costs could skyrocket, warned Catherine Huribut, a Republican board member from Elgin.

Still, the new county-owned shelter just west of Geneva barely made it past the drawing board Tuesday because of concerns about construction costs. Officials raised rabies' tag fees in

See **ANIMAL** on PAGE 7



## Animal: Funding remains an issue

*Continued from Page 1*

1998 but have come up with only about \$750,000 of the needed money to build the shelter.

Karen McConnaughay, a Republican board member from St. Charles, asked her colleagues to hold off on construction until municipalities agree to help pay for the facility.

"They are already contributing," scoffed Lee Barrett, a Republican board member from East Dundee, pointing out that part of the construction money would come from taxes paid by everyone.

To keep costs down, officials have scrapped plans for a crematorium, which has angered some board members who complain the county already spends \$13,000 a year sending animals to a private crematorium.

Gerald Jones, a Democrat from Aurora, said the county should either build everything they need now or wait because adding on a crematorium later will cost much more.

The animal control facility will occupy 2½ acres of 40 acres the county owns at the southwest corner of Peck and Keslinger Road adjacent to the Leas subdivision.

Officials have promised to let Geneva use 25 acres next to the control facility to build the city's new water treatment plant.

Kane County Board Chairman Mike McCoy said officials likely will discuss the proposed sale of land for the water plant Thursday at the county's executive committee meeting.

8-11-04  
Daily Herald

# Land tainted by lead paint

*County still suing over  
judicial center costs*

By TONA KUNZ  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Water dripping down the lead-based roof at the Kane County Judicial Center has contaminated nearby land.

Officials from Earth Tech, the environmental consulting firm that conducted the study, told Kane County Board members Tuesday that the cleanup could cost between \$3 million and \$4 million.

Earth Tech was hired to look into the possibility of contamination after the county filed a lawsuit last fall against six companies involved in building the roof in 1993.

The lawsuit originally was seeking repairs because the lead-based paint on the copper roof panels has been chipping off, leaving it an eyesore. When officials filed the lawsuit they learned other buildings with similar problems also had lead contamination in the nearby water and soil, and they started investigating.

Terri Blackmar, an engineer for Earth Tech, said the contamination hasn't spread to any of the nearby subdivisions or to Mill Creek. However, nearly 7 acres of the 9 acre detention pond next to the courthouse have contamination levels ranging from mild to hazardous.

The drainage ditch to the northwest of the building along Peck Road and a 1½ acre area around the adjacent farm pond also is contaminated. The pond is on land owned by the St. Charles Park District, but is currently relegated to farming.

Assistant State's Attorney Michele Niermann said the county will clean up all of the property starting next spring. Officials should recoup their expenses when the lawsuit is finished, she added.

A cleanup plan will go before the county board next month and then on to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for its OK. Officials plan to start by replacing the roof to stop further contamination. As soon as that's finished, both ponds and the ditch will be drained and dredged to remove the contaminated bottom silt.

8-11-04  
Chronicle

# Two fill N. Aurora vacancies

*Mitchell, Strusz  
named to  
plan commission*

By ERIC SCHELKOPF  
Kane County Chronicle

NORTH AURORA — A familiar face will return to the plan commission, along with someone whose face is familiar around the village.

North Aurora Village President Mark Ruby this week appointed former Plan Commissioner and Trustee Bruce Mitchell to the plan commission.

He also appointed Bob Strusz to the plan commission. Strusz has been involved in the North Aurora Baseball Association, the Friday Night Teen Center program and the North Aurora Lions Club.

"I am thrilled to death," Strusz said. "I thought it would be a neat thing to get into as far as planning, being that North Aurora is growing."

Mitchell said he's glad to be back on the plan commission.

"I've always enjoyed being in the mix on the plan commission. There's a lot going on," he said.

Mitchell and Strusz will fill two vacancies on the plan commission created when village trustees recently passed a resolution that prohibits people from serving on more than one commission that pays a stipend. The resolution also prohibits village employees from serving on a commission that pays a stipend.

Trustee Mike Herlihy said the resolution will prompt more people to become involved in local government.

Linda Ruhl had to resign from the plan commission because she also is the village's administrative assistant.

Mark Gaffino served on both the plan commission and police commission. Gaffino decided to stay on the police commission and leave the plan commission.

Mitchell had been on the police commission. Ruby named Vicki Stone to replace Mitchell on the commission.

# Lead contamination cleanup could cost \$4M

8-11-04 Chronicle  
Lawsuit claims judicial center's roof caused pond's contamination

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Kane County faces a \$4 million price tag to clean up lead contamination in the judicial center's pond and install a new roof. County board members on Tuesday voted 20-0 to approve a nearly \$40,000

project with a roof-consultant company to design a new roof for the center. The push to build the new roof comes nearly a year after Kane County officials filed a civil lawsuit against several companies involved in building the center more than a decade ago. The lawsuit claims that the companies are responsible for the roof's poor

condition, and the pond's contamination was a result of deteriorating lead-coated copper panels installed on the roof. Testing has indicated that runoff from the roof might have contaminated the 9-acre pond on the judicial center's southwest side with levels of lead higher than the Illinois Environmental Protection standards, said Michele Niermann, assistant Kane County state's attorney. Niermann said another small area to the north and west across Peck Road on land owned by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the St. Charles Park

District also is contaminated with lead. She said the potential public risk is low. "We believe minimal," Niermann said. "It is primarily contained within the pond. And we will be cleaning up the pond."

Kane County Board Chairman Mike McCoy, R-Aurora, said the contamination was uncovered after county officials decided to test while they prepared the lawsuit. He said when the lead contamination was found, the roof degradation became an environmental issue. Board members were told on Tuesday

that the cleanup of the lead contamination could cost up to \$4 million. McCoy said he expects that the county can recover the expenses from the litigation. The lawsuit remains in the preliminary motions phase, county officials said. Paul Lively, attorney for one of the defendants, general contractor company Frederick Quinn Corp., declined comment about the case.

Documents regarding the lawsuit show that the company's attorney filed a motion to move the case to another county out of concern that it would be difficult to find an impartial jury.

# 8-11-04 Chronicle Sugar Grove development process will be based on trust, communication

## Roles of Economic Development Committee discussed

By KELLEY CASINO  
Kane County Chronicle

SUGAR GROVE — Residents likely will not see a Burger King, Jimmy Johns, Best Buy or Walgreens pop up anytime soon in Sugar Grove.

Economic Development Committee Executive Director Perry Clark showed village officials evidence Tuesday that when looking at demographic information, household income, traffic counts and neighbors, Sugar Grove is not very attractive to big-name retail development and food establishments.

For example, to move into Sugar Grove, Walgreens would look for more than 20,000 residents within a mile of their store. Clark said at the core of the Route 47 corridor — Route 47 and Galena Boulevard — Sugar Grove only would offer about 4,000 residents.

And retailers don't usually deviate from these numbers, Village President Sean Michels said.

"It's not to say they won't, but it doesn't happen a lot," Clark said.

This information was used during a discussion between EDC members and village officials when trying to discern what job the EDC would do to initiate development in Sugar Grove.

"I can play any role, just tell me what role you want me to play," Clark said.

Questions thrown around the room included:

- Should members of the newly created Economic Development Committee serve as "hunters" of businesses to move into Sugar Grove? Would "gatherers" be a more appropriate term?

- Is the committee meant to filter projects before they reach the village board or simply find possible matches and lay them in front of village staff?

Michels stressed the importance of not "hunting" for the retail development, as that seems out of the picture for Sugar Grove right now.

In the end, trust and communication were the key words defining the development process.

The village would trust that the EDC was searching for and talking to companies with the village's best interest in mind, and the EDC would communicate its steps, as is appropriate, to the village.

Clark said the EDC would use the village's land use plan in talks with potential developers and keep staff in the loop as necessary.

"If everybody contacts (Clark), and he throws them at us, that's not helping the village," Village Administrator Brent Eichelberger said.

"We have to rely on them to do some screening, although I'm not sure that's exactly the right word for it."

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8-11-04 Chicago Tribune

# Kane lead fix to cost millions

By William Presecky  
Tribune staff reporter

The cost to replace the copper-clad roof at the Kane County Judicial Center in St. Charles and do a voluntary cleanup of the lead contamination caused by the roof's degradation is estimated at \$3.5 million to \$4 million, the County Board was told Tuesday.

An environmental engineer hired by the county told the board that sediment throughout much of the 9-acre retention pond behind the judicial center is "moderately" affected by lead.

The board asked Terri L. Blackmar, a principal engineer with Earth Tech Inc., based in Long Beach, Calif., for a remediation plan for the judicial center site and adjacent property. She should be ready to submit it to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency next month for review, the board said.

Blackmar said only a small area of contamination, about 80 square feet at the base of the drain pipe that routes storm-water runoff from the judicial center roof to the pond, appears to contain hazardous levels of lead.

Small portions of nearby state-owned land and land owned by the St. Charles Park District—about 1.25 total acres—showed a "light impact."

Although the contamination doesn't appear to pose an imminent health threat, the cleanup is being recommended "basically, because it's the right thing to do," said Assistant State's Atty.

Michele Niermann.

As for nearby Mill Creek, Blackmar said, "there does not appear to be an impact at this time."

Niermann added, "We want to make sure there is no future impact years down the road."

The background level for lead in soil in Kane is 36 parts per million, Blackmar said. The most heavily affected area at the judicial center shows lead levels of more than 1,000 parts per million. The contaminated pond sediment, which affects about 7 acres of the 9-acre pond, revealed lead levels of 100 to 500 parts per million, based on Earth Tech's test results, she said.

As an interim measure, the county plans to filter runoff from the pond.

In September 2003, the county sued a half-dozen firms associated with the roof's construction. The 22-count lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Building Commission after months of meetings. Allegations in the lawsuit range from breach of contract to negligence and product liability.

The 170,000-square-foot judicial center was completed in 1993 and cost about \$30 million. The county's criminal courts and other judicial offices are housed in the building.

The problems with the roof began with concerns about its appearance. From a distance, the roof appears streaked with gray and black that resembles spilled paint. The streaking is thought to have been caused by snow and rain washing away the roof's lead coating.



## Plates pay the way

Marine Cpls. Richard Alicea (left) and Paul Bc Chicago. About 450 were sold in about a year

## 3 brothers held

By Amy Fisher Roth  
Special to the Tribune

Three Aurora brothers have been charged with 12 felonies each in connection with a June 22 shooting on Aurora's near east side that sent five people scrambling for cover.

Teola M. Jordan, 33, of the 1300 block of Monomoy Street; Steven T. Jordan, 29, of the 800 block of Trask Road; and Derrick D. Jordan, 28, of the 400 block of Hinman Street face charges ranging from attempt

front yard,

None of the brothers was injured. Abo was done and a house

The gun was found in the Jordan brother's car on Kane Street corner of L. They entered the vehicle and fled, police said.

Police said they are able to identify the Jordan brothers.

## Bail set in shooting of 8-year-old

# Animal <sup>8-11-04</sup> shelter <sup>Chicago</sup> <sup>Tribune</sup>

## approved for Kane

By William Presecky  
Tribune staff reporter

A nearly \$1.6 million contract to build Kane County's first animal control shelter was approved Tuesday, but just barely.

The County Board voted 11-10 to award the contract to John Edward Construction Co. of Downers Grove to build the 10,000-square-foot facility. Five board members were absent.

The shelter will be built in Geneva at Peck and Keslinger Roads, on part of roughly 40 acres the county acquired in conjunction with a major improvement it made to the intersection several years ago.

About 25 acres are slated to be sold to Geneva for about \$1 million. The city plans to build a water treatment plant there. In exchange for obtaining the acreage for roughly half the county's appraisal price, Geneva has agreed to improve the entire site.

"It looks like this thing is going to hobble all the way to the finish line," said board member Karen McConnaughay (R-St. Charles), after voting against awarding the shelter contract.

McConnaughay and others had tried to defer the project until it could be re-evaluated and ranked in importance compared with the county's numerous other capital needs.

"We have so many other priorities," she said.

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McConnaughay, a candidate for County Board chairman in November, conceded that Tuesday's vote probably ends the fight. "Is [the decision] disastrous? No. Could it be better? Yes," she said.

McConnaughay has set construction of a multimillion-dollar county jail as her top capital project.

Board Chairman Mike McCoy (R-Aurora), who is not running for re-election, said he was prepared to cancel the agreement with Geneva if the board "switched priorities" and withheld approval of the shelter.

"Typically, you don't stop a project on the verge of construction," said McCoy, adding that he interpreted the 15-10 vote by the board last year to appropriate \$1 million in capital funds for the project as having established it as a priority.

"We have to face reality. Now is the time to do this," said board member Catherine Hurlbut (R-Elgin). "We've spent a lot of money to get here."

Board member Dorothy Sanchez (D-Aurora), who voted for the contract, said the shelter project has been a subject of debate for the entire six years she has spent on the board. "I've gotten whiplash from watching this get batted around," she said.

The shelter is designed to house about 100 dogs and 100 cats. Some of the original plan's amenities, such as a crematorium, were deleted in recent weeks to pare construction costs.

Kane has never had a facility to house dogs and cats. The county meets its state mandate to control rabies and manage strays through contracts with a municipal operation in Aurora and a private shelter in South Elgin.

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8-12-04 Daily Herald

# Parkway input not heeded, group says

BY TONA KUNZ  
Daily Herald Staff Writer



dailyherald.com/ea  
Bookmark our Web page for hyperlinks to more information  
**IDOT Prairie Parkway study**  
**Center for Neighborhood Technology**

Kane County Chairman Mike McCoy and a Chicago-based public policy group are calling for the Illinois Department of Transportation to prove it looked at public comments about the proposed Prairie Parkway.

IDOT said it can, sorta. The state puts select comments delved from public hearings and focus groups online.

A summary of public comments can be perused at the district office in Ottawa. And a detailed analysis that tallies the supporters and

detractors of the parkway won't come until later this year.

"They are trying to put the cart before the horse," said Matt Vanover, spokesman for IDOT.

Still, Jacky Grimshaw, vice president for policy at the Center for Neighborhood Tech-

See PARKWAY on PAGE 15

Continued from Page 1

DAILY HERALD SECTION 1 PAGE 15

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2004

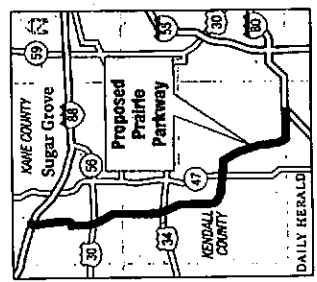
# Parkway: Group says opposition is strong

Continued from Page 1

nology — a 20-year-old public advocacy group that works to create urban areas with a balance between environment and economics — said she's positive IDOT hasn't given a second look to the stacks of public hearing transcripts or submitted letters.

"We asked them what the public said, and they didn't know," she said.

"It was looked at, and it was studied, but not in as much detail as they did. That will come later," Vanover said. In fact, comments are what led to two other areas considered for transportation improvements getting dropped and parkway route



twisted.

But that detailed public analysis will be on comments collected this year and maybe next, not on the 2001 and 2002

public hearings, he said.

IDOT began soliciting public opinion in 2001 about earmarking a swath of land from I-80 in Grundy County to I-88 in Kane County for potential development in the future as a transportation route. That study was only to determine if that route would impact people and the environment the least, not what to put there, Vanover said.

"This is a very limited and preliminary part of the whole scheme of this," he said. "At this point in time, we don't know what type of transportation would be needed there. It could be a highway. It could be light rail. Not building is still an

option."

Detractors of IDOT's studies fear a four-lane road that eventually could connect to I-90 in McHenry County is what officials are leaning toward building. Learning now whether people want the road or not could save a lot of time and money, critics claim.

"By ignoring the details of these comments, IDOT compromises the public process and marginalizes the voices within the community," McCoy said.

Vanover said comments on the so-called outerbelt corridors viability as a new transportation route aren't really relevant now because it's already been decided that building there

would have the least impact on people and the environment.

Officials now are seeking input on transportation shortfalls in the area and potential transportation alternatives. It is those new comments compiled from public hearings, focus groups and a random telephone survey planned for the fall that will be analyzed and shown to the public, he said.

"IDOT's policy calls for them to ask for public comment, but what good is that if you are not going to use it," Grimshaw said.

Members of the public advocacy group say they did their own small-scale analysis of 1,500 comments from the 2001 and 2002 public hearings in

three days.

"It's not very difficult to do," Grimshaw said.

The results of their study of public comments showed that more than 75 percent of those within 15 miles of the proposed route opposed it.

Supporters for the new highway came mainly from McHenry County, not Kane, where the road would bisect farm fields and small towns, the CNT analysis suggests.

Vanover said there is nothing unusual about waiting to provide detailed analysis like the center is calling for until officials get the design stage and compare transportation alternatives, including building nothing

8.12-04  
Chronicle



Bill  
Page

## Second place blues

As you all are very aware, the Illinois Republican party chose two-time failed presidential candidate and former talk show host Alan Keyes of Maryland to be their candidate for U.S. senator. What you might not know is who is responsible for this bizarre move, and who is not.

First of all, the people who made the selection are members of the state central committee, which does not include any of our local Republican officeholders. Of that group, Kane County was represented by Denny Wiggins, and he supported Aurora dairyman Jim Oberweis. Wiggins' logic was simple: Oberweis finished second to Jack Ryan in the Republican primary and fairness said he should get the nod. Sounds logical enough, but logic and fairness didn't carry the day.

The problem is Jim Oberweis is disliked by many in the party's hierarchy and they wanted no part of an Oberweis senate campaign. To be fair, Oberweis rubs a lot of people the wrong way, and his strident anti-illegal immigration ads during the primary campaign didn't win him any fans in the upper ranks of the Republican Party. However, like him or not, the man did pull enough votes to come in second. That alone should have gotten him a spot on the ballot. Unfortunately, it appears the party allowed their distaste for Oberweis to cloud their good sense. Otherwise, how can you account for Alan Keyes?

The coming senate election will be an embarrassing debacle for Republicans, but they have no one to blame but themselves. Oberweis might not have been the leaders' choice, but the rank and file would have been more comfortable with him than the candidate-for-hire Keyes. If nothing else, at least Oberweis comes from Illinois, for crying out loud.

St. Charles achieved a dubious distinction a week or so ago when two residents died from heroin overdoses. Unfortunately, given the current trends among drug users, this might not be the only time two will die in a week, and it's entirely possible it could be more.

Heroin usage in St. Charles and in the entire Tri-Cities area has reached what

can be called without exaggeration an epidemic level. As incredible as it seems to those of us who grew up regarding heroin as a gutter drug, it has a strong foothold in our upscale communities. A visit to Kane County's Drug Rehabilitation Court shows how pervasive the usage and how high the numbers, but what's truly frightening are the comments from users.

Time and again, heroin addicts describe their first experience with the drug with a variation of this phrase: "It was everything I was looking for." If that doesn't send a chill up your spine it's likely nothing will. For the most part, these users are products of our local school systems, and most have been exposed to DARE and other anti-drug programs. The question then becomes not how we've failed to get the message out, but how come so many kids aren't listening?

Until we can figure that one out we'd best prepare ourselves for more awful weeks.

\*\*\*

This weekend you'll have the chance to support a number of worthwhile charities — and have some fun doing so.

On Friday, Aug. 13, truck on out to Hughes Creek Golf Club, for the second annual Staff Sgt. Jacob Frazier Memorial Golf Outing. For a donation of \$125 you'll enjoy a day of golf, good food, and a chance to win a prize or two. The event benefits the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund, which assists the families of National Guard and Reservists who have been called to active duty. For more information, call (630) 330-3953.

On Saturday, enjoy an ice cream treat at the opening of the new Coldstone Creamery on the east side of St. Charles (near Target). St. Charles firefighters will be scooping ice cream from 2 to 4 p.m., and the proceeds will help fund the Illinois Fire Safety Council's burn camp. It's a summer camp for young burn victims, and a wonderful charity to support. Go ahead... get the double-dip!

• Bill Page lives in St. Charles and writes about local issues on Tuesday and Thursday. Calls and e-mails answered at (630) 584-0809 [wpage@mediawerks.org](mailto:wpage@mediawerks.org).

8-12-04 Republican

**Property tax due dates**

• Kane County Treasurer David J. Rickert said the first installment of property taxes were due June 14. The penalty amount has now increased to 3 percent.

Those who have not received a bill should call the treasurer's office at 232-3565.

The second payment will be due Tuesday, Sept. 14.

Taxpayers may pay their bill with a credit card over the Internet. The Web address for this service is [www.co.kane.il.us/treasurer](http://www.co.kane.il.us/treasurer). The following credit cards for this payment service are Discover, Visa, MasterCard and American Express. There is a convenience fee for this service.



*\$12.04 Daily Herald*

# Durbin visits Elburn to talk farming

*Backs more ethanol use, trade with Cuba*

BY LISA SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin supports modernizing the Illinois and Mississippi rivers' aging lock-and-dam system to transport agricultural commodities more quickly, increasing the use of ethanol fuels and expanding trade into Cuba, the Springfield Democrat told a group of about 30 farmers in Elburn Wednesday.

The issues are among those Durbin said he hopes to address when Congress reconvenes Sept. 7.

The locks controlling water flow on the Illinois and Mississippi rivers — installed 70 years ago as a way to make the waterways navigable — are deteriorating and are too small to accommodate larger, more modern barges, Durbin said. He co-sponsored legislation allocating \$1.4 billion to improve the locks.

The bill, which also provides



Dick Durbin

matching funds for river conservation, could be voted on during the next congressional session.

More than 60 million tons of commodities — including half the state's corn crop — are transported annually on the Illinois River, according to bill co-sponsor, Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, an Inverness Republican.

Mike Biddle, who with his three brothers runs the 3,800-acre farm where Durbin spoke, called the antiquated system "a thorn in farmers' sides."

"I'm glad he's pushing that locks and dams thing," said Biddle, who grows mostly corn and soybeans.

Seventeen percent of Illinois-grown corn is made into ethanol, a renewable source of

See ELBURN on PAGE 15



PHOTOS BY JEFF KNOXDAILY HERALD

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin discusses farm-related issues with nearly 30 local farmers Wednesday at the farm of Mike and Helen Biddle in Elburn.

White and other farmers from Kane, Kendall and DeKalb counties who listened to the senator Wednesday considered the meeting an opportunity to stay abreast of how agricultural issues are developing in the federal government.

"He's generally been a friend of agriculture," Elgin Township farmer Mike Kenyon said of Durbin.

Looking further ahead, Durbin asked farmers what they'd like to see addressed in the 2007 Farm Bill.

The current policy was approved in 2002. Kaneville farmer Joe White said he wants the continuation of the conservation security program, a voluntary program offering grants to farmers for conservation efforts.



Farmers Jack Young, left, of West Chicago and Richard Pitstick of Elburn listen to Durbin discuss issues he plans to address when Congress reconvenes in September.

## Elburn: Durbin asks for farmers' input

Continued from Page 1

energy that, when mixed with gasoline, produces a cleaner-burning fuel.

Ethanol produced from Illinois corn accounts for 10 percent of the ethanol consumed in the U.S., according to the Illinois Farm Bureau.

Durbin supports a renewable fuel standard that would require automobile fuel to con-

tain a specific percentage of renewable fuel. It would help farmers by expanding the use of ethanol, Durbin said, and reduce the country's reliance on foreign oil. The fuel standard is proposed as part of a comprehensive national energy policy.

Illinois farmers also would benefit from expanded trade with Cuba, Durbin said.

"We need to expand market

# Housing law targets 49 towns

8-12-09 Chicago Tribune

Suburbs must add affordable units

By Courtney Flynn and Susan Kuczka  
Tribune staff reporters

The Illinois Housing Development Authority is putting 49 communities on notice that

they will be required to offer more affordable housing under a new state law.

The list of towns where less than 10 percent of the housing is considered affordable will be officially released Thursday and Kenilworth, Oak Brook, Palos Heights and Inverness are among them.

Affordable-home prices in communities on the list are

considered to be about \$125,000, and affordable monthly rents are about \$775. Those figures are determined by federal statistics that take into account income and the cost of housing in the Chicago area.

Communities have until April to develop plans to meet affordable-housing goals set by the state, but some towns be built.

In Lincolnshire, where less than 2 percent of the housing stock is considered affordable, Mayor Brett Blomberg questioned where new units could

have already formed task forces and hired consultants to help. Others are left wondering how they will fulfill the requirements.

The plans must include a way for the municipalities to make 10 percent of their housing affordable, set aside at least 15 percent of new development as affordable or increase overall affordable

"I don't know where we'd put that housing. We're basically built out," he said.

PLEASE SEE HOUSING, PAGE 7

# HOUSING: Communities must file plan by next April

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

housing by 3 percentage points.

"They're each going to address this in their own way," said state housing authority spokesman Bryan Zises. "It's going to be very interesting to see what they come up with and what we're able to help them fashion in support of their own particular goals."

Towns that develop plans would be exempt from a state housing-appeals board that will begin operating in 2009. If communities don't come up with plans, rejection of any development proposal that includes affordable housing could be appealed to the state board.

Lincolnshire's Blomberg questioned how a \$123,720 house could be built in a town where the median home price is \$400,000 and going up quickly.

"Homes are being purchased in Lincolnshire for the purpose of tearing them down and rebuilding, and [homeowners are] paying between \$400,000 and \$450,000 just to tear down a home," he said.

Village Manager Bob Irvin said the opinion of Lincolnshire's attorney is that the law would not apply there because it is a home-rule community. Irvin said the village has not decided whether it would create more affordable housing anyway.

Zises said it's reasonable for home-rule communities to challenge the law. He said the law does not address home-rule communities, but the state's position is that it does apply to them.

Home-rule communities are towns with populations above 25,000 or whose residents have voted to grant the status. Home rule gives towns more authority over running their own affairs.

Burr Ridge Village President Jo Irmen said her community does not have a housing plan in place yet, but "we'll try to do what we'll need to do" by the April deadline. Less than 3 percent of the housing stock in Burr Ridge is considered affordable, according to the state.

Irmen said it's important to have housing available to people of different incomes but wondered who would want to build affordable housing with the high cost of land in the village.

"We're a pretty small community and it's hard to say that we would have a builder that would want to develop," she said.

But in Wilmette, where 5.5 percent of the housing is considered affordable, officials have hired a consultant and are working to offer more affordable housing, said Village President Nancy Canafax.

"We were on this track before that act ever passed," Canafax said. "We have a history of providing or hoping to provide our residents with affordable hous-

## Communities with too little affordable housing

The Illinois Housing Development Authority on Thursday is expected to release a list of 49 communities that need to offer more affordable housing under a new state law.

### COMMUNITIES HAVE THREE OPTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE:

- Require 15 percent of all new development to be affordable
- Increase its overall affordable housing by 3 percentage points
- Increase its overall percentage of affordable housing to 10 percent

COUNTY	MUNICIPALITY	UNITS	AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Cook	Kenilworth	803	0.40%
	South Barrington	1,152	1.00%
	Palos Park	1,740	2.20%
	Barrington Hills	1,370	2.40%
	Inverness	2,222	2.50%
	Western Springs	4,399	3.20%
	Glencoe	3,111	3.40%
	Lincolnwood	4,492	3.60%
	Winnetka	4,176	4.10%
	Northfield	2,177	4.50%
	Northbrook	12,197	5.30%
	Palos Heights	4,153	5.30%
	Wilmette	10,032	5.50%
	Olympia Fields	1,878	5.80%
Park Ridge	14,284	7.90%	
Morton Grove	8,177	9.50%	
DuPage	Oak Brook	3,054	1.60%
	Wayne	703	2.00%
	Burr Ridge	3,485	2.90%
	Hinsdale	6,102	8.40%
	Oakbrook Terrace	1,314	8.80%
	Naperville	44,832	9.40%
	Winfield	2,958	9.60%
Kane	Sleepy Hollow	1,220	6.10%
	Gilberts	394	7.90%
	Sugar Grove	1,299	9.40%
Lake	Green Oaks	1,131	0.40%
	Kildeer	1,129	0.60%
	Hawthorn Woods	1,894	0.80%
	Tower Lakes	451	1.10%
	Lake Barrington	2,056	1.20%
	Lincolnshire	2,169	1.80%
	Riverwoods	1,205	1.90%
	Deer Park	1,008	2.00%
	North Barrington	1,000	2.20%
	Long Grove	1,895	2.80%
	Deerfield	6,451	3.50%
	Lake Bluff	2,173	4.70%
	Lake Forest	6,681	5.10%
	Third Lake	443	6.30%
	Hainesville	735	6.50%
	Highland Park	11,518	7.60%
	Lake Zurich	5,727	7.70%
Wadsworth	1,028	8.40%	
Lindenhurst	4,307	9.30%	
McHenry	Lakewood	861	2.40%
	Spring Grove	1,149	7.10%
	Algonquin	7,827	9.80%
Will	Frankfort	3,460	7.10%

Source: Illinois Housing Development Authority Chicago Tribune

ing." Canafax cited plans for senior housing in the former Mallinckrodt convent, where 12 of the building's 86 condominium units would be affordable, she said.

The intent is not to create public housing in the communities, Zises said, but to have local officials come up with unique ways to make typical housing in the area more affordable.

For example, developers might be offered incentives such as lower-priced land, zoning variances to build more units or help with building infrastructure in exchange for bringing affordable housing to communities, Zises said.

Robin Snyderman, housing

director of the Metropolitan Planning Council in Chicago, said the new law is "a small but important step forward."

She said she believes that the law is workable, even for places like Kenilworth and other North Shore communities where homes can easily cost more than \$1 million.

"You'd be amazed with what a little creativity and dedication municipalities can work out with local developers," Snyderman said, also citing incentives in place from the state and federal governments to supply affordable housing.

"It will certainly be harder in some towns than others, but nowhere will it be unachievable," she said.



**ILLINOIS LOTTERY**  
**WED. PICK 3 MIDDAY:** 7-9-7  
**WED. PICK 3 EVENING:** 2-8-0  
**WED. PICK 4 MIDDAY:** 2-2-9-1  
**WED. PICK 4 EVENING:** 2-4-1-0  
**WED. LITTLE LOTTO:** 10-14-15-30-32  
**WED. LOTTO:** 02-14-24-31-38-49  
**LOTTO JACKPOT:** \$10 million

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
**EST. JACKPOT:** \$35 million

**INDIANA LOTTERY**  
**WED. DAILY 3 MIDDAY:** 2-9-4  
**WED. DAILY 3 EVENING:** 5-1-9  
**WED. DAILY 4 MIDDAY:** 7-2-2-6  
**WED. DAILY 4 EVENING:** 9-9-9-5  
**WED. LUCKY 5 MIDDAY:** 2-11-22-26-34  
**WED. LUCKY 5 EVENING:** 23-28-30-32-34  
**WED. LOTTO:** 1-17-30-34-40-45  
**EST. JACKPOT:** \$4 million

**POWERBALL**  
**WED. GAME NUMBERS:** 5-10-29-33-51  
**POWERBALL:** 35  
**POWER PLAY:** 5  
**EST. JACKPOT:** \$84.2 million

**WISCONSIN LOTTERY**  
**WED. PICK 3:** 0-7-7  
**WED. PICK 4:** 0-9-8-7  
**WED. BADGER 5:** 1-2-11-17-26  
**WED. SUPERCASH:** 6-11-26-31-32-34  
**WED. MEGAUCKS:** 32-40-41-42-45-48

**AP**

Associated Press

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## Boone County man diagnosed with West Nile

A 59-year-old Boone County man was diagnosed with West Nile virus, the sixth human case recorded in Illinois this year.

The other identified cases are a 67-year-old man from Jo Daviess County, a 39-year-old man from Jackson County, a 14-year-old boy from St. Clair County, a 70-year-old man from Kendall County and a 47-year-old man from Ford County.

The Boone County resident became ill in mid-July and currently is hospitalized.

Health officials urge people to avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, to wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts and to apply insect repellent that includes DEET.

Only two out of 10 people who are bitten by a mosquito infected with the virus will experience any illness. Although illness from West Nile usually is mild and includes fever, headache and body aches, serious illness and death are possible.

In 2002, Illinois recorded 66 deaths and led the nation with 884 human cases. Last year, the state saw one death and 54 cases.

— Kane County Chronicle

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## Tavern: C

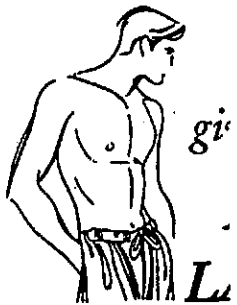
Continued from page

"We've talked about things with a lot of people in the past," Harrington said.

"If it doesn't happen, it doesn't go on," he added. "There are a lot of things out there, but we need to take dates, suggestions and handle various aspects to turn the business into something concrete."

A downtown development official, David Richardson, knows of the proposal and says that it could be a part of the city's central business district.

"Obviously, the



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 area merchant

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# STC tavern headed for new operations

8-12-04 Chronicle

## Building housed Hoops, Hotel St. Charles

By ROALD HAASE  
Kane County Chronicle

**ST. CHARLES** — An attorney said Wednesday he wants to buy a familiar downtown building that houses the Hoops pub and convert it into restaurant-pub uses.

The attorney, John Hoscheit of St.

The building, known as the Hotel St. Charles, is at 208 W. Main St. (Route 64), west of the Fifth Third Bank.

"The business as it is currently constituted (Hoops) would leave," Hoscheit said. "I would expect another restaurant-type entertainment use to go into that space once renovation has occurred."

The structure reputedly dates from the 1850s and was known at one time as the White Front Hotel for its white-washed finish. A sign on the upper level is identifying it as the Hotel St. Charles

Charles, said he and St. Charles developer Sean Williams have formed a company with plans to complete the building's purchase by early September.

Hoscheit said their firm has a contract to buy the building, with the sale to be finalized at closing, which could come as early as later in the month.

has been painted over.

Hoops owners James and Tina Harrington own the building, which they bought in 1980 from its longtime previous owners, the Kachers family of St. Charles. The family had owned it for half a century and operated it as a hotel before the Harringtons acquired it.

James Harrington was tentative Wednesday in discussing the proposed sale. He said there are details that remain to be settled.

See TAVERN, page 2

## Tavern: Other street-level tenants probably will stay

Continued from page 1

"We've talked about a lot of things with a lot of people in the past," Harrington said.

"If it doesn't happen, I will go on," he added. "There's a lot of things out there, the closing dates, suggestions on how to handle various aspects of how to turn the business over. Nothing's concrete."

A downtown development official, David Richards, said he knows of the proposal and feels that it could be a plus for the city's central business district.

"Obviously, the potential is

there for another dining opportunity," said Richards, executive director of the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. "It could be retail. It could be housing on the upper floors. Obviously, since the deal hasn't gone through yet, the city hasn't seen any plans or concepts for it."

"It's a great location. It could be a very strong addition to the retail market for downtown, as well as for the housing."

Two existing street-level tenants to the west of Hoops that are part of the property — Wes Barber Shop and Swifty Print Inc. — probably would

continue to operate in their present locations, Hoscheit said.

Currently, there also are apartment dwellers living above the street level, according to Hoscheit.

"With the balance of the building, I would expect significant renovations to be made, and the building to be reoccupied," Hoscheit said.

Both the building's exterior and interior would be renovated if he and Williams succeed in buying it, Hoscheit said.

Hoscheit said he could not be more specific at this time in

discussing plans to fill the current Hoops space.

"It could be a tavern, or a pub, or whatever is the right characterization," Hoscheit said. "We would expect the liquor license of that property would be maintained."

Richards said a restaurant would be a good use for the building.

"I can't imagine that a tavern being in there would be proposed in this day and age," Richards said. "More likely it would be a dining opportunity, a restaurant, or it could go retail."

# Check plan to protect county from fraud

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — A new electronic program to guard against potential check fraud has been launched by Kane County Treasurer David Rickert.

Facing the increasing possibility of criminals using technology to duplicate county checks, the treasurer's department has started providing an electronic file to the county's bank that lists information for each check from the county's payroll and accounts payable accounts. The majority of county checks are drawn from the two accounts.

The electronic file is used by the bank to confirm any check received and its validity. The bank alerts county officials if any check fails to match the electronic information, shows a memo given to members of the Kane County Board's Finance and Budget Committee on Wednesday.

Rickert said that the program soon will be extended to all county accounts. He said the county has been "lucky" in regards to not becoming a check fraud victim, and called the program a "proactive" measure.

"It is preventing someone taking one of our checks and making one of their own," he said. "Criminals are becoming more sophisticated in what they are doing with counterfeiting."

The cost to the county for the program is minimal as the file is e-mailed to the bank, Rickert said.

The potential of check fraud has prompted the banking industry to recommend that agencies implement such anti-fraud programs, said John R. Schmitz, the treasurer's director of financial operations.

"It is probably the most important thing we could have done that is available to us right now," Schmitz said.

8-17-04 Chronicle

# DURBIN

From Page A1

agricultural issues, they find quite a bit of common ground.

"All politics aside, we have the same goals in mind," said Elgin farmer Mike Kenyon, who serves as a Republican Party precinct committeeman. "There are some people who are Democrats who I don't like, but he's not one of them."

Durbin's support for ethanol — renewable fuel made from corn — and trade agreements that encourage expanded markets for American farm products are among the reasons the Democrat has earned respect from the group, many said.

Taking time out of a busy schedule to chat over coffee and Krispy Kremes also won praise.

"It's great that we can get our politicians to take the time to come out and listen to our questions," said Richard Pitstick, who farms near Elburn.

Durbin touted a measure he is cosponsoring that would make some \$1.4 billion in infrastructure improvements to a series of locks and dams on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, many of which are nearly 70 years old.

The improvements would make transportation of farmers' grain and other materials more efficient, Durbin said, and could help boost exports of corn to Mexico.

The measure would benefit farmers here because much of the grain harvested on Kane County farms each year is shipped from barges loaded in Morris and Ottawa.

Durbin said the bill, co-sponsored by Missouri Republican Kit Bond and Iowa Democrat Tom Harkin, has bipartisan support in the Senate. He said he hopes to gain the support of conservation and environmental groups to move the proposal forward.

For every dollar for new construction of locks and dams, the bill calls for a dollar toward ecosystem preservation, Durbin said.

Pitstick said he believes the proposal would help the nation's farmers keep pace with other producing nations. "We're not going to compete with Brazil unless we keep one step ahead on the infrastructure," he said.

Durbin, of Springfield, has served in Congress for 22 years, and admitted that he didn't know much about farm issues when he was first elected.

"I went to a lot of Farm Bureau meetings and listened," he said.

That process continued in Mike and Helen Biddle's farm shop Wednesday. After a brief review of pending legislation, Durbin opened the floor to questions and asked the farmers what they would like to see included in the nation's farm policy.

"You are the experts at it," Durbin said.

The pickup trucks with Bush-Cheney bumper stickers parked outside didn't seem to faze the second-term Democrat, as Durbin slipped off his blue blazer and took a seat in the farm shop to talk export markets, crop subsidies and ethanol production with about two dozen Kane County farmers.

Durbin's visit was in return for a Kane County Farm Bureau visit to Chicago in early February, in which local officials brought lunch

# Durbin finds friends on Kane farm

## ■ Agriculture issues: Democrat receives warm reception in GOP country

By Dan Watt  
STAFF WRITER  
8-12-04  
Beacon News

ELBURN — Food has a way of bringing people together.

It's one of the reasons U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin traveled to a Campton Township farm Wednesday morning for a roundtable discussion on agriculture issues.

The pickup trucks with Bush-Cheney bumper stickers parked outside didn't seem to faze the second-term Democrat, as Durbin slipped off his blue blazer and took a seat in the farm shop to talk export markets, crop subsidies and ethanol production with about two dozen Kane County farmers.

Durbin's visit was in return for a Kane County Farm Bureau visit to Chicago in early February, in which local officials brought lunch

to Durbin staffers. The Farm Bureau's Check Out Day on Feb. 6 marked the point in the calendar year at which the average family had earned enough money to buy its food for an entire year.

The trip downtown to deliver the lunches

made quite an impression, "Durbin told the farmers.

While many farmers said they might not share all of Durbin's political views, on

◆ Turn to DURBIN, A2



U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (left) speaks with Elburn resident Richard Pitstick after a meeting on agricultural issues with area farmers at the Biddle farm in Elburn Wednesday morning.

STEVE ROSENBERG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

8-12-04 Beacon News

# Chicago group joins Prairie Parkway fight

## ■ Dueling surveys:

State plans phone poll to obtain an 'accurate gauge' of public opinion

By Ed Fanselow  
STAFF WRITER

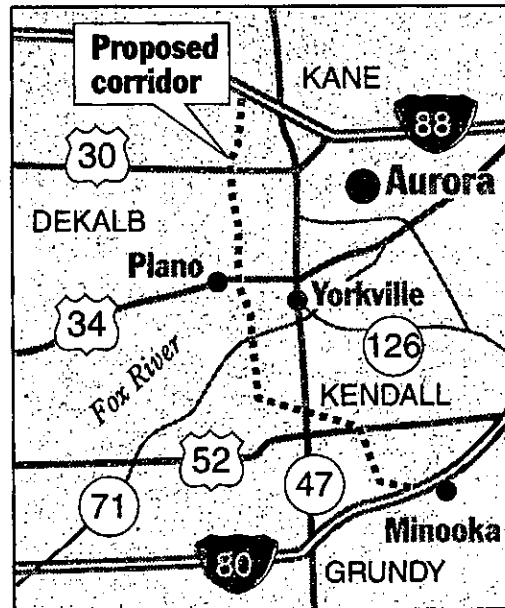
A Chicago-based watchdog group with a history of doing battle with the Illinois Department of Transportation has joined the fight against the proposed Prairie Parkway, saying this week that there is little public support for the project.

The group, Center for Neighborhood Technology, says that an analysis of more than 1,100 citizen comments received by IDOT shows that 75 percent of people living within 15 miles of the proposed highway don't think it should be built.

IDOT officials, however, contend that the comments "are not an accurate gauge" of overall public opinions about the parkway, which if built would connect Interstate 88 with Interstate 80 through far western Kane and Kendall counties.

"Opponents of any project tend to make themselves far more vocal than people who are in favor of it," IDOT spokesman Matt Vanover said Wednesday. "It's undeniable that there are plenty of people with the opposite opinion."

Vanover said that a forthcoming telephone survey about the project will give IDOT "a far more accurate read on what people think." The survey is set to be completed this



Vanover also reiterated that the current plan is hardly set in stone.

As it is envisioned now, the highway would carve a path through Kaneville Township, Big Rock, Plano, Lisbon Center and Minooka.

But that could all change, he said.

A spokesman for the advocacy group, however, said that IDOT seems set in its ways and that the agency "hasn't paid enough attention" to alternative plans.

"We're not saying 'Build it' or 'Don't build it,'" said the spokesman, Jacky Grimshaw. "We're just saying that IDOT needs to review the public comments and take the community input into account before moving ahead."

The Center for Neighborhood Technology and its subsidiary, CATSscan, have taken issue with several projects of the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS), the governmental group that directs funding to local transportation-

SIDETRACKS / INSIDE

Get a peek at this weekend's Elburn Days

SPORTS / 1E

Bears defeat Rams 13-10 in preseason opener

SPORTS / 1E

McWilliams overcomes ailment to succeed at Michigan State

AP

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Chronicle



Friday, August 13, 2004

www.kcchronicle.com

# Report shows need for affordable housing

*Sugar Grove, Wayne don't have enough, state says*

By HEATH HIXSON  
Kane County Chronicle

Sugar Grove and Wayne are on the list of communities lacking enough affordable housing, shows a state report released on Thursday. The Illinois Housing Develop-

ment Authority released the statewide report, which lists 49 communities that have until April 1, 2005, to create an affordable housing plan to comply with a change in state law.

The law requires that at least 10 percent of a community's housing stock to be affordable for working

families. Aside from Sugar Grove, at least four other communities with a portion of their boundaries in the county were listed: Algonquin, Barrington Hills,

See HOUSING, page 2

## How affordable housing was calculated

and a 10 percent down payment.

### Rental Units

- Sixty percent of median household income (at least \$51,666 for a family of four) multiplied by .30 (30 percent of gross income, the federal level for affordable housing), and divided by 12 months.
- A family with this income could afford no more than \$775 in rent per month.

Source: Illinois Housing Development Authority

### Owner-Occupied Units

- Eighty percent of the median household income (at least \$51,666 for a family of four) multiplied by .30 (30 percent of the gross income, the federal level for affordable housing), and divided by 12 months.
- A family with this income could afford a home in Kane County priced at \$123,720. This is based on a mortgage payment at an 8.05 percent interest rate on a 30-year term

8-13-04  
Chronicle

Walking for a cure

Crack cocaine

# Housing: Deadline is April 1, 2005

Continued from page 1

## Affordable housing in Kane County

	Affordable Owner-Occupied Units	Affordable Rental Units	Total Affordable Units
Aurora	\$123,377	\$775	48.9 percent
Batavia	\$123,720	\$775	19.6 percent
Burlington	\$123,720	\$775	40.9 percent
Elburn	\$123,720	\$775	24.1 percent
Elgin	\$124,056	\$775	46.6 percent
Geneva	\$123,720	\$775	11.2 percent
Maple Park	\$123,720	\$775	51.8 percent
North Aurora	\$123,720	\$775	29.5 percent
South Elgin	\$123,720	\$775	26.7 percent
St. Charles	\$123,719	\$775	16.3 percent
Sugar Grove	\$123,720	\$775	9.4 percent
Wayne	\$122,876	\$775	2.0 percent
Kane County	\$123,720	\$775	18.8 percent

Source: Illinois Housing Development Authority

Algonquin, Barrington Hills, Gilberts and Sleepy Hollow were named as not having enough affordable housing.

Sugar Grove Village Administrator Brent Eichelberger said he was surprised to see the fast-growing community included in the report. He said village officials looked at the housing stock when the legislation was approved and thought the community would have more affordable housing than required.

Each of the Tri-Cities has less than 20 percent of its housing stock considered affordable to working families, the report shows. Burlington, Elburn, Maple Park, North Aurora and South Elgin scored higher than that mark. The reports lists Kane County, as a whole, as having about 19 percent of its housing stock affordable.

The state agency determined affordable housing by considering a portion of an area's median income and then used 30 percent of the remaining gross household income to measure what a family could afford. Kane County was included in the Chicago primary metropolitan statistical area's median income figures.

"We worked very hard to generate a highly accurate list, in compliance with the legislation, and a detailed plan for how to implement this law moving forward," said Kelly King Dibble, IHDA executive director, in a written statement. "But we have been very surprised and excited by the number of municipalities that have

already begun to take innovative steps — above and beyond the requirements of the law — to address that this law was written to help alleviate."

Sugar Grove was listed as having 9.4 percent of its housing stock affordable to a family of four with a median income of at least \$51,000 or less. Wayne has only 2 percent of its housing stock considered affordable to these families. The state as a whole was 52.9 percent.

All the communities named in the report are located in the Chicago primary metropolitan statistical area.

The two villages and other communities cited in the report must create a plan to increase their affordable housing by the deadline.

The plans must include a list

of all affordable housing units in the community, land where such housing could be built, incentives for builders of affordable housing and a goal of at least 15 percent of all new development or redevelopment to be affordable housing.

Eichelberger said village officials will review the agency's findings. He said the village approved an affordable housing plan earlier this year, but will take another look as to whether it meets state standards.

"We thought at the time when we looked at that we were above 10 percent and that we would be exempt," Eichelberger said. "We are going to review some of the information and how they did the calculations and what we did (and compare)."

## Reports say Rep. Lipinski to retire



STEVE ROSENBERG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
 CougarKid Kirby DeBates, 9, of Maple Park heads to the dugout with bat in hand during her time as the batgirl Monday night at the Cougars game in Geneva.

8-13-04  
 Beacon News  
**CougarKids**  
 run bases  
 ... and more

*From souvenir stands to batgirls to Ozzie's helper, kids have a blast*

**By Jim Faber**  
 STAFF WRITER

GENEVA — Many customers must have been surprised to see 8-year-old Lauren Black of Elburn scanning items and handing back change at a souvenir shop at Elfstrom Stadium.

But Lauren had a perfectly good reason to be helping shoppers out, one she spelled out for the customer who questioned whether she should be behind the counter.

"I said, 'I work here,'" Lauren said.

And, for a few innings Monday night, Lauren was working for the Kane County Cougars, along with 11 other local youths, as part of CougarKids Night, sponsored by The

*"I'm going to remember just being on the radio and talking."*

Beacon-News. Filling jobs ranging from greeter to assistant to Ozzie, the Kane County Cougars' mascot, the youths, between 8 and 13 years old, had access to parts of the baseball stadium that most people never see.

**Chris Stola**  
 of Big Rock, CougarKid radio broadcaster

Chris Stola, 12, of Big Rock, watched the first few innings of Monday night's game from the radio broadcast booth directly above home plate. Then, in the bottom of the third inning, he got to do the radio play-by-play for the Cougars.

That half-inning had a few hits for the Cougars but they weren't able to score any runs. Still, it was probably the most exciting three outs Chris has ever seen.

"I'm going to remember just being on the radio and talking," he said.

Although Chris didn't have anyone at home taping his broadcasting debut and didn't tell his friends to tune in Monday night, he at least got to hear himself over the headphones in the booth.

Ryan Bieller, 13, of Aurora, probably had the easiest job of all of the kids. He threw out a ceremonial first pitch — a perfect strike over the plate.

Ryan was a bit nervous after the girl throwing out a first pitch ahead of him nearly tossed it over the catcher's head. But Ryan, who pitches for his local youth team, did fine.

That he threw from a few feet in front of the mound instead of the complete 60 feet and 6 inches, also helped, he said.

"I probably could have (thrown a strike from the mound)," Ryan said. "But it would have been the first time I pitched from that distance."

While Ryan was in his seat by the time the game began, Rob Lauzen, 11, of Aurora, was still working hard as the assistant to Ozzie, the Cougars' mascot.

The key to being a good mascot, according to Ozzie, was being happy all the time and shaking plenty of hands throughout the ballpark, Rob said.

For the first 10 or 15 minutes of being dressed up in a costume Rob called "Little Ozzie," he felt a bit odd, but then the energy of the crowd and the reaction people had to him made it easy to be a mascot, Rob said.





PHOTOS BY STEVE ROSENBERG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CougarKid Rob Lauzen, 11, of Aurora, heads upfield during the "Ozzie Race." Lauzen served as the assistant to Kane County mascot Ozzie the Cougar Monday night at Elfstrom Stadium in Geneva.

## COUGARKIDS

From page F1

Ultimately, whether it was helping Ozzie launch toys into the stands while hanging out the window of an SUV or just walking around the concourse giving high-fives to kids, helping Ozzie was a pretty good job to have, Rob said.

"I've always wanted to be Ozzie's assistant," Rob said. "When I come to the games, I see Ozzie having so much fun, so I wanted to help him."

For Jacob Haggerty, 9, of Aurora, serving as a groundskeeper's assistant allowed him to install the same bases he's run at previous games. The bases, which Jacob said are surprisingly light, are held into the ground by a plug in the middle of them which fits into a pipe in the ground.

Kayla Larsen, 9, of Oswego, was taught by the other greeters to say "hi" to everyone and to make sure everyone, regardless of age, got one of the Beacon News bat pens as they walked into the park.

Despite being friendly and offering a free gift, sometime Kayla found it a bit difficult to be a greeter



Beacon News CougarsKid Jacob Haggerty, 9, of Aurora, places first base into the ground during his stint as a groundskeeper assistant Monday night at the Kane County Cougars game at Elfstrom Stadium in Geneva.

on a beautiful summer night at a crowded ballpark for a winning team.

"It was hard to get the attention of people," Kayla said. "They were so eager to get inside to the game."

Other CougarKids were Kirby DeBates, 9, of Maple Park, who served as a bat girl; Josh Tolentino, 10, of Montgomery, who served as bat boy; Ali Keenum, 11, of Sugar

Grove, who served as a concession worker; Tylan Falls, 9, of Aurora, who served as a concession worker; Sarah Cavender, 11, of North Aurora, who served as a souvenir seller; and Arrissa Dinges, 13, of Oswego, who served as the public address assistant.

Contact staff writer Jim Faber at (630) 844-5889 or [jfaber@scn1.com](mailto:jfaber@scn1.com).

8-13-04 Beacon News

# Group to study Kane's energy future

By Nathaniel Zimmer  
STAFF WRITER

GENEVA — A nonprofit organization will study fast-growing Kane County's future energy needs with an eye toward increasing efficiency, lowering infrastructure costs and reducing consumers' bills.

That effort will come thanks to \$175,000 in state and federal grants, Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn and representatives of the Community Energy Cooperative told Kane County Board members Thursday.

The county's growth will "put stress on the existing electricity infrastructure and will require the construction of costly new feeders, substations and transmission lines

to manage the increasing load," according to the Chicago-based CEC.

Hans Detweiler, deputy director of the state Bureau of Energy and Recycling, told the board that Kane County had been selected for the study in part because of its history of long-term planning, which includes the county's 2020 and, now, 2030 plan.

"We know Kane County is a place where planning has been done very well in the past," he said.

Kathryn Tholin, the CEC's general manager, said the group, which is working with ComEd, hopes to analyze patterns of energy use and growth trends in the county to offer recommendations aimed at increasing efficiency.

As an example of a possible recommendation, Tholin suggested that manufacturers could be paid to reduce their energy use on peak days, thereby preventing a utility from having to build extra infrastructure to handle high levels of demand that occur relatively infrequently.

The U.S. Department of Energy kicked in \$100,000 for the project. Another \$75,000 came from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Residents also are being offered an opportunity to reduce their energy bills by an estimated 10 percent or more by participating in a new program that allows consumers to purchase their electricity at market rates.

Under what's known as the Energy-Smart Pricing Plan, ComEd calculates a consumer's energy use hour by hour using the current market price of electricity. Participants can find out what the price of electricity is at particular time, as well as learn about the general patterns in price movements, enabling them to adjust their energy use to take advantage of cheaper rates.

To ensure consumers don't get surprised, CEC notifies customers in advance of high prices and offers a protective price cap that provides insurance against any extreme price spikes.

To learn more, go to [www.energycooperative.org](http://www.energycooperative.org) or call (773) 486-7600, ext. 300.

8-13-04 Beacon news

# Nuclear scare closes road in Sugar Grove

By Dave Parro  
STAFF WRITER

SUGAR GROVE — A stretch of Galena Boulevard east of Route 47 was shut down Thursday morning after a radioactive soil-testing device was thrown from a pickup truck during a rollover accident.

In addition to Sugar Grove police and fire officials, hazardous materials teams from Aurora and North Aurora responded to the scare, as well as officials from the Illinois Nuclear Safety Department and Kane County Emergency Management Agency. The road was closed for about 2-1/2 hours as officials tested the piece of equipment for nuclear leaks.

Sugar Grove Fire Chief William King said the emergency and nuclear teams were called out because the shipping case around the device was cracked. It turned out the moisture density gauge itself had not been compromised, he said.

"With radiation, we can't see it, so we're going to take the most cautious route to make sure everything's OK," King said.

The single-vehicle accident happened at about 7:30 a.m. when the pickup truck rolled over into a ditch between St. James Parkway and Regency Boulevard, police said. The piece of construction equipment, which uses small amounts of the radioactive metals cesium and americium, was thrown from the bed of the truck.

The driver was taken to Provena

Mercy Center in Aurora with minor injuries, police said. Sugar Grove officials would not identify the driver but said he worked for McHenry-based engineering firm Schleede-Hampton Associates.

The soil gauge was returned intact to the company, King said. Sugar Grove police are still investigating the accident.

Patti Thompson, spokesman for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, said two of the state's Nuclear Safety Department workers were sent to Sugar Grove from their West Chicago office after the truck driver notified local officials of the radioactive gauge. If it had been damaged, some cleanup would have been required, she said.

"These are pretty commonly used, especially by construction companies, so the shipping containers are built to withstand these types of situations," Thompson said.

Both the area and the first responders were tested for radiation and came back clean, Thompson said. Traffic either turned around or cut through the neighboring subdivision during the closure, but no homes were threatened or evacuated.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to cesium or americium can cause direct external injuries such as skin burns and increase the risk of cancer through inhalation or ingestion.

8-13-04 Daily Herald  
**County shows transportation plan**

**BY MATTHEW ROGINA**  
*Daily Herald Correspondent*

Kane County Board member Penny Cameron views the impending population growth of Kane County as an indicator of the quality of life the area offers.

"We have excellent school districts, cultural activities, tourism, a bike path — families want to be here," Cameron of Aurora said.

And Cameron sees no signs of that changing in the next 25 years.

The county's Department of Transportation hosted an open house Thursday night at Waubonsie Valley Community College in Sugar Grove. The open house was designed to showcase the county's plan to dramatically revamp the transportation infrastructure and accommodate population needs by 2030.

The expected high areas of economic and population development are in the northern tip of the county near Hampshire and at the southern tip of the county near Sugar Grove.

"Kane County is in the top 10 fastest growing counties in the United States," said Tom Rickert of the Department of Transportation. "The existing roadway system can't handle all the expected growth," he said.

According to a county document, the population is expected to reach 692,350 by 2030 — a 71 percent increase from the 404,125 population in 2000. The same document projects employment to be up 66 percent by the year 2030.

Although a 2020 plan was adopted in the mid-1990s, continual growth prompted the need for a 2030 plan, Rickert said. State law requires counties to make transportation plans decades in advance.

Rickert said priority projects for the county include capacity enhancements to Randall and Orchard Road, improvements to Fox River Bridge corridors and various intersection projects. Metra extensions to Sugar Grove, La Fox and Hampshire and added Pace Bus service along Randall Road are also part of the plan.

The entire project is expected to be priced at \$3.3 billion, with

the county paying \$1.3 billion for its share of the roadway projects, Rickert said.

The county projects \$190 million in revenue from sources including federal subsidies.

The project is expected to receive board approval in October, Rickert said.

County residents in attendance approved of the plan, but said the agricultural area in the western corridor is a big part of the county's identity and shouldn't be rezoned by the county board in order to accommodate the population growth.

"Agricultural is the bread and butter of the county's future," said Cameron.

Kaneville resident Blanca Souders said the agricultural land in the county's western corridor is very valuable.

"There is such a great crop yield," Souders said. "But when you start having more roads, commercial areas will come. We hope the county sticks to their guns and doesn't rezone."

Cameron and board member Mary Richards of Aurora said the county has no intention of rezoning the agriculture.

# Truck rollover ties up rush hour

8-13-04  
Chicago  
Tribune

## Sugar Grove road shut; hazardous leak is averted

By John Biemer  
Tribune staff reporter

A pickup truck carrying a soil-sampling device that contains radioactive material went off the side of the road and overturned in Sugar Grove on Thursday morning when the driver fell asleep at the wheel, officials said.

No hazardous material spilled, but the incident shut down East Galena Boulevard for 2½ hours during the morning rush hour. The area is mostly rural, and no homes were evacuated.

The driver, John Daniel Cruz, 20, of Bloomington, Ill., works for a McHenry-based engineering company, Schleede-Hampton Associates Inc., police said. He had a small cut over his eye and was taken to Provena Mercy Center in Aurora, according to Sugar Grove Police Chief Brad Sauer.

Cruz was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, police said.

Sauer said the device was a moisture density gauge that is widely used at construction

sites.

The device contains a small amount of a radioactive material, cesium-137—a soft, malleable, silvery white metal.

"It looks a little like a fat lunch box with a long handle on it that they just set on the ground," Sauer said.

The device spilled out of the Chevy GMC when it rolled off the road, but no hazardous materials leaked, Sauer said.

The rollover occurred before 7:30 a.m. just east of Illinois Highway 47, East Galena Boulevard was shut down until about 10 a.m. as a precaution as hazardous material teams responded to determine the risk.

"We have to handle it at its farthest extreme and then adjust backwards," said Wayne Parsons, the Sugar Grove Fire Department's assistant chief.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to radiation from cesium-137—which is produced when uranium and plutonium absorb neutrons and undergo fission—results in increased risk of cancer. If exposures are very high, serious burns or even death can result, although the EPA says such instances are very rare.

Schleede-Hampton officials declined to comment on the incident.

## Kane to study energy efficiency

### Expected growth fuels planning

By William Presecky  
Tribune staff reporter

Along with land use, transportation, water resources and flood protection, Kane County has added energy efficiency to the planning issues it will analyze in anticipation of the major growth spurt being forecast for the county over the next two decades.

As part of a state program to spur economic development through increased energy efficiencies and reduced demand for more power lines, a \$175,000 initiative was announced Thursday to underwrite a 15-month study and develop a strategic plan for meeting the county's long-term demand for energy.

The Community Energy Cooperative, a non-profit group aimed at helping consumer control energy costs, will spear-

head the program. The Chicago-based group is a division of the Center for Neighborhood Technology. The U.S. Department of Energy and the state Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's regional energy program is providing the funding.

In announcing the funding and outlining the program to the Kane Board's Executive Committee, Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn said the project is intended to serve as model for energy planning statewide.

"Kane has been given the opportunity to showcase the economic and environmental benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy, and I hope the success of this project will make it a model for the rest of the state," Quinn said.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich appointed Quinn last August to head a special task force to analyze the condition and future of the state's energy infrastructure.

Board Chairman Mike McCoy (R-Aurora) said he wel-

comed the study. "Kane is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States," he said.

For all the other long-term planning needs that Kane is trying to meet "future energy planning to accommodate our growth projections has not been undertaken," he said.

Kathryn Tholin, general manager of the Community Energy Cooperative, said one of the first orders of business will be to form a broad-based energy planning advisory committee.

Tholin said Kane's mix of land uses—urban, rural and suburban—makes it ideally suited for the study.

"You are really a microcosm of the whole state," Tholin told county officials.

Hans Detweiler, deputy director of the state Bureau of Energy and Recycling, said Kane was chosen for the study because of what he called "its long, proven record for planning."

"We know that Kane is where planning has been done well in the past," Detweiler said.

# State: Sugar Grove, Naperville short on affordable housing

By Ed Fanselow  
STAFF WRITER

Two area communities have made the list of Illinois towns that will need to offer more affordable housing under a new state law designed to counteract the upswing in real estate and rental prices.

Sugar Grove and Naperville are among 49 Chicago-area municipalities where less than 10 percent of the housing is considered affordable for so-called working class families.

Towns on the list have until April to develop plans to remedy the shortage.

"It's gotten to the point where teachers and police officers can't afford to live in some of the communities where they work," explained Robin Snyderman of the non-profit Metropolitan Planning Council, which lobbied for the law.

"That creates a whole set of social and economic problems."

Affordable homes are those that could be purchased or rented by families earning less than \$52,000 a year — \$125,000 for a home and \$775 a month for an apartment, according to the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

In most other Fox Valley communities far more than 10 percent of housing units fell into that range, including Aurora where about half of homes and apartments were considered affordable.

But in Sugar Grove, where the median home price is about \$185,000, only about 60 homes and 60 apartments fell into the "affordable" range, according to figures from the 2000 census.

"There's certainly some merit in wanting a diverse housing stock," said Sugar Grove Village Manager Brent Eichelberger. "And it's certainly something that we were looking at even before this law came around."

He said the Village Board has already devised a so-called "affordable housing plan" that includes provisions for giving incentives to developers for providing lower-priced units.

Still, Eichelberger says the village wants to "analyze the state's data," before going forward with any plans.

"We did our own review of our housing and came up with some significantly higher numbers," he said.

In Naperville, where the median home price tops \$250,000, there are more than 4,200 affordable homes and apartments — a significant number but slightly less than the required 10 percent.

Naperville officials, however, say the city's home rule status exempts it from complying with any

## Affordable housing in the Fox Valley

Percentage of housing units in area communities that are considered affordable, according to the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

Sugar Grove	9.4%
Naperville	9.4%
Geneva	11.2%
Oswego	16.2%
St. Charles	16.3%
Batavia	19.6%
Elburn	24.1%
North Aurora	29.5%
West Chicago	30%
Yorkville	32.6%
Hinckley	36.2%
Newark	45.2%
Montgomery	47.5%
Aurora	48.9%
Maple Park	51.8%
Sandwich	54.9%
Somonauk	55.3%
Plano	68.5%

changes mandated by the law. Assistant City Manager Julia Carroll said Naperville would try to resolve the issue through the DuPage County Mayors and Managers Council.

Bryan Zises, a spokesman for the Illinois Housing Development Authority — the state agency charged with overseeing the new law — said achieving compliance might not be easy in all cases.

He added, though, that the IHDA plans to host a series of seminars to help explain the law, its requirements and some possible solutions.

State Rep. Joe Dunn, a Naperville Republican who opposed the bill, said the law infringes on the freedom of local governments and individuals.

"The state's stepping on the decisions being made by locally elected people," Dunn said.

He said Naperville cannot be expected to create more affordable housing when it is almost entirely built out. Developers aren't going to tear down a house and build a less-expensive replacement in its place, he said.

"I don't know why anyone feels they have the right to be where they want to be," he said.

Among the other towns that come up short of meeting the affordable housing goal are Kenilworth, Inverness, Winnetka, Oak Brook, Wayne, Highland Park, Hinsdale, Lincolnshire, Lake Forest, South Barrington, North Barrington, Barrington Hills and Barrington Shores.

Staff writer Ann Hanson contributed to this report.