

Aurora Township

Fall 2007

Town Journal

Aurora Township Officials 2005-2009

James R. Murphy, *Supervisor*
Juan R. Thomas, *Clerk*
Annie Craig, *Trustee*
Christina Campos, *Trustee*
John Shoemaker, *Trustee*
Dr. Monica Silva *Trustee*
Fred Burgess, *Highway Commissioner*
Davis R. Offutt, *Assessor*



SUPERVISOR'S NEWS

Township Dial-a-Ride Service to Expand as Part of Ride-in-Kane

Aurora Township's popular Dial-a-Ride program will soon expand its service hours and service area when the county-wide Ride-in-Kane program kicks off this fall. Dial-a-Ride users will be able to access 24 hour a day, 7 day a week service throughout Kane County. The Ride-in-Kane program is the result of the collaboration of numerous Kane County local governments and agencies. By combining their resources, the partner organizations were able to secure grants totaling \$2.4 million to help fund the additional services.

Registered Dial-a-Ride users will contact a central call center to schedule service. Aurora Township will continue to run 6 routes in Aurora and 1 route in Batavia, and in addition will look to add service hours and expanded boundaries. Pace, the suburban transit agency, will provide the call center operations, and will continue to provide the

lift-equipped buses used by the township. The target month for the start of Ride-in-Kane operations is January 2008.

"We are pleased to be able to offer our senior, disabled, and low income residents this expanded transportation service," said township supervisor Jim Murphy. "The federal grants allowed us to leverage the budget we're already spending on Dial-a-Ride to obtain substantial federal funds for this area and all of Kane County. This partnership program will enhance service hours and offer users a wider choice of destinations."

The standard fare structure for the Ride-in-Kane program will be \$3 one way for the first 10 miles and \$1.50 per mile thereafter. Current Dial-a-Ride users will not need to re-register for Ride-in-Kane. New users may register through Aurora Township. For more information, call (630) 892-1999.

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Town Fund Budget Report

The Aurora Township Assessor's office and the Supervisor's office (including youth department and Dial-a-ride) are subdivisions of the main operating fund, the Town Fund. The township levied \$2.13 million in real estate taxes for the Town Fund in the 2006 fiscal year to run those departments. Township supervisor Jim Murphy reported recently that overall spending for the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2007, was \$2.11 million. The Town Fund spending the year before was \$2.32 million. In other words, by belt-tightening and spending over \$200,000 less in 2006, the operating fund budget was balanced and Town Fund reserves were not touched. The Supervisor's office and Assessor's office have resolved to keep spending within revenues again for FY 2007.

Senior Services Moves

The Aurora office for senior services has moved from the YMCA building to new offices in the Northgate Shopping Center at 900 N. Lake Street.

Aurora Township funding helps this office maintain much needed services for local seniors.

Youth Services: Great Summer Fun, Now After-School Programs in Full Swing

Summer Camp

90 children enjoyed fun-filled adventures for 8 weeks this summer at the Aurora Township and Communities in Schools Summer Day Camp. There were 2 summer camp locations: the township Youth Center and Gates Elementary School. Campers from age 7 to 13 were kept busy with sports, arts and crafts, reading and writing activities, and more. Weekly field trips included visits to Brookfield Zoo, Funway, a Kane County Cougars game, and the Field Museum.

Summer Lunch Program

For the 17th year, Aurora Township delivered free nutritious lunches to children at 20 sites in the Aurora area, including children at the two township camp sites. In 10 weeks, the township served over 50,000 lunches. The program is funded by a grant from the Illinois State Department of Education.

Youth-Senior Lawn Mowing Program

With the help of federal block grant funding from the City, Aurora Township was able to hire high school and college kids over the summer to mow 170 lawns for senior citizens and disabled adults.

After School Programs This Fall and Spring

My Time Club is a city-wide after school program coordinated by Communities in Schools for the City of Aurora with program partners such as the Aurora University Institute for Collaboration. The city-wide program began last year at 3 middle school sites and is expanding this year to 6 middle schools in Aurora. The program is designed to keep middle school students busy with positive activities, including art, academics, and recreational sports in an effort to reduce juvenile

crime. Aurora Township provides transportation, tutoring, site monitoring, and exercise instruction at 2 of the middle school sites. The township also provides transportation for the Aurora University student leaders to all of the program sites.

Delinquency Prevention Program Helps Youth Stay on the Right Track

The Delinquency Prevention Program is a state-funded community outreach program to help teens who have had contact with law enforcement get back on the right track. Juveniles in the program have not been convicted of a crime, but may have to appear in court to determine their status in the legal system. The township outreach workers are currently working with 25 individuals, to help the young men and women complete their probationary period without any further contact with law enforcement. Outreach workers assess the youths' social service needs, come up with an action plan, teach life skills, and connect the program participants with other agencies for other needed services. For more information about the Delinquency Prevention Program, please stop by 313 Gale Street or call the Youth Services department at (630) 851-7501.

Aurora Township Youth Center Hours:

Monday-Friday 2:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Free for youth ages 7 to 17 with ID cards

Activities include:

- Open Gym
- Arcade games
- Homework club
- High speed internet access

Township Hires New Youth Director



Ismael Rodriguez-Espiricueta, of Aurora, came on board as youth director in September. Former youth

director Tom Rowe left in July to join the Warrenville Park District. During the recruiting and hiring process, township supervisor Jim Murphy appointed Vicki Marques as interim youth director.

Supervisor Murphy said that the township had received 32 applications for the youth director position. He said the group presented "many great

candidates, but Ismael's credentials, his positive attitude and his work experiences made the choice clear."

Mr. Rodriguez-Espiricueta has a background in education. He most recently was dean of campus development at Waubensee Community College, and prior to that held administrative and teaching positions at Central Texas College, Malcolm X College, and the University of Wisconsin — Madison. He has a master's degree in Counseling from UW — Madison, where he is also a candidate for a PhD candidate in Counseling Psychology.

Township Youth Center Home to A-Town Cheer Factory

Over the past summer, Barb Miller, head coach and promoter of A-Town Cheer Factory and the township youth department began a partnership that has already grown by leaps and bounds, literally. On Saturdays, the youth center is brimming with excitement as the junior and senior level cheerleaders practice, train and perform their routines. New registration is available every Saturday. The fee is just \$3.00 per class. Barb and her coaches encourage the students to work hard and dedicate themselves to succeed and to achieve their dreams.

AURORA TOWNSHIP BOARD AND ELECTED OFFICIALS



Christina Campos, Trustee

Christina Campos has served on the township board since April 2005. She is a lifelong resident of Aurora Township and attended school in the East Aurora District 131. She has an Associates Degree from Waubensee Community College and a Bachelors Degree from Judson College. Christina currently works for the Girl Scouts- Fox Valley Council as a Membership Specialist.



John Shoemaker, Trustee

John Shoemaker has served on the township board of trustees since 2001. He is a lifelong resident of the township, having been raised in Aurora and now living in North Aurora. He is a graduate of Aurora University and is a Registered Nurse in the ICU at Provena Mercy Center.



Fred Burgess, Highway Commissioner

Fred Burgess was first elected as the Highway Commissioner in April 2001. A retired journeyman carpenter, Fred worked for 37 years in the construction industry as Superintendent, Construction Manager, and Field Engineer. He also served as Business Manager for the Carpenter's Union.



Davis Offutt, Assessor

Davis Offutt has served as Assessor since 1993 and has worked in the Assessor's office for several years prior to his first election. Davis is a lifelong Aurora resident. He completed four years in the U.S. Air Force that included a tour of duty in South Vietnam. Davis completed his formal education with an Associate of Science Degree from Waubensee Community College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Aurora University.



Annie Craig, Trustee

Annie Craig was first elected to the township board in April 2005. She hails originally from Baltimore, Maryland. She grew up along the Eastern Seaboard, but is very proud to call Aurora home. Annie has a Bachelors Degree in Exercise Physiology and is an accomplished Fitness Professional, as well as a marathon runner and a charity walker.



Monica M. Silva, D.C., Trustee

Monica Silva has served on the township board since her election in April 2005. Dr. Silva attended Aurora Central Catholic High School and studied pre-medicine at Aurora University. She obtained her Doctor of Chiropractic degree from National University of Health Sciences. Dr. Silva's chiropractic office is located in Aurora.



James R. Murphy, Supervisor

Jim Murphy has served as Township Supervisor for over 10 years. A lifelong resident of Aurora, Jim is an attorney with an office in Aurora. Jim completed his undergraduate education at the University of Illinois-Urbana and obtained his law degree from Southern Illinois University Law School.



Juan R. Thomas, Clerk

Juan Thomas was elected as Clerk of the township board in 2005. He was born and raised in Aurora and attended West Aurora schools. He has degrees from Morehouse College, the University of Illinois College Of Law, and the University of Illinois College of Education. He is completing another master's degree from the University of Chicago. Currently, Juan has a law practice in Aurora.

Township Mental Health Fund Report

Aurora Township is one of seven southern Kane County townships that levy taxes that go to Mental Health/Mental Retardation, Inc. (also known as the INC board or the 708 Board). With this pass-through township tax revenue, the 708 board in turn allocates funds to local agencies for mental health services for area residents. Aurora Township's mental health levy, because of its higher population and tax assessment levels, constitutes about 75% of the total levies of the 7 townships. In 2006, the Aurora Township mental health levy was just over \$1 million. See sidebar for the listing of the 708 board's preliminary allocations for 2007-2008.

For further information about the 708 board or its allocations, contact the MH/MR office at (630) 892-5456.

Agency	Grant Allocations
Assoc. for Individual Development	\$283,000
Aunt Martha's Youth Services	2,250
Breaking Free	87,000
Bridging the Gap	15,000
CASA Kane County	9,000
Center for Rural Psychology	8,000
Communities in Schools	65,000
Conley Outreach	64,745
DayOne Network.....	5,250
Ecker Center	2,500
Elderday Center	7,000
Family Counseling Service.....	132,000
Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice.....	20,000
Gateway Foundation of Aurora	250,000
Mutual Ground	70,000
Open Door Clinic.....	2,750
Paddlequest	9,600
Prairie State Legal Services	8,000
Suicide Prevention Services.....	28,000
Tri-city Family Services	84,500
VNA Fox Valley	76,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,229,595

Aurora Township

80 N. Broadway
Aurora, IL 60507-2847

www.auroratownship.org

Supervisor's Office

(630) 897-8777

Dial-A-Ride

(630) 892-1999

Assessor Office

(630) 896-7792

Senior Services

900 N. Lake Street • Aurora, IL 60506

(630) 897-4035

Youth Center

313 Gale Street • Aurora, IL 60506

(630) 859-7501

Highway Department

220 Butterfield Road • North Aurora, IL 60542

(630) 892-0246



Aurora Township

80 N. Broadway
P.O. Box 2847
Aurora, IL 60507

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IN THIS ISSUE... Township Dial-a-Ride Service to Expand as Part of Ride-in-Kane

ALSO... Town Fund Budget Report, Youth Services, Township Mental Health Fund Report

Painter's Union Helps Out

Back in 1998, the township and the Kane County Sheriff's Office, along with many volunteer tradesmen and citizens, completed a year-long project to transform a ramshackle, uninhabitable ranch house on South Farnsworth in an unincorporated neighborhood into the Southeast Sheriff's Substation. The successful project garnered the 1st Place 1999 Governor's Hometown Award.

Since 1999, the Sheriff's community policing unit has used the substation as its south Kane County office, as has the Community Prosecution/Weed & Seed project administered by the Kane County State's Attorney office.

Lt. Kevin Stutz of the Sheriff's Office put the call out for volunteers to paint the exterior of the building and the apprentice and training program of Painters District Council #30 (IUPAT) answered the call. The first week of October, the Painters Union apprentices, under the direction of Gary Von Behren, put the finishing touches on a quality job that was sorely needed. Aurora Township and the Sheriff's office appreciate the efforts of the Painters' Union.



Sheriff Pat Perez and township supervisor Jim Murphy, with Painters Union apprentices at Southeast Substation.

Información del Township en Español

En este asunto del boletín del township, hay información al respecto:

- Llamar - A - Un Paseo
- Servicios de los Jóvenes
- Programas para los ancianos
- Miembros de la mesa directiva del township

También vea el sitio web:
auroratownship.org

MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Aurora Township board of Trustees are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at the Township Office at 80 N. Broadway, Aurora.