

# METRO WEST E-NEWS

April 2010

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The Metro West Council of Government newsletter will keep you informed on issues that affect municipalities in Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties. We'll also include information on Metro West programs, events and services. We welcome your input about articles for the newsletter.

## METRO WEST VISITS CAPITOL

Twenty-seven Metro West members participated in the March 16-17 Springfield Drive Down. They met with House and Senate legislative leaders from both parties as well as with IDOT Secretary Gary Hannig. Many of our area legislators attended the Legislative Dinner and Reception at the historic Executive Mansion. Participants also met privately with their own communities' representatives. This was the most successful Drive Down to date. The event was held a month earlier this year to increase our chances of impacting existing legislation. As a group, Metro West concentrated on protecting the Local Government Distributive Fund, the need for public safety pension reform and water supply planning in northeastern Illinois.



Drive Down participants in photo: front row left to right: Sugar Grove Trustee Melisa Taylor, St. Charles Mayor Don DeWitte, Montgomery President Marilyn Michelini, Yorkville Mayor Valerie Burd, Sugar Grove Trustee Rick Montaldo; back row left to right: Yorkville Trustee Diane Teeling, Yorkville Trustee Robin Sutcliffe, Yorkville Administrator Bart Olson, consulting engineer Peter Wallers of EEI, Inc., Gilberts Administrator Ray Keller, Montgomery Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura, St. Charles Administrator Brian Townsend, legal counsel Steve Andersson. Not pictured: Elgin Mayor Ed Schock, Elgin Asst. Administrator Rick Kozal, East Dundee Administrator Frank Koehler, East Dundee, East Dundee Trustees Lael Miller and Paul Van Ostenbridge, Campton Hills President Patsy Smith, Campton Hills Trustees Laura Andersen and Mike Millette, Aurora Chief of Staff Bill Wiet. Wayne President Eileen Phipps, Wayne Clerk Patti Engstrom, Wayne Police Chief Callahan and Wayne Attorney Harlan Spiroff also participated through DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference.

## STATE OF THE COUNTIES LUNCHEON

MAY 12, 2010

Please join Metro West at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 12th for our annual State of the Counties Luncheon at the Best Western Timber Creek Inn & Conference Center on Route 34 in Sandwich, IL. This event will feature County Board Chairpersons Karen McConnaughay of Kane County, Ruth Anne Tobias of DeKalb County and Anne Vickery of Kendall County. This year's event will focus on the relationship between the counties and municipalities and some of the challenges that they share. Please click on the registration form below which may be e-mailed to [mrandle@metrowestcog.org](mailto:mrandle@metrowestcog.org), faxed to 630.897.0469, or mailed to our Aurora address. If you have any questions, please call us at 630.859.1331.

[Click here for Registration Form](#)

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Mayor **Tom Weisner** of Aurora was featured in an Aurora Beacon article in late March. The article focused on his experience in the Peace Corps. Mayor Weisner and his wife Marilyn served on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands for five years in the 1980s. One of their successful projects was the development of a rural health worker training course that focused, among other things, on nutrition.

The **United City of Yorkville**, with the assistance of the **Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau**, recently received a tourism grant from the State of Illinois to purchase the historic Kendall County jail from Kendall County. The 1893 structure, located at 111 W. Madison Street in Yorkville, consists of a sheriff's residence with attached jail. A group of local residents and developers, spearheaded by Harold Oliver of HRM Development have stepped forward to develop a strategy to renovate the jail without cost to taxpayers. Mayor **Valerie Burd** stated that the jail will be transformed into a living history museum.

Montgomery Village President and CMAP Board member **Marilyn Michelini** and Metro West consulting engineer **Peter Wallers** of EEI, Inc. were interviewed about water supply planning and conservation on WSPY radio on April 6. They presented information about CMAP's Illinois Regional Water Supply and Demand Report and on Metro West's water supply planning initiatives such as its Water Conservation Task Force and the newly-formed Northwest Water Planning Area.

**Please forward information about your mayors, managers or municipality for inclusion in the newsletter.**

## PENSION FAIRNESS ALLIANCE

The need for public safety pension reform has been a top priority for Metro West municipalities for several years. Metro West recently joined the Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Alliance, which is spearheading the efforts of municipalities, counties, business organizations and many others to effect change on this issue in Springfield. Full information on the Alliance is available at [this site](#). "While we were heartened to see the recent progress in Springfield on other areas of pension reform," noted Metro West President Valerie Burd, "we strongly encourage our legislators to take the next steps to also address public safety pensions before the end of the session. Metro West encourages its members to join the Alliance to support these efforts."

## CENSUS NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Track Your Participation Rate

The nation just surpassed the 50% mark yesterday - half the nation has returned their census form. Are you above or below this national rate? The Census Bureau is challenging all communities to achieve a higher rate in 2010 than they did in 2000. Nationally, our goal is to "beat" the 2000 Census rate of 72%. On the Census Bureau's Take 10 Challenge Map <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/> you can track how well your community is participating in the census by seeing what percentage of households have mailed back their census forms.

The Mail Participation Rate Tracker Widget is now available for you to embed on your Web site. It's an

## SPRING/SUMMER SCHEDULE

**Thursday, April 22 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**Metro West Board Meeting**  
 Napolitano's Restaurant, 455 Redington Drive,  
 South Elgin

**Wednesday, May 12- 11:30 a.m.**  
**State of the Counties Luncheon**  
 Best Western Timber Creek  
 Route 34 & Drew Avenue, Sandwich

**Thursday, May 27 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**Metro West Board Meeting**  
 Fireside Grill, Route 47, Sugar Grove

**Thursday, June 17 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Legislative Barbecue/Session Review**  
 Lions Park, 550 Filmore, Elburn

## NORTHWEST WATER PLANNING AREA

### Metro West Takes The Lead

After several years experience, the Metro West Water Conservation Task Force started the Joint COGS Water Supply Planning Alliance. At the March 12 CMAP Water Summit, Mayor Weisner of Aurora presented the Joint COGs' proposal to establish a water planning area that will comprise five councils of government in a five-county area. Metro West COG, the Barrington Area Council of Government, the Lake County Municipal League, the McHenry County Council of Governments and the Northwest Municipal Conference have invited DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake and McHenry Counties to participate in a voluntary organization that will address water

easy way to remind your constituents that they need to mail back their census forms. Perhaps it will inspire them, too. Once the widget displaying your area's rate is embedded on your site, the rate will automatically update every day when Take 10 map is updated with the latest daily rates.

To find and embed a state-wide rate:

- 1) On the main map page [challenge map link](#) click on "View Participation Rate"
  - 2) Enter a zip code or a county or city followed by a state, e.g., "22206" or "New York City, NY," and click FIND.
  - 3) The map will center; click on the chosen state. A bubble will appear showing the current 2010 rate and 2000 rate. A "Track Participation Rate" link will be in the bubble.
  - 4) Click on the link and follow the instructions for embedding tracker in your website.
- Note: To get rates for a lower level of geography, click on the "Zoom In" link.

supply planning and conservation.

The WPA will be comprised of areas that are not served by Lake Michigan water but instead by surface and ground waters, especially in the Fox River Valley basin. The COGs held an initial meeting with the County Board Chairs on April 8 to discuss the details of the water planning area.

### FARMERS MARKETS FUNDING AVAILABLE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is still accepting applications for [\\$5 million in grants](#) via the [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#) (FMPP). Applications are due by April 15, 2010 and local governments are eligible to apply.

Please forward this newsletter to other elected officials and staff members to keep them updated on issues affecting municipalities.

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