

Canoe

Continued from page 1

He said 450 canoeists registered, which is about 40 to 50 more than had registered last year. An additional 50 to 60 canoeists were expected to register Sunday.

Because of the high river, the U.S. Coast Guard has closed the river to motor boats from the Chain O' Lakes near the Wisconsin border to the Illinois River. The ban is not expected to be lifted before Sunday.

Heinkel said the ban put another crimp in the race.

"We need the motor boats for our people for emergency purposes and to give guidance and support," Heinkel said.

Batavia Emergency Services Disaster Agency Director Jeff Glaser, who has been a member of the canoe committee since 1975, said the river level was dropping much slower than expected.

"It was a difficult decision,

but the right decision was made," Glaser said. "The river is not going down very fast. We need to lose another foot of water to safely make the portages."

The high levels also have caused dangerous currents. The river is moving six times as fast as normal, Glaser said, in citing information from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Glaser said refunds could not be given because registration fees had been spent on race-related items such as T-shirts, trophies, tents and portable restrooms.

Along with the \$5 vouchers, those who paid the registration fee can pick up their T-shirts and goodie bags Monday at Prisco Community Center, 150 W. Illinois Ave., Aurora, or at next year's race.

Heinkel said the cancellation would not affect the North Aurora Arts and Crafts Show, which will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at Island Park in North Aurora along the Fox River off Route 25.

Canoe race canceled because of high waters

Participants
to get \$5 voucher
for next year

Chronicle 10/5/04

By ERIC SCHELKOPF
Kane County Chronicle

AURORA — Sunday's Mid-American Canoe race has been canceled because of high water and dangerous currents on the Fox River.

Fox Valley Park District officials and canoe race committee members made the decision Friday after monitoring river conditions all week.

"We don't want to take the chance of someone getting hurt," said Paul Heinkel, the park district's deputy director of recreation services. "The river is moving too fast for novice canoeists."

It was the third time in the 44-year history of the race that organizers have canceled the event. The race also was canceled in 1974 and 1996 because of high water and unsafe conditions.

Heinkel said participants who paid the \$16 per person registration fee will not receive a refund. Instead, they will receive a \$5 voucher for next year's race.

In the race, canoeists paddle 15 miles from Mount St. Mary's Park in St. Charles through Geneva, Batavia and North Aurora to the Illinois Avenue bridge in Aurora.

Recent heavy rains have swelled the Fox River, and the river has been slow to return to its normal level, which varies through Kane County.

"The river really hasn't dipped much in the last two days," Heinkel said.

Heinkel said the race could not be postponed because of the number of volunteers needed and because of conflicts with other park district events.

Craft show to continue

- **What:** North Aurora Arts and Crafts Show
- **When:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday
- **Where:** Island Park, along the Fox River off Route 25

No refunds

- Anyone who paid the \$16 registration fee can receive a \$5 voucher to use next year.
- Vouchers and goodie bags will be available Monday at the Prisco Community Center, 150 Illinois Ave., Aurora.

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Naturalist, volunteers save endangered plants from new Metra line

Daily Herald 6/6/04

For most of us, a story about a new Metra rail line extending to Elburn means congestion at the Geneva station may be alleviated and the new station can handle growth in western Kane County.

For Mary Ochenschlager, naturalist for the St. Charles Park District, it meant some endangered prairie flowers and grasses could be lost forever along the new line.

With a cast of hardworking volunteers aiding the Metra Prairie Move Project, Ochenschlager was able to move those plants from wet and dry prairie areas to a new location in Campton Hills Park. Those once-endangered plants are now thriving.

Three volunteers stand out — Drew Frasz of Frasz Excavating; Mitch Adamus, the volunteer steward at Campton Hills Park; and Maryanne Nelson, executive director of the Fox Valley Land Foundation.

But the effort of many volunteers was nothing short of heroic in moving large sections of prairie, and replanting and watering the flowers and grasses.

It reminds us there's a lot more involved in putting down a new rail line than political wrangling and lots of bucks.

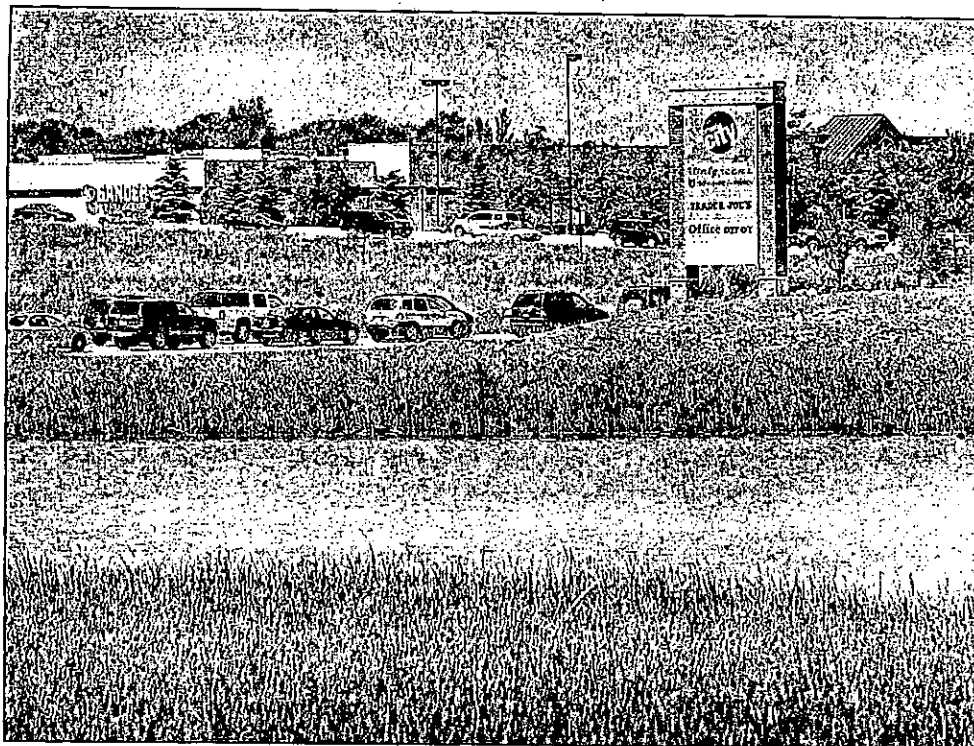
Remember this hero:

Media broadcasts and newspapers have featured stories this week about today's 60th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied invasion of France.

Many names of local war heroes have been recalled, and those still with us have been asked to again relive that historic day. It's possible the name of Mike Fik of Geneva will surface, as well it should. Mr. Fik passed away early last month and his obituary read, fittingly so, like that of a hero.

I have heard Mr. Fik's stories of his experiences during the Normandy Invasion, the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp.

Even though Mr. Fik surely isn't the only D-Day veteran who recently passed away, let me say this on behalf of my readers: Thanks, Mike. You left us with five Bronze Stars, one Arrowhead and one Silver Star, and it's likely those impressive military symbols don't tell us half of what you went through and what it meant for us.



Wayne Ratzliff — Chronicle photo staff

The Braeburn Marsh, foreground, played a role in an intense skirmish with area environmentalists before an adjacent shopping mall was built behind it and to the right a couple years ago. It is but one of several shopping center sites in Kane County that have required complicated site drainage designs.

Wetlands key to shopping areas

By ROALD HAASE
Kane County Chronicle

BATAVIA — If as Mayor Jeff Schielke predicts, Wal-Mart finally starts building its SuperCenter this summer, it might be anti-climactic.

That's because the huge retail project targeted for Randall Road and Fabyan Parkway has been in planning and development since 1996, Schielke said.

That early work, however, was concentrated on environmental issues, including the slow, methodical construction of a 108-acre natural wetlands area that is south and west of the hilly retail site itself.

"We were ahead of the game," Schielke said. "The site was looked at by a number of people over the years. But always there was the issue of drainage."

Then in 1996 the city hired an environmental engineering firm, which drew a master plan, leading to the development of what city officials now informally call "Braeburn Marsh 2."

With developer Aetna Development and Wal-Mart making substantial contributions to the environmental buffer, Schielke said the marsh area is ready and waiting to handle the expected stormwater runoff generated by the center.

"They (engineering consultants) calculated with the Wal-Mart engineering department how much (storm water detention capacity) was needed,"

Schielke said. "We said, 'That is all well and good, now add 25 percent to that to make sure we're on the safe side.'"

If the new Wal-Mart project seems an aberration, it isn't. Some of the major new shopping centers in Kane County are or will be built on environmentally sensitive lands. They include Chicago Premium Outlets that just opened north of Interstate 88 in Aurora, and a Target-Kohl's shopping center proposed for North Aurora, also north of I-88.

And even before these came Wal-Mart's sister project, the power shopping center where Circuit City, Office Depot and Trader Joe's sit adjacent to the serene Braeburn Marsh area east of Randall Road — and across the street from the planned Wal-Mart.

See KANE, page 2



Schielke

Kane: Developments bring issues to North Aurora

Continued from page 1

The power center, in the meantime redesigned and tweaked, prompted one of the most contentious environmental controversies in recent county history. But it did not deter its Chicago-based developer, Aetna Development, from embarking on a similarly complex project on the west side of Randall Road for Wal-Mart.

Kane County's director of environmental management, Tim Harbaugh, said that while such projects as the first Braeburn Marsh, Chicago Premium Outlets, Wal-Mart and the planned Target-Kohl's development are dissimilar, they share the need for astute environmental planning.

"Some of these larger ones get complicated," Harbaugh said. "It's just the fact that they are difficult properties to develop."

Harbaugh contrasted them with other shopping areas — including Geneva Commons and the giant Meijer store in St. Charles — where he said there weren't wetlands and stormwater detention is more straightforward.

"Quite honestly they wouldn't have developed them (Chicago Premium Outlets and the Target-Kohl's area) if they were not on a major interstate and (at Farnsworth Avenue and) Randall Road," he said.

Such projects have involved creation of wetlands areas that are, or will be, presided over by the Kane County Forest Preserve District.



Ruby

According to Sherman Jenkins, executive director of the Aurora Economic Development Commission, the Chicago Premium Outlets project required changing the path of Indian Creek, a Fox River tributary.

"We went out to find a developer who had the wherewithal to handle such a project (Chelsea Property Group)," Jenkins said.

The stage for Chicago Premium Outlets actually was set in the 1980s, when Aurora created a complex public financing program — a tax-increment-financing district — to enable a developer such as Chelsea to recapture some of the funds it spent upfront to create the stormwater detention areas.

Now, North Aurora Village President Mark Ruby, too, faces the prospect of a large shopping center requiring extensive environmental planning.

"Target and Kohl's and whatever goes into that area north of the (I-88) tollway have been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a long while," Ruby said. "It's undisputed that a large share of that property north of the ComEd power lines is going to be set aside for a wetland."

Ruby said he's advocated that a meandering bike path be built across the property. He noted that the property is in the Blackberry Creek watershed, another Fox tributary that has experienced flooding problems in the past. Because of the county's stormwater ordinance, developers and the village must provide for stormwater absorption and release on the property, Ruby said.

"You take away the soil that absorbs water and replace it with impervious layers here, you have got to have some place for the water to go," he added.

Robinson kicks off bid for state's attorney's office

Democrat to face John Barsanti

in November election

Chronicle 6/16/91

By GRANT MILLER
Shaw News Service

ELGIN — Amid a handful of supporters, Democrat Renee Robinson on Saturday kicked off her quest to become Kane County's second female state's attorney.

Robinson will face Republican John Barsanti in November's general

election. Even though years have passed since a Democrat last held a countywide office, Robinson said she's confident that voters will support her on Election Day.

"I think voters in this county are going to start voting not necessarily by party, but by the best candidate offered," Robinson said. "I don't think it matters what party you're with — citi-

zens want to see the crime rate go down."

Robinson ran unopposed in the March primary. The Aurora resident is in private practice, but previously worked as a DuPage County prosecutor.

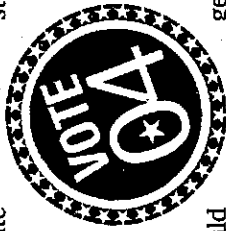
If elected, Robinson would be the county's second female top prosecutor. The first, Meg Gorecki, returned to work this week after serving a four-month suspension for an ethical lapse that hinted at a bribes-for-jobs deal. Gorecki, a Republican, is not seeking a second term and will

step down in December.

Robinson said it is unfortunate that Gorecki's term will be remembered for her mistakes instead of as a pioneer for female prosecutors. Robinson said she does not think that her gender will play a major role in her campaign.

"I don't think gender is an issue — if it was, people would have stopped voting for men a long time ago," Robinson said.

See ROBINSON, page 2



Robinson

Continued from page 1

Robinson said she would continue to prosecute death penalty cases despite Illinois' moratorium on capital punishment. She noted that Kane County's prosecution rate is among the lowest in Illinois and said the prosecutor's office must be improved.

Robinson hopes to bring a forensic lab to Kane County. She said that sending forensic samples to labs in other counties is inefficient. She said having a lab in the county would benefit the community and help prosecutors put criminals behind bars.

Unlike Barsanti, who rose through the ranks within the prosecutor's office to become first assistant under former State's Attorney David Akemann, Robinson said she approaches the position as an outsider with a varied background.

Besides her job as a DuPage County prosecutor, Robinson also was an accountant with the Internal Revenue Service and a lawyer with a state commission overseeing attorney ethics.

"I have a wide range of experience that gives me an edge, only because being a prosecutor isn't the only thing I've done," Robinson said.

Chronicle
6/16/04



**Greg
Rivara**

Follow the money

It should be of little surprise that state law enforcement officials allege that a small tavern in Maple Park illegally paid patrons when they won playing video poker.

Video poker machines are a staple in taverns. They offer an additional diversion for patrons and an additional revenue source for owners.

Among those circles, it is widely known that paying out on the machines is illegal. That is why the payouts usually are reserved for players the owner or manager knows.

It also is the reason why most investigations into illegal gambling in small communities are spearheaded by state officials. Most people who live in a community do not get agitated with a little gambling at the corner bar. In fact, it can be a bit tricky for the leaders in a small town to shut down a friend or neighbor.

Such investigations take a long time because undercover police officers must earn the trust of those behind the bar so they are eligible for the payouts. Officials with the Illinois Attorney General's office allege that the video poker machines brought in \$700,000 a year.

Additional time is needed because where there is one source of illegal gambling, there usually is more. With the Maple Park raid, state officials also allege that a book-making operation was available. Bookmakers accept bets on all sorts of sporting events, just like their legal gambling counterparts in Las Vegas.

The nine people arrested at D.J.'s Tavern are expected to plead innocent to the charges. Certainly, they are innocent until proven guilty. But the charges again will raise poignant questions about gambling in Illinois.

Traditionally, officials have argued that it is not duplicitous to allow gambling on riverboat casinos because it is a controlled, regulated environment. The corner bar is not.

That controlled, regulated environment also allows law enforcement officers to ensure that other illegal activities often associated with gambling do not occur. Opponents, as you might imagine, strongly disagree.

Officials also have argued that gambling winnings are taxed at casinos in Illinois. Clearly, there are no taxes in illegal operations.

Finally, gambling is considered by most as victimless. The player might lose some money, but nobody really is hurt.

Video poker machines have been on the fringe of legal gambling in Illinois for

ize the operation often are floated in Springfield, especially when any type of gambling expansion is considered.

The machines are present at the gambling boats and eventually will be allowed at the race tracks as lawmakers look for new revenue streams so they do not raise general taxes. Legalizing video poker machines at any restaurant or bar, however, would open gambling throughout Illinois. That, officials will not do.

If convicted, look for the bartenders at D.J.'s to pay a fine and perform community service. The amount of leniency to the owner and manager will be in direct proportion to the information they provide about their silent business partners.

As with anything, the main rule remains: Follow the money.

Speaking of follow the money...

There was a great example last week of why trying to be all things to all people is a failing proposition.

County sheriff's deputies have stepped up speed enforcement around the infamous S-curve on Randall Road in St. Charles. The stretch of road long has been a little tricky to navigate, especially in poor weather, and has received additional scrutiny after an accident claimed the life of a high school student on her way to class.

With the additional speeding tickets having been issued, county officials noticed an interesting trend: Most speeders were not from central Kane County. Which posed this question: If most speeders are not from central Kane County, how does the county inform them that the stretch of road is dangerous and requires drivers to be more alert?

The *Chronicle's* Tom Schlueter did an excellent job telling the story. But the Cook County-based newspaper with rented storefronts here wrote the story to emphasize ticket enforcement and not the county's struggle to inform motorists.

Why? Pretty hard to write a story of interest to people in Cook, Lake, McHenry and DuPage counties about Kane County's problem to inform out-of-towners of a dangerous stretch of road. Much easier to interest those Cook, Lake, McHenry and DuPage county readers that there might be a speed trap in St. Charles.

When someone tries to be all things to all people, someone always loses.

• *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*

Canoe race washed away

Beacon 6/5/04

■ **Dangerous currents:** Coast Guard motor boat ban blocks necessary safety measures

By Jim Faber
STAFF WRITER

AURORA — The Mid-American Canoe Race, scheduled for Sunday, has been canceled because of high water levels and dangerous currents on the Fox River.

Water level on the river is expected to drop only slightly by Sunday and the U.S. Coast Guard still has a ban on motor boats on the river, leaving race officials concerned with their ability to ensure the safety of the nearly 500 canoeists who would have paddled from St. Charles to Aurora, said Paul Heinkel, deputy director of the Fox Valley Park District.

This is just the third time in the race's 44-year history that the Mid-American Canoe Race has been shut down. The other times, in 1974 and 1996, were also for high water and unsafe conditions, Heinkel said.

The 15-mile race will not be rescheduled for this year. The Park District will send out letters to those who registered outlining how to get refunds, Heinkel said.

Don Bryant, director of Kane County Emergency Management, said the river waters are flowing much faster than usual. Measuring the water rate just north of the Montgomery dam on the Fox River, experts found it to be roughly 6,000 cubic feet of water per second when the normal flow rate is just 1,000 cubic feet per second this time of year, Bryant said.

That means the river is traveling six times faster than normal, creating undercurrents and eddies that make even experienced paddlers hesitant to canoe on the Fox, Bryant said.

The speed of the water has created two major problems for boaters — the water is flowing too

CANOE

From Page A1

quickly for paddlers to control and steer their canoes, and large chunks of debris such as tree limbs are floating down river and can easily cause a canoe to capsize.

Dangerous waters

Heinkel said about 450 boats were preregistered for the race this year, up from 390 last year, and another 50 or so usually sign up on the day of the race.

The race starts at Mount St. Mary Park in St. Charles and ends at the Illinois Avenue bridge in Aurora.

Of the people who enter the race, only about 10 percent are very competitive paddlers, Heinkel said.

Most of the contestants are recreational canoeists, he said, and the currents on the river now would be the roughest water many paddlers would have ever been in and could be dangerous.

And without being allowed to have motor boats on the river, there are real concerns about the ability to rescue canoeists who tip over, he said.

The Fox River has been closed to motorized water vehicles for about 10 days.

A personal watercraft rider took a plunge into the river Friday afternoon south of Aurora's Ashland Avenue bridge. Juan Juarez of Mendota fell off his device while heading toward shore. A friend was able to get him to shore before a

water rescue was needed.

Juarez said there were no signs posted to let him know the river was off limits to personal watercraft because of the high water.

Best time for race

The canoe race requires people to portage four dams — one in Geneva, two in Batavia and one in North Aurora — and those portages are dangerous right now. If a large group of canoes were to try to use a single portage area, it is possible those at the end of the group who couldn't make it immediately into the calm water could be pushed by the fast current to the dam, Heinkel said.

Throughout the race's history, organizers have tried different starting dates. They found dates in May often resulted in cold weather and high water. The early June date usually means fine weather and manageable, if sometimes low, water levels, Heinkel said.

Bryant said the Coast Guard ban on motor boats on the river won't likely be lifted until the middle of next week, if no additional rain falls into the Fox River.

Each registered participant in the canceled event will receive a \$5 voucher to use for the 2005 race registration. T-shirts and goodie bags may be picked up as of Monday at the Prisco Community Center, 150 W. Illinois Ave., in Aurora, or picked up at next year's race, Park District personnel said.

Contact staff writer Jim Faber
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jfaber@scn1.com

Elgin, county still working to reroute bike path

Daily Herald 6/15/04

BY GALA M. PIERCE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

City wants Fox River Trail to safely take cyclists through streets of downtown

In 2001, Kane County forest preserve officials granted the city of Elgin \$400,000 in riverboat money to build a safer route for bicyclists through the downtown.

But the plan of building an underpass at the Kimball

Street bridge to extend the Fox River Trail along National Street won't work. Instead, the city wants to reroute the path on city streets.

"The whole rationale of this thing was to get bicyclists safely through downtown

Elgin," forest preserve Director Jon Duerr said during Friday's executive committee meeting.

"This (plan) is comparable to a tunnel or underpass."

The county also granted the project to enhance the river-

front area and connect the path all the way to the McHenry County line, county board member Jack Cook said.

City officials discovered a bundle of Ameritech cable wires underneath the bridge,

the path north of the Washington Street around the library. The project requires the full forest preserve commission's endorsement as well.

Elgin officials plan to go out for bids on the project, and begin construction in the fall, Hoscheit said.

"They'll have it done by October," Cook said.

More work, money needed to stabilize Fabyan windmill

Daily Herald 6/5/04

BY GALA M. PIERCE

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although officials still expect to open the Fabyan Windmill by June 30, contractors recently found another snag in completing its restoration.

The Chicago-based Walter Daniels Constructors Co. began excavating as much as 9 feet deep around the foundation of the 141-year-old structure. Workers discovered problems in the soil, which could compromise the foundation underneath its supportive piers.

The \$751,000 restoration

project, which began taking shape in 1998, could now cost more than \$800,000, officials said.

"What we've got is a little bit of concern about everything becoming destabilized underneath those piers," Mike Holan, forest preserve director of operations, said at an executive committee meeting Friday.

For a fee not to exceed \$60,000, contractors will shore up and stabilize the foundation. The committee also gave consensus to reinforce the historic structure with a protective wall.

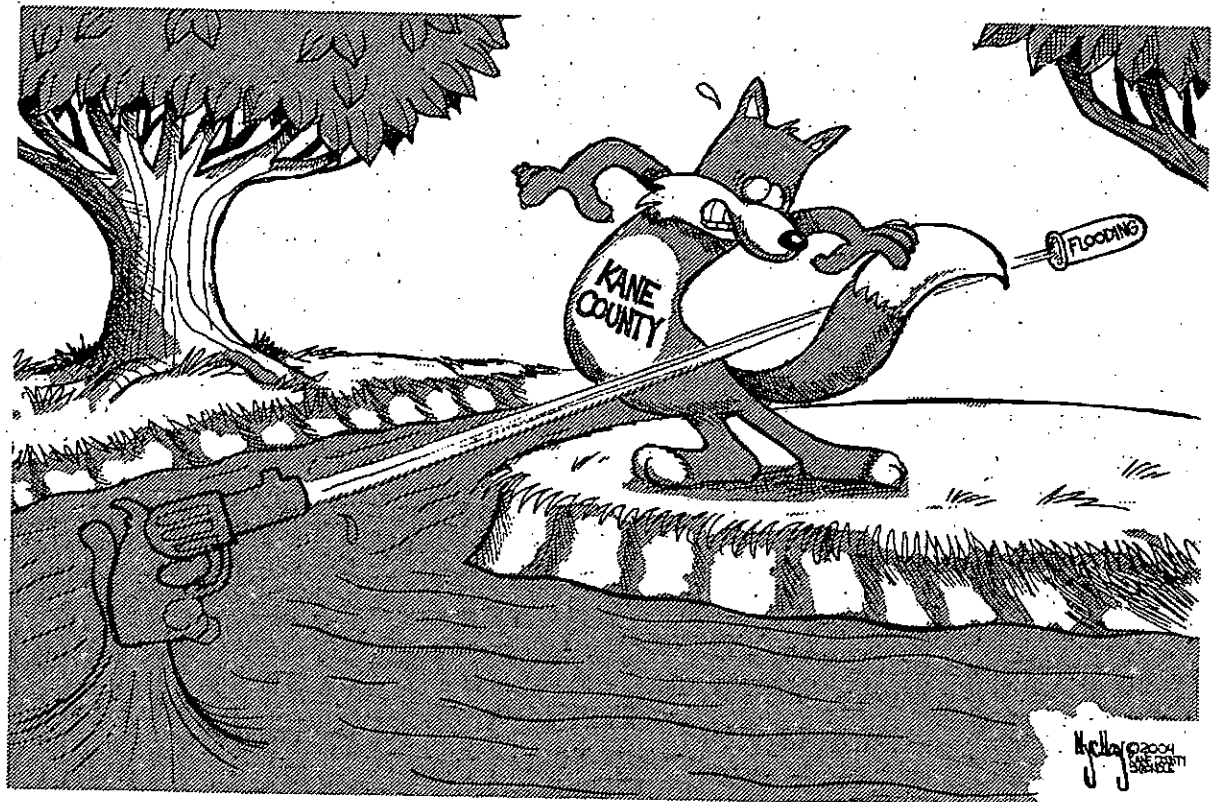
All the windmill's piers have

settled a bit over time and are not fit to sit for 100 years without some work, Holan said. Soil was spotted crumbling underneath the stairway as well.

"I don't think it could have been anticipated," said Pat Kinnally, an Aurora attorney who represents the forest preserve district.

The committee will see a detailed proposal at a future meeting, and the full forest preserve commission must give ultimate approval.

"We hope to have this done as soon as we can," forest preserve commission President John Hoscheit said.



Swollen river cancels Mid-American Canoe Race

Daily Herald 6/15/64

BY AARON SEIDLITZ

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Recent rains that swelled the Fox River making it dangerous for boaters spurred the cancellation of Sunday's Mid-American Canoe Race.

The race, which was to mark its 44th running, starts in St. Charles and ends in Aurora.

"It's very disappointing

because, as a staff, we have all worked very hard to get this race going," said Paul Heinkel, Fox Valley Park District deputy director of recreation services. "But with the river as dangerous as it is right now, we had to cancel the event."

Water along the 12-mile course was still racing over dams at dangerously high rates of speed, officials said. Large

amounts of debris, such as sections of fallen trees, were still in the water.

The decision to cancel the race was reached Thursday night when two test racers went into the water. When unsatisfactory reports came back, the race was scrapped.

"The two test racers who were put into the water Thursday were really experienced

and competitive canoeists," Heinkel said.

"They were especially surprised to see how quickly the water near the Geneva dam carried them directly toward the dam and overall they just considered the river too dangerous for inexperienced racers to use."

The water speed is of most concern around the dams

because the racers must portage — carry their canoes on land around the dam and enter downriver — during the race.

If the water is going too fast, stopping at the portage points can be a problem for less experienced racers.

"To think about how dangerous that river is for the children who want to race, is a scary

thought," Heinkel said.

The North Aurora Outdoor Arts and Crafts Show, which takes place each year next to the canoe race course, will continue Sunday as planned.

The fair will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Butterfield Road and the Fox River. Admission is free. More than 100 art exhibitors will be featured at the show.

Fox Valley in 60 seconds

Daily Herald
6/5/04

Utility poles damaged:

High Fox River levels gushing over Batavia's breached south dam may ruin a pair of ComEd utility poles on an island in the water. As a result, the power utility giant has requested from the Kane County Forest Preserve to install two new substantial power poles on the east- and west-side riverbanks. The move would, essentially, upgrade the utility poles. The preserve district, which owns the island, agreed to grant the easement of property for the urgent situation during an executive committee meeting Friday. More than a year ago, the dam's center failed, which caused a hole in the structure's concrete. Now, the water flows

through. With the high river levels, water has passed over the dam.

Demolition gets go-ahead:

Kane County Forest Preserve officials gave consensus Friday to seek bids for the demolition of residences on the Nymann property in Gilberts. The district purchased the mushroom farm to designate an area for stormwater detention. One of the structures on the property was burned down by the Pingree Grove Fire Department. The district recently vacated another house, which had two apartment tenants. Another house remains on the property as well. Forest preserve executive committee members

discussed that so far the district received two bids: \$9,700 and \$19,000.

New business opening:

Infinite Video Productions will have a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new location at 5 p.m. June 24. Formerly located at 1825 Fabyan Parkway in West Chicago, the business moved across the street to 1880 Fabyan near the Louis Bork Drive intersection in Batavia. The company provides location shooting and editing services for training and promotional purposes for corporations and small businesses as well as personal projects. For information, call (630) 389-0000 or visit www.infinitevideo.com.

Township targets land to preserve

By Carolyn Starks
Tribune staff reporter

Nunda Township officials are picking a fight with a giant: the developers devouring farmland and transforming the scenic landscape in fast-growing McHenry County.

It's an uncharacteristic role for a township, a seat of power that usually settles for dutiful road plowing.

Only five Illinois townships—Dundee, Elgin, Homer, Lemont and Libertyville—have prevailed in using an arcane state law that allows them to purchase land for preservation, according to the Township Officials of Illinois.

Nunda Township officials hope to become the sixth. They want to place a \$20 million proposal on the November ballot that targets for preservation about 700 acres in the Fox River watershed. Developers and real estate investors already own much of the open land in the township, officials said.

"We want to secure a form of lifestyle, to prevent overcrowding and traffic, but to also protect our recharge areas for the aquifer," Supervisor John Heisler said.

But raising taxes to buy land has been a dicey reality for the townships that have done it.

Pristine land has been preserved, but the townships end up being responsible for maintenance costs. Some have had to referee disputes on how the land should be used, while other townships got dragged into lawsuits with rich developers or mayors of municipalities.

"Of the 1,400 townships in Illinois, the vast majority are small rural areas where something like this would be inconceivable for them," said Lemont Township Supervisor Robert Porter, president of the township officials association. "Developers are moving faster than we can in the government because of the restrictions of the law."

The state's Township Open Space Act, enacted in 1985, is designed to give voters an opportunity to "promote orderly urban or suburban development" by acquiring new tracts of 50 acres or more through purchase or condemnation. If the land is developed, the tract is not eligible for preservation under the law.

In Lemont Township in 2001, voters approved a \$10 million plan to buy open space. The township has \$3.6 million left.

Reasonably priced 50-acre tracts in Cook County are hard to find, Porter said. So the township must decide how to use the rest of the money; it may use it for bike paths or walkways.

Last week, Nunda Township officials got a hint of the challenge that awaits them when 100 people packed a public hearing at the Township Hall. On Tuesday, the Township Board is expected to vote on the plan and whether it should be on the November ballot.

Nunda Township, which includes slices of 10 municipalities, is expected to nearly double to 68,000 people by 2020, according to Heisler. The preservation plan targets 28 sites that range in size from 50 to 562 acres and involve about 84 property owners, said Nancy Gonsiorek, chairwoman of the Open Space Committee.

The township has promised targeted landowners that they could remove their property from the list and the township would not seek their land through condemnation.

James Militello asked to have 80 acres of his land removed from the list. He said his father, Guisto, arrived in the U.S. in 1911 and bought 80 acres that now belong to him.

"Land was precious to him," Militello said. "In Italy, even if you bought land, the government still controlled it."

Freelance reporter Tim Kane contributed to this report.

Veterans remember D-Day in St. Charles ceremony

Daily Herald
BY DAVID SHAROS
Daily Herald Correspondent 10/7/04

The local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars gathered Sunday in St. Charles to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

Nearly three dozen legion members, family, and various residents met before 10 a.m. along the Freedom Walk for the memorial service. A group of nine cadets stood at attention with their backs to the Fox River, awaiting orders for a rifle salute.

Jim Peterson of Naperville accompanied the cadets to their position along the river and praised their dedication.

"This kind of group really produces leaders," Peterson said. "There may have been a time in the past 10 years or so where young people weren't showing much interest in the military, but I think there are growing numbers of them that are slowly coming back."

Peterson said he thought the commemoration activities conducted Sunday made the events of D-Day more real.

"This makes the event more tangible than things people read in the paper or in school," he said. "There are so many his-

"It was very hard for me to return afterwards and enter into civilian life. I still get choked up about it."

Walt Grajek, 83, a member of the 29th Division infantry that invaded Omaha Beach that day

torical events that could be recognized, so many famous battles, but I think a lot of people see this as a defining moment."

At exactly 10 a.m., former division and district commander Lee Stancil read a prepared statement, recalling the events that occurred 60 years ago Sunday.

"I was awakened at 10 p.m. the night before the invasion and we were told we needed to load the planes that were going to be used the next day for the invasion," Stancil recalled. "D-Day was more than a military victory, it was a victory for the democratic way of life. Most people see it as the pivotal point of the 20th century."

Stancil said D-Day demonstrated "the awesome power of voluntary teamwork" as the United States went on to raise an army of largely civilian soldiers that would total 8 million in just two years.

Many poignant memories were offered by Bartlett resident Walt Grajek, 83, a member of the 29th Division infantry that invaded Omaha Beach that day.

"We were a part of the first wave there on June 6, 1944, and despite being well-trained, I remember being scared as hell," Grajek recalled. "We were trained to follow what we had been drilled in, but nothing prepares you for the actual thing."

Grajek said he doesn't believe those of this generation understand the impact of D-Day unless they or their families have been touched by it.

"You can't blame people today for not understanding, because most of them only read about that day in the newspapers or see it on the History Channel," he said. "It was very hard for me to return afterwards and enter into civilian life. I still get choked up about it."

Officers carry torch for Special Olympics

BY JEFFREY GAUNT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 6/17/84

Exhausting but well worth the effort.

That's how area police officers described Sunday's Kane County leg of the Illinois Torch Run — part of a statewide fund-raiser to support the Special Olympics.

"It was a very successful run," East Dundee Police Chief Joe Pena said. "The weather was beautiful. The number of runners was very heartening."

About 50 police officers and family members ran at least a portion of the 31-mile run, helping guide their torch north from Montgomery to Carpentersville.

"It was long," Elgin police Detective Brian Gorkowski said. "It was a little warm today, but it was a nice day to be out there running — and supporting a good cause."

Officers from Batavia, Carpentersville, East Dundee, Elgin, Geneva, South Elgin, St. Charles and West Dundee participated in Sunday's run.

Still others helped by blocking off intersections for the runners.

And the Aurora Police Department lent the runners their emergency van to help out along the route.

"It certainly isn't an accomplishment we could have done without all of the help," Pena said.



PATRICK KUNZER/DAILY HERALD
Elgin police personnel take part in the Kane County leg of the Illinois Torch Run fund-raiser for Special Olympics on Sunday along Randall Road in Elgin.

The Kane County leg is one of 23 runs scheduled for this week, leading up to the Illinois Special Olympics Summer Games held over the weekend in Bloomington.

Special Olympics holds athletic competitions for people with intellectual disabilities.

Last year police officers raised \$1.3 million for Special Olympics, Pena said.

This year officers will pre-

sent a check for at least that much to the organization during a special presentation on Friday, Pena said.

"Special Olympics is really the main philanthropy of law enforcement," he said.

And in keeping in that spirit, Pena said he's been involved in the Torch Run since shortly after it came to Illinois in the mid-'80s.

This year he ran 19.5 of the

31 miles with his youngest son, Jake.

Pena's eldest son, Joe Jr., drove the route, while his wife, Leona, and countless others cheered from the sidelines.

"It's amazing," said Bernie Hewlett, a Carpentersville resident and mother of Sean Clancy, a 24-year-old Special Olympics participant. "They don't really have to do this, but here they are."

Report: Kane crime rate declines

June 21/03 Chronicle

North Aurora reports 16 percent decrease

By DAN CHANZIT
Kane County Chronicle

Overall, the state's crime rate dropped 1.5 percent from 2001.

Locally, the numbers are much better.

North Aurora's crime rate dropped by 16 percent, South Elgin by 12.9 percent, St. Charles by 5.1 percent, Geneva by 9.6 percent, Wayne by 33.3 percent, Sugar Grove by 15.9 percent and Batavia by 9.3 percent. Elburn reported

Local law enforcement officials are pleased with a state report that shows an overall decrease in crime in central Kane County.

The Illinois State Police 2002 crime statistics report shows a statewide decrease for the eighth year in a row.

an 18.5 increase.

"The decrease in the crime rate indicates that law enforcement and the citizens of our state continue to work together to secure a safe environment for everyone," Illinois State Police Director Larry G. Trent said.

St. Charles Police Chief Don Shaw said he was pleased to see that the numbers drop in St. Charles. He attributes some of the decrease to increased attention on repeat offenders.

"We are aggressively focusing on those individuals," Shaw said.

Also, St. Charles officers have more interaction with residents, he said.

"A lot of the problems we can attack with the grass roots, not after a crime is committed," Shaw said. "Don't leave your valuables in plain view in your car, for example."

Batavia Police Chief Dennis Anderson also said that he was pleased with Batavia's numbers.

"Whenever we talk about crime statistics on a year-to-year basis, I don't think we can attribute a drop to any one thing," Anderson said. "I wouldn't

want to credit any one program. We may be up next year. It's tough to say. But, it's a good thing anytime we go down. We're happy to see that is what happened."

Thefts dropped from 567 to 527. Burglaries dropped from 86 to 75. Motor vehicle thefts dropped from 16 to 10. The city has about 24,000 residents.

"We are fortunate to have such low numbers to begin with," Anderson said.

See CRIME, page 8

Report shows an overall drop in Illinois crime

Rate falls in Cook, suburban counties

By JOHN O'CONNOR
The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois' overall crime rate dropped for an eighth consecutive year in 2002 — but two of every five of the state's counties didn't follow the downward trend.

While a drop in crime in Cook County and the populous suburban counties surrounding Chicago drove a slight decrease in crime statewide, many areas saw slight increases in criminal activity.

Criminal sexual assaults in the state also rose for the second straight year after several years of decline, but experts say better reporting often plays a role when such crimes increase.

The 518,379 crimes reported last year represents a 1.5 percent decrease from 2001, according to Illinois State Police records released Sunday. That is 41.7 crimes per 1,000 people, down from 42.4 per 1,000 a year earlier.

Illinois — and the rest of the nation — continues to benefit from factors that lead to reductions in crime, said David Kauzlarich, a sociology professor at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville.

For one, America is aging,

and younger people are the ones most apt to commit crimes. Tougher sentencing laws mean more criminals are off the street, Kauzlarich said. And community policing, in which officers walk beats and cooperate with neighborhoods, has helped.

"There's a higher level of control in the neighborhoods. People are working together to make crime less attractive," Kauzlarich said.

Overall, 44 counties showed increases in all crimes, with 57 reporting fewer crimes and one with no change, according to the statistics that Illinois compiles annually for the federal government.

Paul Logli, state's attorney of Winnebago County, said the poor economy could be a factor in his county's 8.3 percent increase in crime. The county seat, Rockford, has a double-digit employment rate.

"These are difficult economic times, which in some homes leads to more financial pressure," Logli said.

Urban counties outside the Chicago area reported an increase in crime. In addition to Winnebago's jump, Rock Island's crime rate increased 7.6 percent and Sangamon's 7.5 percent.

Crime

Continued from page 1

Elburn officials said the crime report's numbers are deceptive for small towns. Elburn has roughly 3,000 residents.

Thefts increased from 19 to 24. Burglaries increased from five to seven. Criminal sexual assaults increased from zero to one.

"That's the whole thing. We have a few extra thefts and it looks like our statistics really climb," Police Chief James Linane said.

"Elburn is still one of the safest places in the nation and the state," Linane said. "The 18.5 percent increase is actually miniscule."

Maple Park, which posted a 140 percent increase, suffers from the same syndrome. Thefts increased from three to seven. Most other crimes remained at zero, other than two batteries, two burglaries and a case of arson.

South Elgin reported a 12.9 percent decrease. Burglaries went from 51 to 20. Thefts went

Batavia	down 9.4
Elburn	up 18.5
Geneva	down 9.6
Kane County	
Sheriff	down 5.7
Maple Park	up 140
North Aurora	down 16
South Elgin	down 12.9
St. Charles	down 5.1
Sugar Grove	down 15.9
Wayne	down 33.3

from 195 to 194. Motor vehicle thefts remained constant at nine per year.

"We do have stepped up patrols in certain areas," Chief James Spivey said. "Our officers are aggressive."

Officers who live in South Elgin take their squad cars home. Spivey said that scares away potential criminals.

"The cars have a high visibility in town," Spivey said. "If someone looks up and sees a squad car, they will want to go somewhere else."

Crime rate

Percent change
from 2001 to 2002

Aurora	Population	Rate per 100,000	Total Crime Index	Murder	Criminal Sexual Assault	Robbery	Aggravated Assault/Battery	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2002	100,280	4,307.6	4,641	24	72	152	489	893	2,681	271	32
2001	100,280	4,249.7	4,448	8	63	237	540	892	2,377	308	23
Percent Change	0.0	1.0	3.7	200.0	14.3	35.4	12.4	0.1	12.8	12.0	39.1
Elgin	74,013	2,732.0	2,822	2	34	65	94	350	1,311	143	23
2002	74,013	2,732.0	2,822	2	34	65	94	350	1,311	143	23
2001	74,013	2,045.4	2,254	5	32	73	138	388	1,427	163	18
Percent Change	0.0	10.3	10.3	60.0	5.3	11.0	31.8	12.1	8.1	12.3	27.8

Source: Illinois State Police

Carpentersville	Population	Rate per 100,000	Total Crime Index	Murder	Criminal Sexual Assault	Robbery	Aggravated Assault/Battery	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2002	30,586	3,347.9	1,024	0	5	30	64	155	708	56	6
2001	30,586	3,887.4	1,189	1	22	28	98	158	799	72	11
Percent Change	0.0	-13.9	-13.9	-100.0	-77.3	7.1	-34.7	-1.9	-11.4	-22.2	-45.5
East Dundee	2,948	11,974.2	353	0	1	1	7	19	318	7	0
2002	2,948	11,974.2	353	0	1	1	7	19	318	7	0
2001	2,948	10,685.2	315	0	1	3	5	30	267	7	2
Percent Change	0.0	12.1	12.1	NC	NC	-66.7	40.0	36.7	19.1	NC	100.0
Gilberts	1,279	2,111.0	27	0	0	0	0	6	20	1	0
2002	1,279	2,111.0	27	0	0	0	0	6	20	1	0
2001	1,279	1,798.3	23	0	0	0	0	3	20	0	0
Percent Change	0.0	17.4	17.4	NC	NC	NC	NC	100.0	0.0	NC	NC
Hamshire	2,900	3,069.0	89	0	1	0	0	5	80	3	0
2002	2,900	3,069.0	89	0	1	0	0	5	80	3	0
2001	2,900	2,689.7	78	0	1	0	0	7	67	3	0
Percent Change	0.0	14.1	14.1	NC	NC	NC	NC	-28.6	19.4	0.0	NC
Huntley	1,107	2,619.7	29	0	0	0	0	5	23	1	0
2002	1,107	2,619.7	29	0	0	0	0	5	23	1	0
2001	1,107	2,348.7	26	0	0	0	0	1	24	1	0
Percent Change	0.0	11.5	11.5	NC	NC	NC	NC	400.0	-4.2	0.0	NC
Sleepy Hollow	3,553	1,013.2	36	0	1	0	0	1	32	2	0
2002	3,553	1,013.2	36	0	1	0	0	1	32	2	0
2001	3,553	788.1	28	0	1	0	0	6	21	0	0
Percent Change	0.0	28.6	28.6	NC	NC	NC	NC	-83.3	52.4	NC	NC
West Dundee	5,428	6,945.5	677	0	1	3	2	17	349	4	1
2002	5,428	6,945.5	677	0	1	3	2	17	349	4	1
2001	5,428	8,566.7	965	0	1	2	6	23	421	11	1
Percent Change	0.0	-18.9	-18.9	NC	NC	50.0	-66.7	-26.1	-17.1	-63.6	0.0

Source: Illinois State Police

Batavia	Population	Rate per 100,000	Total Crime Index	Murder	Criminal Sexual Assault	Robbery	Aggravated Assault/Battery	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2002	23,866	2,681.6	640	0	3	3	19	75	525	10	5
2001	23,866	2,958.2	706	0	6	5	19	86	567	16	7
Percent Change	0.0	-9.4	-9.3	NC	-50.0	-40.0	100.0	-12.8	-7.4	-37.5	-28.6
Elburn	2,756	1,161.1	32	0	1	0	0	7	24	0	0
2002	2,756	1,161.1	32	0	1	0	0	7	24	0	0
2001	2,756	979.7	27	0	0	0	3	5	19	0	0
Percent Change	0.0	18.5	18.5	NC	NC	NC	100.0	40.0	26.3	NC	NC
Geneva	19,515	1,839.6	359	0	2	1	9	38	300	8	1
2002	19,515	1,839.6	359	0	2	1	9	38	300	8	1
2001	19,515	2,034.3	397	0	0	5	11	39	333	9	0
Percent Change	0.0	-9.6	-9.6	NC	NC	-80.0	-18.2	-2.6	-9.9	-11.1	NC
Maple Park	765	1,568.6	12	0	0	0	2	2	7	0	1
2002	765	1,568.6	12	0	0	0	2	2	7	0	1
2001	765	653.6	5	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0
Percent Change	0.0	140.0	140.0	NC	NC	NC	NC	0.0	133.3	NC	NC
North Aurora	10,585	3,363.2	356	0	4	5	19	51	262	12	3
2002	10,585	3,363.2	356	0	4	5	19	51	262	12	3
2001	10,585	4,005.7	424	0	6	6	21	66	297	22	6
Percent Change	0.0	-16.0	-16.0	NC	-33.3	-16.7	-23.8	-22.7	-11.8	-45.5	-50.0
South Elgin	16,100	1,465.8	236	0	4	2	7	20	194	9	0
2002	16,100	1,465.8	236	0	4	2	7	20	194	9	0
2001	16,100	1,683.2	271	0	2	1	8	51	195	9	5
Percent Change	0.0	-12.9	-12.9	NC	100.0	100.0	-37.5	-60.8	0.5	0.0	-100.0
St. Charles	27,727	3,869.9	1,073	0	2	7	57	95	895	14	3
2002	27,727	3,869.9	1,073	0	2	7	57	95	895	14	3
2001	27,727	4,079.1	1,131	0	9	11	50	156	879	19	7
Percent Change	0.0	-5.1	-5.1	NC	-77.8	-36.4	12.0	-39.1	1.8	-26.3	-57.1
Sugar Grove	3,909	1,765.2	69	0	0	1	0	4	58	5	1
2002	3,909	1,765.2	69	0	0	1	0	4	58	5	1
2001	3,909	2,097.7	82	0	1	3	9	19	50	0	0
Percent Change	0.0	-15.9	-15.9	NC	-100.0	-66.7	-100.0	-78.9	16.0	NC	NC
Wayne	834	719.4	6	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0
2002	834	719.4	6	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0
2001	834	1,079.1	9	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0
Percent Change	0.0	-33.3	-33.3	NC	NC	NC	NC	100.0	-57.1	100.0	NC

Source: Illinois State Police

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June 21, 03 Daily Herald

County officials weighing run for chairman

Some already making endorsements

BY ALICIA FABBRE

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Kane County Board Chairman Mike McCoy's name won't be on the Republican election ballot next spring.

So whose will?

So far, no one is saying for sure.

County board member Karen Steve-McConnaughay admits she is considering a run but has not announced a final decision. That decision could come as early as next week.

"I've been looking at it from the standpoint of what I can offer to Kane County," the St. Charles Republican said.

Though she has not announced, she has drawn pledges of support from high-ranking Republicans. On Thursday, she also was introduced as the next county board chairman at a golf outing for Sheriff Ken Ramsey. "If she decides to run, I would support her whole-heartedly," Ramsey said. "She's been one of the hardest working and most dynamic board members since she's been on the county board," he added. "She's not afraid to tackle a tough subject."

Steve-McConnaughay was



**John
Noverini**



**David
Rickert**

first elected to the county board in 1992. During her tenure she served the board's legislative liaison and also as chairman of the administration and transportation committees. She currently heads the board's corrections committee, which oversees the jail.



**Karen Steve-
McConnaughay**

A possible run by Steve-McConnaughay also has drawn support from Dennis Wiggins, who heads the Kane County GOP Central Committee. Wiggins said the central committee will not formally back a candidate in the primary election, but

See **CHAIRMAN** on **PAGE 5**

Chairman: Two say they won't pursue job

Continued from Page 1

he noted that Steve-McConnaughay has lined up the support of several of the township party leaders.

"I think we have a good candidate in Karen Steve-McConnaughay," Wiggins said.

Despite the support, a possible run by Steve-McConnaughay has drawn some opposition.

"I will not be backing her if she runs," said McCoy, who will step down after his second term as chairman ends in 2004.

McCoy's relationship with Steve-McConnaughay soured when he opposed the outer-belt expressway.

Other Republicans also have expressed interest in running for chairman.

"It's early, but I'm not going to rule anything out at this point," said John Noverini, a Carpentersville Republican elected to the board last year. "It's a wide-open field."

"I'm sure there will be no shortage of people lining up for the job."

Kane County Treasurer David Rickert, an Elgin Republican, admitted he is considering a run

for chairman but has not made a final decision.

Though originally thought a possible candidate, Catherine Hurlbut, an Elgin Republican, Friday said she would not seek election as county board chairman. Hurlbut currently serves as the county board's vice chairman.

Board member John Hoscheit, a Republican from St. Charles, also said he would not pursue the job. Hoscheit has served as the county's forest preserve president for the last year.

Former county board member Don Rage, a Republican from Sleepy Hollow, said he likely would not seek election to the chairman's job. Rage lost his bid for re-election last year against Noverini.

"At this time I would say no,"

Rage said when asked if he was considering a run for chairman. "But I'll have to watch and see who the candidates are and determine from there."

Rage added he thought Steve-McConnaughay would be a good candidate.

"I think she has a good countywide perspective," he said. "I think she would be a premier candidate."

Mark Guethle, who heads the Kane County Democrats, said he is meeting with each of the five Democrats on the county board. He expressed surprise that McCoy was not seeking re-election, noting that McCoy worked well with both Democrats and Republicans. Guethle did not identify any potential Democratic candidates for chairman.



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Project uses transplant to give prairie a new home

Group saves pristine grass from Metra extension plan

BY PATRICK WALDRON

Daily Herald Staff Writer

A small slice of Illinois is finding a new home.

In a joint project partnering Metra, the nonprofit group Fox Valley Lane Foundation, the St. Charles Park District and the Army Corps of Engineers, a half-acre of pristine prairie land is being taken out of the path of a new railroad and moved to Camp-ton Hills Park.

"It's a very nifty project, in my opinion," said Mary Ochsen-schlager, manager of natural resources for the St. Charles Park District. "Saving a little piece of Illinois — the real Illinois."

The groups are trying to protect the prairie grass from the coming Metra commuter line expansion that will widen the Union Pacific Railroad west of Geneva.

Work on the new third rail line starting at Peck Road and going west beyond Route 47 got under way earlier this month. East of Brundige Road, a large dirt path is being cleared along the southern edge of the UP track.

The prairie project is removing natural grass west of Brundige Road and another section west of Harley Road before work clearing that rail path arrives and destroys it.

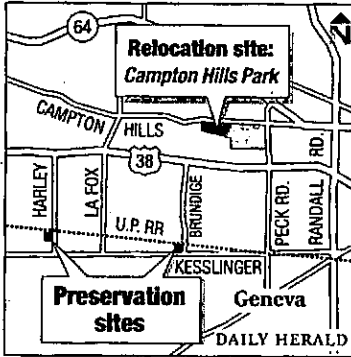
This weekend, the grass will be taken up in approximately 4-by-4-foot sections. Using a spe-

See **LAND** on **PAGE 5**



MARY BETH NOLAN/DAILY HERALD

Dale Swanson of A.E. Frasz picks up a pallet carrying a small section of pristine prairie grass removed from the path of the Metra Union Pacific railroad extension under construction in La Fox. The grass is being replanted at Campton Hills Park.



Land: Grass will be torn up, hauled to new site

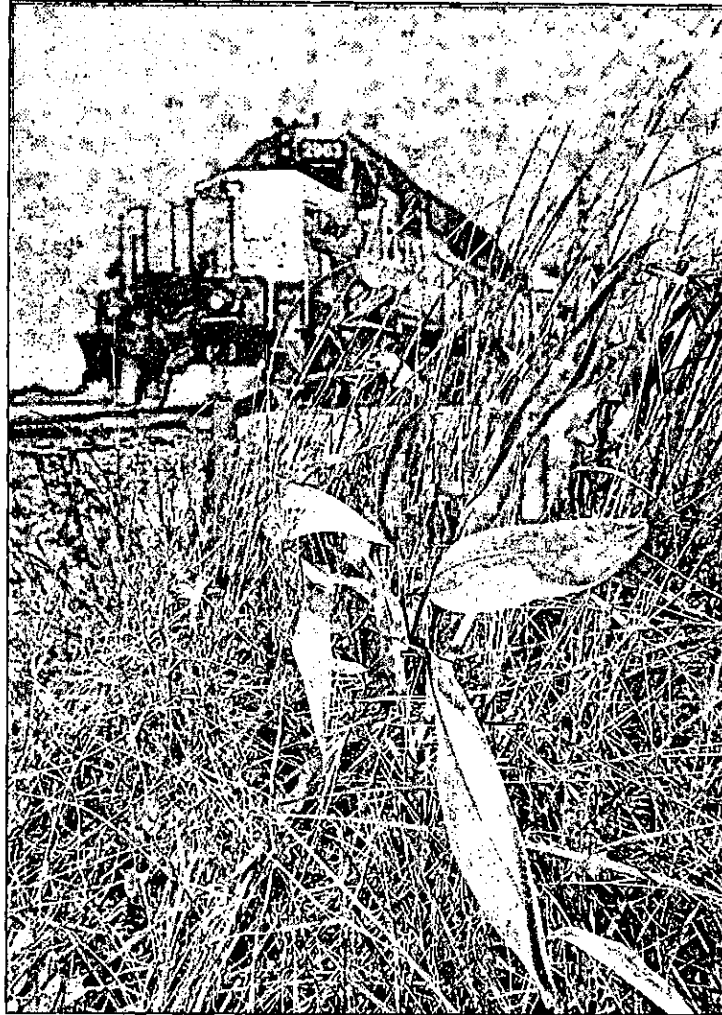
Continued from Page 1

cial landscape tool attached to a Bobcat power loader, crews will literally cut out the grass and about 8 inches of its soil from the ground.

The Bobcat attachment is similar to a forklift, but instead of two forks it has eight.

"Nobody knew how to do this," said Drew Frasz, owner of A.E. Frasz Inc., the Geneva company removing the grass. "But it has worked out."

The sections will be placed on specially made pallets, loaded onto a flatbed truck and taken to Campton Hills Park. There the grass will be replanted in freshly cleared wetland area on the park's western edge, Ochsenchlager said.



MARY BETH NOLAN/DAILY HERALD

Portions of prairie grass near the Union Pacific tracks in La Fox will be removed and replanted in Campton Hills park to make room for an extension of the rail line.

The new wetland and its prairie will become a education sanctuary available to schools and the public, Ochsenchlager said.

Metra is building an extension of its Union Pacific commuter route by adding sta-

tions in La Fox and Elburn. The project includes adding another rail line 20 feet south of the existing track.

Planning for the project has been in the works for years and now the extension is on schedule to be completed by 2005.

hon in Chicago. She grew up and attended 4 to 8 p.m. on Monday, June survived by her school in Geneva. On Sept. 15, 23, at the funeral home.

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in from the Geneva Mountain store, making a left

right into the shopping center, apparently blocking Ragowski's

through a tall light with a semi-truck

June 23, 03 Chronicle

Inmate riot locks down jail

KANE COUNTY CHRONICLE jail staff.

GENEVA — The Kane County Jail was on lockdown status Sunday night after five inmates rioted and started a fire.

Deputies said the inmates in a maximum security cellblock became unruly while a corrections officer was providing medication.

One prisoner grabbed the officer by the hair and attempted to hold her as a hostage, deputies said. The officer broke free and alerted the

The inmates then began to throw feces, urine and soap at the officer. Deputies rushed into the cellblock and rescued the corrections officer.

Then the prisoners barricaded themselves in the cellblock, started fires and smeared soap and feces on the floor to hinder responding officers.

The jail's tactical team was called in and restored order to the cellblock.

The fire already had been extinguished by the time fire-

fighters arrived at the scene, said Lt. Mark Einwich of the Geneva Fire Department.

All five of the inmates involved in the incident are awaiting trial on murder charges.

They were identified as: Frank Aquino, 23; Anthony Butler, 22; Jovan Daniels, 26; Jesse Martinez, 22, and Sherman Shamley, 23.

Changes against the prisoners in connection with the incident are pending, deputies said.

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June 23, 03 Chronicle

Aldermen to act as judges in waste station siting

By MARK FOSTER
Kane County Chronicle

BATAVIA — Aldermen will not be allowed to discuss the Onyx solid waste-transfer station application with the public or anyone else.

City attorney John Noble told aldermen last week that in determining whether to approve the application, they will be acting as a quasi-judicial body, and that state law prevents them from discussing the case outside of official hearings.

The city council will act as a fact-finding body, Noble said, and if the applicant meets all requirements, aldermen must approve the application.

"This is completely different from what you do legislatively," Noble said. "You have to act like a judge. It's not a matter of discretion."

Onyx is expected to file an application this summer to build and operate a waste-transfer station in the northeast side industrial park east of Kirk Road near the Kane-DuPage county line.

The facility would receive, sort, compact and ship out garbage from Batavia and other communities.

Onyx took over garbage and recycling collection in the city three weeks ago.

The city and Onyx already have entered into a host agreement that sets the standards and rules of operation for a transfer station.

Final siting approval for the facility would come from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Once the application has been filed, the city will conduct a public hearing no sooner than 90 days later, Noble said.

A hearing panel composed of seven of the council's 14 aldermen will be appointed to the panel by Mayor Jeff Schielke.

A hearing officer, also appointed by the mayor, would preside over the panel. The hearing officer will be an attorney.

Once the public hearing is concluded, the panel will meet, make its findings and submit a recommendation to the full city council, Noble said. After reviewing the record of the hearing and the panel's recommendation, the council will decide whether the application should be approved or denied.



Schielke

The decision must be rendered no later than 180 days after the application is filed, Noble said.

"You will be acting much like a judge in a trial, and, as such, you should not have any substantive contact with the applicant, any of its consultants or representatives, or any interested party who may appear and participate in the hearing process," Noble told aldermen.

"You also need to know that there is case law in Illinois holding that any contact you may have with any member of the public that could result in actual prejudice to any party to the proceeding and may render the proceeding null and void," Noble said.

When contacted by members of the public on the siting issue, Noble advised aldermen to explain that state law requires that a decision be based only upon the record made during the public hearing process.

"You should, however, remind those individuals that they may make their opinion known by filing a written comment in the record, or appearing at the time of the public hearing," Noble said.

Aldermen will be provided with handout cards to give to members of the public.

"These cards will inform them as to how and when they can submit written comments or questions," Noble said.

County to go to Geneva council to get OK for advocacy center

June 21, 03 Chronicle

Preservation commission had rejected plan to tear down house

By TOM SCHLUETER
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Kane County will bypass the Geneva Historic Preservation Commission and take its plans for a new Child Advocacy Center directly to the city council.

The preservation group previously rejected the county's plans to tear down a house it owns at 427 Campbell St. because the plans did not meet its historic standards.

Kane County wants to build a 4,500-square-foot building on the site to serve as additional space for the advocacy center at Fifth and James streets.

The advocacy center allows several police officials to

interview child victims of sexual abuse in a friendly, non-threatening setting.

Kane County Central Services Director Larry Briggs on Friday showed Executive Committee members Polaroid photographs taken inside the house that show structural deterioration.

"It's getting to be a life-safety issue," Briggs said.

The house served as the public defender's office until 1994, when the Judicial Center opened on Route 38 west of Randall Road. It has been empty since.

Nine years ago, the county secured a demolition permit to tear down the building but delayed the demolition after the preservation group raised concerns.

County officials do not be-

lieve that the building is worth saving. The current advocacy center, which investigates cases of child abuse, is overburdened and needs extra space.

In November, the county board set aside \$650,000 to build the annex, which was designed to have a residential look.

The historic commission thought that the facade had a commercial look to it, Geneva planning director Dick Untch said.

Redesigning the building could increase its cost to more than \$1 million, Briggs said.

"What they want us to do is put up a \$1 million Georgian mansion," Briggs said.

The county may use the city's desire to buy some county-owned property at Peck and Keslinger roads for a drinking water treatment plant as a bargaining chip in its advocacy center negotiations.

Presidential candidate to speak at Elgin fund-raiser

ELGIN — U.S. Rep Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, a candidate for president in 2004, will speak at a rally and fund-raiser for Peaceful Prosperity

at 7 p.m. today.

Kucinich will be at Wonderland Center, 310 E. Chicago Ave., Elgin.

The rally is sponsored by

Fox Valley Action Alliance.

For information, call (630) 859-9960 or (847) 742-6602.

—Kane County Chronicle

Feds say Fawell should get at least nine years

CHICAGO (AP) — Prosecutors said Friday that former Gov. George Ryan's one-time chief of staff and campaign manager should be sentenced to as much as 11 years and four months for an array of political corruption.

Scott Fawell, 45, of St. Charles, was convicted in March of racketeering and other offenses stemming from the eight years he served as Ryan's top aide.

becca Pallmeyer has set sentencing for June 30.

Prosecutors told Pallmeyer that Fawell's sentence should fall somewhere within a range of 108 to 135 months under sentencing guidelines.

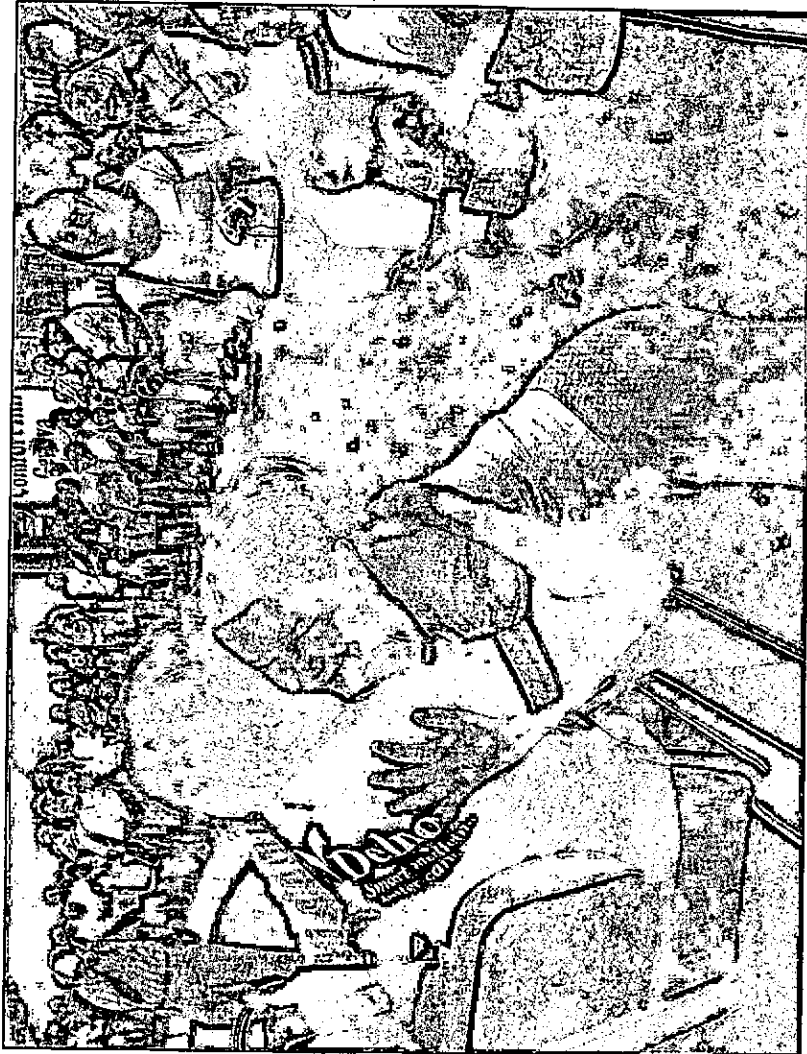
Prosecutors also scoffed at a Fawell claim that he should get less time because he did not have "notice" that the crimes he committed were indeed crimes as this type of conduct has been pervasive in Illinois politics for many years.

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June 21, 03
Chronicle



Cancer survivor Eileen Bauers, left, receives a hug from her niece, Margaret Kent, 10, of Addison, during the Survivor's Victory Lap at the Kane County Relay For Life Friday at Elfstrom Stadium in Geneva.

Wayne Radzicki — Chronicle photo staff

Walking for a cure

Annual event raises money for cancer research

By ERIC SCHELKOPF
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Jim Bogovich carried a photo of his wife in his front pocket as he rounded the track at Elfstrom Stadium Friday night.

His wife, Mary, died of cancer in 2001, and now he is battling lung cancer. But the Tinley Park resident said he felt renewed in his effort to beat his cancer after participating in the American Cancer Society's Kane County Relay For Life. "People give you the thumbs

Inside

- Breast cancer survivor urges women to get annual exams.

Page 10A

four-year cancer survivor, was this year's honorary chairman and led the Survivor's Victory Lap.

This is the sixth year of the Kane County Relay For Life, which raises money for cancer research and increases awareness of services available to cancer patients and their families.

As of last year, the event had raised more than \$1.2 million for the American Cancer Society. Worldwide, Relay For Life events have raised more than \$1 billion.

His daughter, Janet Fitzpatrick, lives in Batavia. Five-year-old Tori Penton, a

See RELAY, page 2



Wayne Radzicki — Chronicle photo staff

Howard Kinch, a volunteer from Provena Mercy Center in Aurora, lights a lumina Friday in honor of cancer victim Ray Brown.

Administrator Larry Viano's list of annual department head appointments. It also would have prevented him from suing the city.

Relay

Continued from page 1

The drill teams of St. Charles North and East presented a check to the American Cancer Society for more than \$18,000, the most raised by a group in this year's Relay For Life.

The teams raised the money during their kick-athon last fall. On Friday, the teams gave the crowd a little taste of their kicking abilities.

"I definitely enjoy events like this, kicking for a good cause," said 15-year-old Morgan Cawthorne of the St. Charles East drill team.

This year's Relay For Life held special meaning for event

co-chairman Chris English, who is a cancer survivor.

"I am so glad to be here and alive and to share this with you," English said.

Dr. Gordy Klatt began the first Relay For Life in 1985 in Tacoma, Wash.

English said that cancer research needs to continue. She said more than 59,000 Illinois residents will be diagnosed with cancer this year.

"Is this acceptable?"

English said to the crowd, who answered with a resounding "No."

More information about the American Cancer Society is available by calling (800) ACS-2345, or on the Internet at www.cancer.org.

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June 22, 03 Chicago Tribune

Sex assaults soar in DuPage

But total crimes see small decline

By Art Barnum
Tribune staff reporter

Though most crime dropped in the western suburbs, DuPage County saw a huge increase in reported sexual assaults, according to state figures to be released Sunday.

The 41.1 percent rise in sexual assault contrasted sharply

with an overall 3.3 percent decline in major crime in the county last year, according to "Crime in Illinois," an annual report compiled by the Illinois State Police.

"That increase far exceeded a 4 percent jump in rapes that the FBI reported nationwide. But local officials said it doesn't necessarily mean there are more rapes."

"Previously, women didn't always equate what happened to them as rape or sexual assault," said Loren Simmons,

director of women's services for the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, which includes the DuPage center in Glen Ellyn. "But through the education process and outreach, they have made that connection and now are speaking out."

In Kane County, reports of sexual assault declined by 9.3 percent, and overall major crime dropped 4.5 percent.

The state report tracks eight major crimes: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault and battery, burglary, theft, au-

■ Find the crime statistics for your city and county in the 11-county northeastern Illinois region at chicagotribune.com/crime

to theft and arson. Police in Illinois and nationwide keep statistics on these crimes because they view them as the most serious and the most likely to be reported. The tally of such crimes in the state de-

clined to 518,404 in 2002, from 526,475 in 2001.

DuPage County counted 10 murders in each of the last two years. So far this year, there have been two homicides, police said.

In Kane County, 27 murders were reported in 2002, compared with 17 in 2001. Among last year's murders in the county, 24 occurred in Aurora.

Along with an additional homicide that occurred in

PLEASE SEE CRIME, PAGE 3

CRIME:

Aurora saw murders rise sharply in '02

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

part of Aurora in DuPage County, the state's second-largest city, logged 25 murders in 2002, compared with eight in 2001. With about 143,000 residents, the city reaches into four counties.

"We see a lot of good news in specific areas," said Aurora Police Chief William Lawler. "But clearly there was an increase in homicides, and clearly the motives for those crimes are connected to gangs and drugs."

Lawler said the city has conducted major gang sweeps that have eroded gang leadership. So far this year, he said, Aurora has had five murders.

The city recorded a modest 1.6 percent increase in overall crime. Robberies declined significantly, however, to 158 incidents in 2002, from 256 the previous year.

"Aurora is an urban center with some big-city problems," Lawler said. "Just because someone has high blood pressure or has high cholesterol doesn't mean the body is a total wreck. Our community is in good shape."

In Naperville, the crime rate decreased by 2.6 percent last year. Burglaries rose, however, to 274 in the part of the city in DuPage County, from 203 the previous year.

Naperville Police Chief David Dial said burglaries appear to be increasing in part because people are leaving garage doors open or unlocked. "We have had people enter a home at night through an unlocked garage door, so it can be more than a minor crime," Dial said.

In Wheaton, the overall crime rate dropped 12.8 percent last year, but reports of assault and batteries rose 55.6 percent.

"I don't have a specific reason

Reported crime in the six-county area

The number of serious crimes reported in 2001 and 2002, according to the Illinois State Police.

KEY: Increase

2002 population (est.)

Crime rate per 1,000

Reported crimes (2001)

Reported crimes (2002)

Change in number of crimes, 2001-2002

CRIMES BY TYPE

Murder

Criminal sexual assault

Robbery

Aggr. assault/battery

Burglary

Theft

Motor vehicle theft

Arson



CITY OF CHICAGO
2,896,016

67.0

199,832

194,184

2001

665

1,976

18,473

25,571

26,026

98,544

27,571

1,006

2002

648

1,963

18,532

24,842

25,552

96,380

25,245

1,022

2001

92

636

2,259

4,843

12,635

61,803

9,056

432

2002

81

708

2,411

4,216

13,261

60,814

8,443

413



DUPAGE COUNTY
904,161

24.9

23,272

22,493

2001

10

124

267

842

2,421

18,413

1,030

165

2002

10

175

217

842

2,462

17,667

962

158



KANE COUNTY
404,119

31.4

13,283

12,680

2001

17

162

409

991

2,198

8,697

724

85

2002

27

147

279

847

1,982

6,720

594

84



LAKE COUNTY
644,356

24.5

15,625

15,788

2001

18

173

225

655

1,854

11,969

653

78

2002

8

208

296

931

2,064

11,419

787

75



MCHEERY COUNTY
260,077

22.7

5,950

5,896

2001

3

75

23

324

672

4,677

149

27

2002

3

70

29

303

799

4,519

128

45



WILL COUNTY
502,266

27.7

14,144

13,930

2001

9

166

351

1,244

2,165

9,177

910

122

2002

151

173

275

1,044

2,245

9,249

771

158

*Numbers are subject to change. Due to a North Chicago Police Department computer error, the 2001 totals for Lake County did not include most of the crimes reported in North Chicago. North Chicago accounted for 8 percent of crimes in Lake County in 2002.

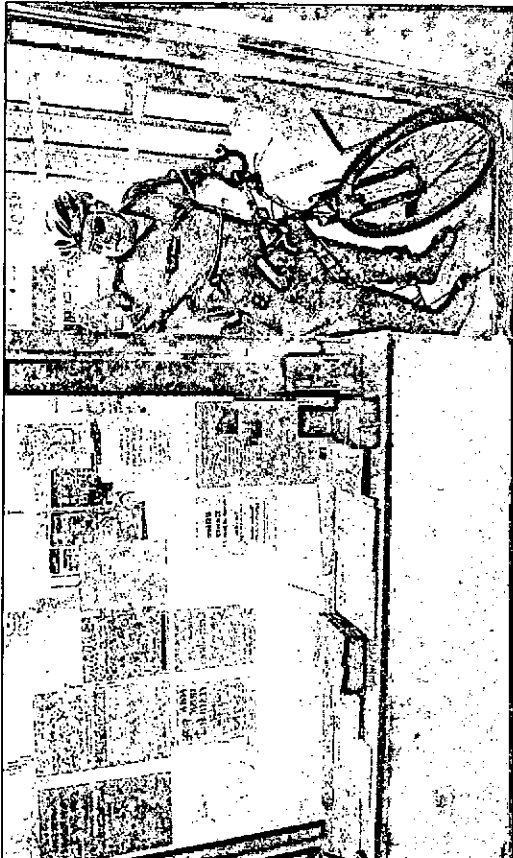
Source: Illinois State Police
Chicago Tribune

for the increase in assault and batteries," said Wheaton Police Chief Mark Fields. "But I believe that because of the great improvements in medical technology in the past, some of those may have ended up as homicides."

The city recorded no murders in 2002, compared with one the previous year. The number of sexual assaults reported in Wheaton declined to one in 2002, compared with five the previous year. That contrasted with many nearby communities, where reports of rape rose significantly.

Across DuPage County, the number of sexual assaults reported to police climbed to 175 in 2002, from 124 the previous year. "The sexual assault problem remains a perplexing one to police," Fields said. "Are there more incidents, or just better reporting?"

In suburban Cook and the collar counties, rape was up more than 10 percent, according to the state report. In the western suburbs, most officials attributed the rise to a growing willingness among victims to file a complaint. "If there is a spike in sexual assaults, I believe it is because of better reporting, more awareness, and specifically because the investigators that handle child abuse continue to get better and better," said DuPage County State's Atty. Joseph Birckett. "Many of these types of cases involve multiple victims." The increase brought the rate of sexual assault reports to fewer than 0.2 incidents per 1,000 residents in DuPage County. That was less than half the state rate of roughly 0.5 sexual assaults per 1,000 residents in 2002. "Even with this increase, the number of such assaults is well below any national average," Birckett said. "We have to continue to do our work, because one sexual assault is too much."



Tribune photo by Carl Wagner
Brian Johnstone, a community policing officer, visits an office in downtown Downers Grove. The suburb's reported crimes decreased 12 percent last year, but there were more reports of arson.

"We agreed to the power lines, but not these big honkin' things running down Randall Road."

St. Charles Mayor Sue Klinkhamer

June 23.03 Beacon news

Mayor on spot over power lines

■ **St. Charles' Klinkhamer:**
On legal, political hot seat

By **Daniel Duggan**
STAFF WRITER

ST. CHARLES — The mayor of St. Charles recently declared that a highly controversial plan to run heavy-duty power

lines down Randall Road is "dead."

The situation has made for a tricky position for Mayor Sue Klinkhamer — to come out against a plan her community helped set in motion.

Klinkhamer supports newer, larger power lines that will bring electricity to the city at a lower cost. But she doesn't want to support a largely unpopular plan to run 120-foot power towers down Randall Road.

In addition, the situation may have a legal

twist. Klinkhamer signed a legal agreement in May 2000 agreeing to support ComEd in bringing new lines to the area.

Now, she said, the company's attorneys have used the settlement to force her into supporting the current plan.

"About a month ago (attorneys) came in here and threw the agreement on the table," Klinkhamer said. "They said we have no basis to come out and say we don't want the power lines."

But, she points out that the agreement doesn't dictate where the lines will go, only that they be put in place.

ComEd spokeswoman Meg Amato said municipal leaders in St. Charles, Geneva and Batavia have been involved in the process of planning for the lines since the mid-1980s.

While there were other routes consid-

❖ *Turn to MAYOR, A2*

fortherecord

The Beacon News tries to be accurate and fair in every story it publishes. When a mistake occurs, we want to fix it. To report errors, call the managing editor at 844-5881.

recent deaths

Obituaries / Page A6

Fernandez, Santa, 92,

Aurora

Kessler, Kenneth J. 'Bud', 75,

Sandwich

Popp, Louis (Louie/Teet), 82,

Aurora

Secor, Jerry E.,

Oswego

Stangeland, Betty Ann, 74,

Somonauk

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MAYOR

From Page A1

ered for the plan besides Randall Road, Amato said ComEd was forced to chose the "least costly alternative."

In this case, the "least costly alternative" was to run the lines down Randall Road from South Elgin to North Aurora.

In 1999, when PECO Energy was in the process of merging with ComEd to form the company Exelon, St. Charles and Batavia had filed petitions objecting to the merger, according to the settlement agreement they signed, which included a confidentiality clause that recently expired.

The power companies reached a settlement with the two cities in May 2000 stating all objections to the merger will be withdrawn in exchange for \$960,000 in compensation to St. Charles and \$665,000 to Batavia.

Also part of the settlement for the two cities was a commitment for ComEd to begin a study of building the larger, 138 kilovolt lines — which the cities had been asking for since the mid-1980s.

"The cities will cooperate with ComEd in seeking certification of the transmission line, and in acquiring all other real estate and permits required to construct, operate and maintain the line," the settlement states.

Klinkhamer said the city wanted the bigger lines, but wanted to see them run along Peck Road, or through other more industrial areas.

"We agreed to the power lines, but not these big honkin' things running down Randall Road," she said.

With the language in the agreement, she said, ComEd attorneys have made efforts to hold her to the settlement agreement — which has

her signature at the bottom.

Amato did not want to comment on Klinkhamer's statement other than to say the power line proposal was requested by St. Charles, Geneva and Batavia — communities that buy power wholesale and sell it to their residents.

ComEd's proposal, submitted to the Illinois Commerce Commission in December, has become a highly controversial issue.

Members of the public have been organizing against the plan since April. Neighborhood board members formed an activist group called PURE, for People United for Responsible Energy.

The cities of Geneva, North Aurora and South Elgin have been formally opposing the plan with the ICC.

In early May, the activists gained the support of Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn, who became personally involved in the fight.

On June 4, Quinn's office had a meeting with ComEd officials, producing an announcement by the power company that the proceedings would be put on hold for four months.

Since then, officials have been talking about other alternatives to the Randall Road route, including the prospect of merely improving the existing system on the smaller poles, using the smaller lines. More meetings are set between the municipal leaders in the coming weeks.

The idea of the smaller lines is difficult for Klinkhamer, who said residents will have to bear a greater cost.

"Over 10 years, you might be looking at \$2 for every customer per month," she said of the plan for smaller lines. "With the 138 kilovolt lines, that would be a cost we wouldn't have to absorb ... but we won't support the Randall Road plan."

June 21, 03 Daily Herald

Beer tent receives approval for Kane County Fair in July

BY KURT GESSLER

Daily Herald Staff Writer

When Kane County Fair organizers asked festival-goers what should be added to the annual event, the memory of last year's sweltering heat doesn't appear to be far from everyone's mind.

Cold beer was one of the most popular requests of those surveyed, according to fair spokesman Floyd Brown, prompting organizers to sell alcohol this July at the fair for the first time in recent memory — perhaps ever.

Although alcohol sales at county fairs are not unheard of — the DuPage County Fair is dry but the McHenry County Fair has a beer tent — Brown said many on the fair board were concerned that it might affect the family-friendly focus of the event.

So when the opportunity

arose to buy a lot adjacent to the northwest corner of the fairgrounds, off Randall Road in St. Charles, the fair board jumped at the chance.

Since the newly acquired site — which will feature a tent and soundstage — is far removed from the midway, it will have minimal impact on the festivities, he said.

"This is a family event. It won't be near any of the activities like the kids' rides or petting zoo," he said. "This is our way of being accommodating to people while maintaining dignity, morality, vitality. We want to keep the fair family-oriented."

The beer garden is one of several survey-driven experiments at the 135th fair this year, which runs July 16 to 20.

Gone this year is the decade-old all-inclusive admission price. In past years, \$8 at the

gate weekdays, \$12 on weekends, would get you carte blanche access to everything from carnival rides to the top performers in the grandstands. This year, general admission is \$5 with children under 5 free, but rides and shows cost extra.

Under the new pricing scheme, armbands for unlimited midway rides are \$10 Wednesday and Thursday, \$15 Friday to Sunday.

Another change this year is that traditional weekend events like the demolition derby have been moved to weekdays, allowing the two marquee acts — country performers Lonestar and Latin pop singer Jaci Velasquez — to perform over the weekend. General admission for grandstand shows is \$15 for Lonestar July 19, \$10 July 20 for Jaci Velasquez, and \$5 for most other events. For more information, call (630) 584-6926.

June 23, 03 Daily Herald

B

Suburban charities particularly hurting

By DAVE ORRICK
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Smaller base of donors makes local non-profits vulnerable, study says

The sputtering economy is continuing to send Illinois' non-profit sector staggering, and suburban charities could be hit the worst over the next few years, according to the authors of a new report released today.

In the last year, dwindling government funding, a weak stock market and falling corpo-

rate and individual donations have forced the region's charities to frenzy around a shrinking watering hole of money for services to the needy and the arts, according to the report by the Donors Forum of Chicago.

Some in the state's \$36.1-billion non-profit sector, which

employs one in 14 Illinois workers, are calling the state of affairs a "triple recession."

One result: Foundations and other grant-making agencies saw their assets fall an average of 15 percent, according to the report. "In Perspective," which surveyed 197 organizations, "It's a one-two-three punch,"

said Kristin Lindsey, senior vice president of the Donors Forum, which tracks the region's non-profit scene.

"What we have in the report is evidence that the economy is really having an effect. I think this is the beginning of a long-term effect that will change the way non-profits work."

The study discovered a trend among many foundations to give larger grants to local charities — but give fewer of them.

That bodes especially poorly for the suburbs, Lindsey says. "Suburban non-profits are experiencing the implications of the economy to a greater degree," she said. "Their donor

base seems to be a little softer. Suburban non-profits that are locally-based have often had one or two funders that are locally-based. If those funders don't have as much money, those local non-profits have fewer places to go.

In addition to shrinking payments from local, county and state governments, bankruptcies and belt-tightening among

See CHARITIES on PAGE 7

Charities: Sept. 11 also hurt local non-profits

Continued from Page 1

Some already have made cuts or closed, while many surveyed said they feared serious cash shortages next year.

The new study follows a similar survey last year intended to measure the effects of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. That study

confirmed the attacks diverted attention of many donors from local charities.

The new study, Lindsey says, shows that larger forces soon took hold.

"It's all about the economy now," she said.

large suburban corporations — traditional heavyweights in suburban philanthropy — have been particularly rough on suburban charities, according to the report.

June 22, 03 Beacon news

Literacy volunteer's book closes on 16 years at jail

When Shirley Worst received her Get Out of Jail card, she was not too happy.

The 66-year-old Aurora woman, who has volunteered thousands of hours teaching inmates at the Kane County Correctional Center to read and write over the last 16 years, was released from her duties in late April for reasons that are based on increasing tensions and unanswered questions at the jail.

And her bitterness only intensified last week when she says she was ordered to pick up her teaching materials — four conversion vans full — which were dumped on the dock outside the jail.

Commander Patrick Keaty says he had no choice but to escort Worst from the building after she expressed concerns to him about serious inapproprieties against prisoners, yet refused to give him specifics, citing the confidentiality of those making the allegations.

Worst says she would not offer up names on the advice of her lawyer. But Keaty insists that's not good enough.

"If she's got information about things that involve the inmates, it's my duty to investigate, and I can't do that if she's

withholding information," says the commander. "It's a safety issue."

It's also an unfortunate situation. Keaty and other jail officials will be the first to say Worst, a former teacher and nurse, has been an integral part of the jail's routine since 1987, when she began the literacy program there through Aurora Christian School.

In addition to teaching prisoners to read and write, Worst and her volunteers also began a GED program and taught English as a Second Language. Some of her efforts have been in a part-time paid capacity through Waubonsee Community College, but the majority of it comes from her own volunteer efforts that have, as she says, "seen many lives turn around."



Denise Crosby
Columnist

Worst says over the years, she's run into former inmates who proudly report they are going to college or have graduated. Some also find a place in church ministry, and others boast of their families or success in the work force — all ways thankful to have been offered a second chance by someone who cared.

But Worst says she's grown increasingly frustrated with the not-so-caring philosophy of officials at the jail, which is notoriously overcrowded and has been at the center of numerous lawsuits by prisoners and employees, including two discrimination suits filed recently in federal court by female corrections officers alleging they were punished for reporting sexual harassment.

"Some of the inmates are there because they should be," says Worst. "Others are innocent or are there because they can't read or don't have the resources to post bond. But they are all humans and deserve to be treated as humans."

She says that callous attitude was apparent in the way she was treated following her dismissal. Worst says after she was escorted from the building, she repeatedly called the jail about retrieval

ing the teaching materials, but her many calls were not returned.

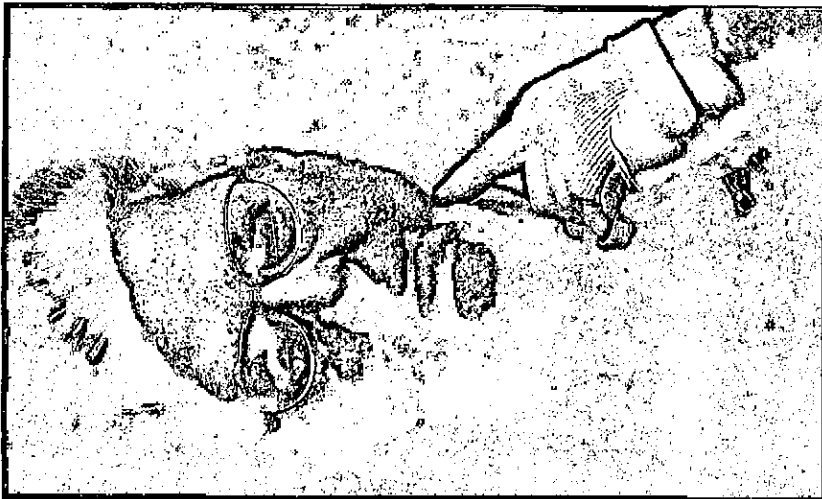
Finally, last week, she says she was notified she had until the end of the day to clear out her belongings or they would be thrown on the loading dock.

Worst had just come from physical therapy — she'd taken a bad fall at the jail around Christmas while preparing to deliver gifts to prisoners — and was "in a lot of pain." She picked up some of the supplies but when she returned for the rest of them a couple days later, they were on the loading dock, which only added to her resentments.

After all the years she dedicated to the jail, "where was the respect?" she asks.

Keaty insists he's got lots of admiration for this woman, which is why he can't understand her reluctance to cooperate more with him. "She threw out some serious allegations," he says, "then left it hanging."

Worst doesn't know what she will do now that her jail time has ended, but it will more than likely include missionary work as well as literacy consulting. In the meantime, she says, "I'm still licking my wounds."



STEVE ROSENBERG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shirley Worst reflects on her 16 years as a volunteer teacher at the Kane County jail before she was ushered out the door.

Local charitable groups forced to tighten belts

■ **Tough economic times: Some trim staff, scale back services to survive**

By Mary Ellen Moore
STAFF WRITER

AURORA — Kane County nonprofit groups are holding on despite tough economic times, according to the Illinois attorney general's office, which keeps track of charitable organizations.

Though shrinking corporate donations and the state's budget crisis have caused many agencies to scale back their services, few of the county's 297 nonprofits are shutting down completely.

In fact, a search of the attorney general's records shows just three Kane County nonprofits have closed in the past year.

They include Abundant Life Christian Fellowship, a church in Elgin which shut down last month; Kaneland Elementary School's parent teacher network, which called it quits in October, and Human Assets Development Inc. of St. Charles, which closed in September.

Because the state's information is based on annual reports that disbanding groups may neglect to file, however, the number could be higher.

For example, All God's Children, an Aurora day-care center for special-needs children, recently closed up shop but didn't appear in the state's data.

"It may take a while for the attorney general's office to find out when these agencies closed," said Diane O'Connor, executive director of the Aurora Area United Way.

While none of the 33 agencies her organization funds have folded, many are cutting back, O'Connor said.

One of them is Mutual Ground. The domestic-violence shelter recently let go 13 of its 60 staff members, according to Executive Director Linda Healy.

"It's stressful times around here," Healy said Thursday. "People are angry and hurting."

The cuts were necessary because Healy expects to lose about \$273,000 in donations and state and federal funding this year, bringing the annual budget to about \$1.4 million.

The cuts will force the agency to scale back some counseling services and shut down its satellite office on Aurora's East Side, which was set up to serve Hispanic women and children who lack the transportation to get to the shelter's West Side location.

Healy characterized the cuts as a return to "critical needs," saying they will not affect the agency's core mission, which is to provide shelter to victims of domestic violence. "Those women are in danger," she said. "We can't do that outside counseling, but we'll still be here doing the hard-core services."

Carole Arliskas, executive director at Community Counseling, said her agency is still waiting to find out what kind of cuts it will face in the next fiscal year, but rumor is they could be as high as 2 percent.

Although Arliskas said she already runs a pretty tight ship, she's looking to capture efficiencies in areas such as client billing.

"There's a lot of people who have gone through our residential treatment program that go on and get jobs, people that have never gotten a bill," she said.

While the agency serves people regardless of their ability to pay, Arliskas said she would like to begin to bill those who can afford to contribute, even if it's as little as \$4.

For example, at Hope House in Aurora, the agency's home for women recovering from addiction, 10 of the 14 beds are unfunded. The program survives because the women are encouraged to go out and get jobs so they can pay their own room and board, Arliskas said.

With the proliferation of agencies that have sprung up over the last decade and funding sources drying up, that's the kind of initiative agencies need to survive, according to the United Way's O'Connor.

She credited good management and good fiscal oversight by board members for keeping Kane County agencies afloat this year, but she said some agencies may need to consolidate to avoid duplicating services.

"A lot of agencies are cutting back," she said, "and that's not necessarily a bad thing, as long as the services are continuing."

Listening to the people

June 23, 03
Beacon news



Study, study, study, our parents told us, and it sounds like public officials are remembering the lessons of their childhood. Sugar Grove has done a study that shows it needs to grow commercial development as much as residential. Kendall County's forest preserve district is going to do a study asking residents what services they want. Batavia is issuing a survey to study its service to the community, something Aurora has done recently, too. **THUMBS UP** for listening to the people.

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June 22, 03

OUR VIEW Beacon news

70 percent tax hurts more than casino

At issue: The state will drastically increase the tax on Hollywood Casino for two years.

We say: It's a shame that in the effort to bring in tax dollars, the state is putting people out of work.

It's official. The state's most prosperous casinos will pay an onerous tax of 70 percent of all revenue above \$250 million this year and next.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who asked for the legislation, signed the law Friday.

Now there is little doubt that Penn National Gaming Inc., the new owners of Aurora's Hollywood Casino, will make good on the plans they circulated to employees Thursday. About 20 percent of the casino's 1,500 employees stand to lose their jobs. The casino will implement a \$5 entrance fee.

All of this to make good on the Democrat's pledge not to raise the state sales or income tax.

Blagojevich is also keeping his pledge to oppose the expansion of gambling to bail out the state's budget shortfall. With this new tax it could even be argued that he's actively trying to shrink the industry.

Penn National has every right to try to make a profit. It's hard to blame the new owners for wanting to protect their investment.

If Penn National's threatened lawsuit over the tax doesn't bring relief, all we can pray for is that the legislature allows the tax to die after two years — and that Penn National remembers to expand its staff again.

This opinion of The Beacon News editorial board was staff written.

June 23, 03 Beacon news

Save the Dam Committee sets Batavia forum

By Jan Ramming

SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

BATAVIA — Residents on both sides of the North Dam issue in Batavia — those who want the dam removed and those who want to keep the dam — will get one last chance to speak before the city continues its plans with the state for dam removal.

Alderman Chuck Beckman, 2nd Ward, said the new City Services Committee will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. June 30 at City Hall. This meeting is for the Save the Dam Committee to present their ideas and options for keeping the dam.

"We're still trying to save the dam," said Batavia resident Carol Leppert. "We want to see the dam repaired or replaced in its present location."

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources already has spent six years and \$1 million on the project to remove the dam.

The 87-year old North Dam began showing signs of significant erosion in 1974 and breached the following year. Although repairs have been made, it is unsure how long the old structure can hold up.

Last July, the Batavia City Council voted 11-2 in favor of the state removing the dam, with two conditions: protect Depot Pond and maintain the newly exposed banks.

On April 1, in an advisory referendum, citizens' votes in favor of keeping the dam outnumbered those for removing the dam, and the project has been on temporary hold ever since.

Mayor Jeff Schielke said he has spoken to representatives of the groups in favor of dam removal. He said that they are planning a separate meeting to present their side, with the date to be announced.

Experts have trouble explaining crime drop

Statistics may be telling a false tale, some criminologists say

BY DAVE ORRICK
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

For Arlington Heights police Cmdr. Peter Kinsey, it makes as much sense as a crime scene with no witnesses or motive.

Crime fell more than 14 percent in his community last year, but he has little idea why. "It's a pleasant surprise," Kinsey said of the statistics, released this weekend. "It's amazing considering the economy is still in the dumps. I wish I could point to something to take credit for it, but I'm not sure we've done anything unique."

And Arlington Heights isn't

unique. Despite a sagging economy and unprecedented budget cuts in government, reported crimes throughout the suburbs, state and nation fell in 2002, according to state figures released this weekend and national figures announced last week.

Experts always urge against drawing too many conclusions from such numbers, but what appears to be clear is that crime remains lower now than a decade ago and predictions that America would become more dangerous after Sept. 11, 2001, have yet to be realized.

In general, the Chicago sub-

urbs remain significantly freer of crime than Chicago and other major cities, with crime rates hovering around half the Cook County and statewide averages and well below the national crime rate.

Statewide, 518,404 crimes were reported in 2002, a drop of 8.071, or 1.5 percent, when compared to 2001 figures. Both violent crimes and property crimes fell.

Nationally, the crime rate remained almost flat, with FBI figures revealing a 0.2 percent drop.

Violent crime dropped nationwide, while property

crimes remained flat.

County figures

Those figures mirror a nearly 1 percent drop in McHenry County, while reported crimes in Chicago, the Northwest suburbs, as well as Cook, Kane and DuPage counties, fell faster.

Lake County — a prime example of potential pitfalls of such reporting — saw its crime rate rise just over 1 percent. That change is skewed by a misleading spike in North Chicago, where officials

See DROP on PAGE 6

Crime stats

Rate per 1,000 people drops in most area counties

Overall crime rate			
	2001	2002	%chge.
Illinois	42.4	41.7	-1.5
Cook	54.2	52.9	-2.4
NW Suburbs	22.6	21.4	-5.0
DuPage	25.7	24.9	-3.4
Lake	24.3	24.5	1.0
Kane	32.9	31.4	-4.5
McHenry	22.9	22.7	-0.9
Will	28.2	27.7	-1.5

Note: Numbers are rounded
Source: Illinois State Police

Crime stays low around Tri-Cities

The safe got safer. Already boasting some of the lowest crime rates in Kane County, the Tri-Cities, North Aurora and Wayne all saw overall crime rates decrease over 2001, according to new 2002 crime data.

Both Batavia and Geneva, in fact, saw fewer incidents in every area of major crime despite steady population growth. Only Elburn saw its total number of crimes rise, from 27 in 2001 to 32 in 2002. See story on Page 6.

Crime rates decrease in Tri-Cities area

But homicides rose dramatically in town

BY ALICIA FABBRE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For the most part, Kane County residents saw less crime in 2002.

Fewer people saw their homes broken into, had cars stolen or got into fights. Fewer rapes and arsons also were reported.

But despite the overall decrease in crime, Kane County saw the number of homicides increase to 27 last year — more than the number of homicides in DuPage, Lake and McHenry counties combined. Of the 27 homicides, 25 were in Aurora.

Aurora Police Chief Bill Lawler said the majority of the homicides in his city were drug- or gang-related. Homicides in Aurora jumped from eight in 2001 to 25 last year.

One of the homicides included a Christmas Day murder in Stonebridge subdivision where police say Sunnam Lisowski killed her husband, John, and tried to kill herself and two children. Lisowski has pleaded innocent and awaits trial.

Although homicides increased, Lawler noted other crimes decreased and that the city's total crime rate remained stable, increasing 1.57 percent last year.

"That one number (for homicides) should not be the total barometer of the crime picture in anyone's community," Lawler said.

The Tri-Cities, North Aurora and Wayne saw overall crime rates decrease. Batavia and Geneva saw decreases in every area of crime.

St. Charles had slight increases in the number of fights and thefts. In Wayne, burglaries edged up from two in 2001 to six in 2002.

Elburn saw the total number of crimes increase from 27 in 2001 to 32 in 2002. However, Elburn and Wayne continued to post the lowest crime rates in the Tri-Cities area.

"Elburn is still one of the safest communities," Elburn Police Chief Jim Linane said.

Although overall crime was down in St. Charles, the city's crime rate ranked among the highest in the county at 38.68 crimes per thousand residents.

The county's overall crime rate was 31.38 crimes per thousand residents. Cities including Elgin and Carpentersville posted lower crime rates than St. Charles.

"We're not immune," Police Chief Don Shaw said of the city's crime rate.

"Criminals are mobile, and we're definitely not immune from many of the crime-related issues."

He did credit the police department's narcotics unit for

Kane County crime statistics

Rates are per 1,000 residents. Numbers are totals; some figures rounded.

Agency	Year	Estimated pop.*	Total incidents of crime	Crime rate	Violent crime rate	Property crime rate	Homicide	Criminal sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated Assault/Battery	Burglary	Theft	Auto theft	Arson
KANE COUNTY	2002	404,119	12,680	31.38	3.22	28.16	27	147	279	847	1,982	8,720	594	84
	2001	404,119	13,283	32.87	3.01	28.86	17	162	409	991	2,198	8,697	724	85
	% change	0.00%	-4.54%	-4.54%	-17.67%	-2.77%	58.82%	-9.26%	-31.78%	-14.53%	-9.82%	0.26%	-17.96%	-1.18%
KANE SHERIFF	2002	66,992	929	13.87	1.19	12.68	0	14	8	58	184	625	37	3
	2001	66,992	985	14.71	1.66	13.05	2	15	30	64	207	598	69	0
	% change	0.00%	-5.69%	-5.69%	-27.93%	-2.86%	-100.00%	-6.67%	-73.33%	-8.38%	-11.11%	4.52%	-48.38%	N/A
ALGONQUIN	2002	23,276	398	17.10	1.12	15.98	0	8	1	17	61	302	5	4
	2001	23,276	450	19.76	1.37	18.39	0	5	3	24	55	353	12	8
	% change	0.00%	-13.48%	-13.48%	-18.75%	-13.08%	N/A	60.00%	-66.67%	-28.17%	10.91%	-14.45%	-58.33%	-50.00%
AURORA	2002	142,990	6,159	43.07	5.84	37.44	25	85	158	538	1,017	3,978	317	40
	2001	142,990	6,064	42.41	6.57	35.83	8	71	256	605	1,064	3,672	356	32
	% change	0.00%	1.57%	1.57%	-14.26%	4.47%	212.50%	19.72%	-38.28%	-11.07%	-4.42%	8.36%	-10.96%	25.00%
BARTINGTON HILLS	2002	3,915	42	10.73	0.51	10.22	0	0	1	1	6	33	1	0
	2001	3,915	54	13.79	0.51	13.28	0	0	1	1	4	47	1	0
	% change	0.00%	-22.22%	-22.22%	0.00%	-23.08%	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	-28.79%	0.00%	N/A
BARTLETT	2002	36,706	566	15.42	0.84	14.58	1	2	5	23	57	457	8	3
	2001	36,706	615	16.75	1.14	15.61	0	3	7	32	59	493	18	3
	% change	0.00%	-7.97%	-7.97%	-26.19%	-6.63%	N/A	-33.33%	-28.57%	-28.13%	-3.39%	-5.27%	-55.56%	0.00%
BATAVIA	2002	23,866	640	26.82	1.05	25.77	0	3	3	19	75	525	10	5
	2001	23,866	708	29.58	1.26	28.32	0	6	5	19	86	567	16	7
	% change	0.00%	-8.35%	-9.35%	-16.67%	-9.02%	N/A	-50.00%	-40.00%	0.00%	-12.79%	-7.41%	-37.50%	-28.57%
CARPENTERSVILLE	2002	30,586	1,024	33.48	3.24	30.24	0	5	30	64	155	708	56	6
	2001	30,586	1,189	38.87	4.87	34.00	1	22	28	88	158	799	72	11
	% change	0.00%	-13.89%	-13.88%	-33.56%	-11.05%	-100.00%	-77.27%	7.14%	-34.63%	-1.00%	-11.39%	-22.22%	-45.45%
EAST DUNDEE	2002	2,955	354	119.80	3.05	116.75	0	1	1	7	19	319	7	0
	2001	2,955	318	106.84	3.05	103.89	0	1	3	5	30	268	7	2
	% change	0.00%	12.03%	12.03%	0.00%	12.38%	N/A	0.00%	-66.67%	40.00%	-36.67%	19.03%	0.00%	-100.00%
ELBURN	2002	2,756	32	11.61	0.36	11.25	0	1	0	0	7	24	0	0
	2001	2,756	27	9.80	1.09	8.71	0	0	0	3	5	19	0	0
	% change	0.00%	18.52%	18.52%	-66.67%	29.17%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-100.00%	40.00%	26.32%	N/A	N/A
ELGIN	2002	94,487	2,582	27.33	2.62	24.70	2	43	83	120	447	1,674	183	30
	2001	94,487	2,818	30.45	3.35	27.10	7	41	83	176	508	1,822	208	23
	% change	0.00%	-10.28%	-10.28%	-21.77%	-8.86%	-71.43%	4.88%	-10.75%	-31.82%	-12.01%	-8.12%	-12.02%	30.43%
GENEVA	2002	19,515	358	18.40	0.61	17.79	0	2	1	9	38	300	8	1
	2001	19,515	397	20.34	0.82	19.52	0	0	5	11	39	333	9	0
	% change	0.00%	-9.57%	-9.57%	-25.00%	-8.92%	N/A	N/A	-80.00%	-18.18%	-2.56%	-9.91%	-11.11%	N/A
GILBERTS	2002	1,279	27	21.11	0.00	21.11	0	0	0	0	6	20	1	0
	2001	1,279	23	17.98	0.00	17.98	0	0	0	0	3	20	0	0
	% change	0.00%	17.39%	17.39%	N/A	17.39%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.00%	0.00%	N/A	N/A
HAMPSHIRE	2002	2,900	89	30.69	0.34	30.34	0	1	0	0	5	80	3	0
	2001	2,900	78	26.90	0.34	26.55	0	1	0	0	7	67	3	0
	% change	0.00%	14.10%	14.10%	0.00%	14.29%	N/A	0.00%	N/A	N/A	-28.57%	18.40%	0.00%	N/A
HUNTLEY	2002	5,730	153	26.70	0.35	26.35	0	0	1	1	26	118	7	0
	2001	5,730	144	25.13	0.70	24.43	0	2	0	2	7	126	6	1
	% change	0.00%	6.25%	6.25%	-50.00%	7.86%	N/A	-100.00%	N/A	-50.00%	271.43%	-6.35%	16.67%	-100.00%
MAPLE PARK	2002	765	12	15.69	2.61	13.07	0	0	0	2	2	7	0	1
	2001	765	5	6.54	0.00	6.54	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0
	% change	0.00%	140.00%	139.93%	N/A	100.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00%	133.33%	N/A	N/A
NORTH AURORA	2002	10,585	356	33.63	2.65	30.99	0	4	5	19	51	262	12	3
	2001	10,585	424	40.06	3.12	36.94	0	6	6	21	66	297	22	6
	% change	0.00%	-16.04%	-16.04%	-15.15%	-16.11%	N/A	-33.33%	-16.67%	-9.52%	-22.73%	-11.78%	-45.45%	-50.00%
SLEEPY HOLLOW	2002	3,553	36	10.13	0.28	9.85	0	1	0	0	1	32	2	0
	2001	3,553	28	7.88	0.28	7.60	0	1	0	0	6	21	0	0
	% change	0.00%	28.57%	28.56%	0.00%	29.63%	N/A	0.00%	N/A	N/A	-83.33%	52.38%	N/A	N/A
SOUTH ELGIN	2002	16,100	236	14.66	0.81	13.85	0	4	2	7	20	194	9	0
	2001	16,100	271	16.83	0.68	16.15	0	2	1	8	51	185	9	5
	% change	0.00%	-12.92%	-12.92%	18.18%	-14.23%	N/A	100.00%	100.00%	-12.50%	-60.78%	-0.51%	0.00%	-100.00%
ST. CHARLES	2002	27,896	1,079	38.68	2.37	36.31	0	2	7	57	96	900	14	3
	2001	27,896	1,137	40.78	2.51	38.25	0	9	11	50	157	884	19	7
	% change	0.00%	-5.10%	-5.10%	-5.71%	-5.06%	N/A	-77.78%	-36.36%	14.00%	-38.85%	1.81%	-26.32%	-57.14%
SUGAR GROVE	2002	3,909	69	17.65	0.26	17.40	0	0	1	0	4	58	5	1
	2001	3,909	62	20.98	3.33	17.65	0	1	3	9	19	50	0	0
	% change	0.00%	-11.85%	-15.85%	-92.31%	-1.45%	N/A	-100.00%	-66.67%	-100.00%	-78.95%	16.00%	N/A	N/A
WALTON COLLEGE	2002	0	26	0.00	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	1	1	22	2	0
	2001	0	39	0.00	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	1	2	36	0	0
	% change	N/A	-33.33%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00%	-50.00%	-38.89%	N/A	N/A
WAYNE	2002	2,137	17	7.96	1.40	6.55	0	0	0	3	6	7	1	0
	2001	2,137	21	9.83	0.00	9.83	0	0	0	0	2	17	2	0
	% change	0.00%	-19.05%	-19.05%	N/A	-33.33%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	200.00%	-58.82%	-50.00%	N/A
WEST DUNDEE	2002	5,428	377	69.46	1.11	68.35	0	1	3	2	17	349	4	1
	2001	5,428	465	85.67	1.66	84.01	0	1	2	6	23	421	11	1
	% change	0.00%	-18.92%	-18.92%	-33.33%	-18.64%	N/A	0.00%	50.00%	-66.67%	-26.09%	-17.10%	-63.64%	0.00%

* 2002 and 2001 populations are based on 2000 census, except for some sheriff's offices, which serve unincorporated areas and some incorporated areas. Note: Violent crime is made up of homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault and battery; property crime is made up of burglary, theft, car theft and arson.

Source: Illinois State Police

DAILY HERALD

Drop: One suggests but cut reporting

Continued from Page 1

acknowledged a caused lower than statistics to be reported.

Police throughout the new welcomed the new lowered a general crime in 2001, the crime rose since 19 many attributed to the bursting of the bubble of the late new war on terrorism.

At the local level said they believe the crime dropped in the city.

St. Charles Police Shaw, for example, two-year fall in burglary in 2000 to 14 in 2002.

"What we focus our drug addicts, heroin addicts," plan that include two officers to offenders and in Kane County's drug think it's made a big Drug addicts are a property crime."

But no one claim complete explanation 2002 saw across reductions in reported.

And neither be analysts are ready to say yet, even though agree that the off-ship between urban and crime remains theory.

"I don't think we complete impact on economic situation," Ramker, director of the Illinois Crime Information Authority, things kind of stay only be seen over years."

Tracking crime

Denise Nitterhouse, a professor at the University of Illinois, tracking community said tighter budget departments may to fewer crimes but also fewer crimes sued.

"I would guess decrease in crime no means evidence decrease in crime decrease in reporting crime," she said.

Few suburban police departments have had uniformed officers budget shortfalls many to stretch for of pricey equipment squad cars and laptops, police say.

Some say if the aren't loosened a few years, such could mean fewer the street and high tistics.

a continued decrease in robbery, burglary and auto theft.

In the past, Shaw has attributed many of those crimes to drug users. Last year, Shaw

started a narcotics unit to combat drug use in St. Charles. He also credits the county's drug rehabilitation court program for the continued

decreases.

Shaw and Kane County Sheriff Ken Ramsey also credited community policing efforts for the decrease in crimes last

year.

Ramsey also noted that residents have been more aware of crimes in their area since Sept. 11, 2001.

Crime rates decrease in Tri-Cities area

Kane County crime statistics

Rates are per 1,000 residents. Numbers are totals; some figures rounded.

Agency	Year	Estimated pop.*	Total incidents of crime	Crime rate	Violent crime rate	Property crime rate	Homicide	Criminal sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated Assault/Battery	Burglary	Theft	Auto theft	Arson
KANE COUNTY	2002	404,119	12,680	31.38	3.22	28.16	27	147	279	847	1,982	6,720	594	84
	2001	404,119	13,283	32.87	3.91	28.96	17	162	409	991	2,198	6,697	724	85
	% change	0.00%	-4.54%	-4.54%	-17.67%	-2.77%	58.82%	-9.26%	-31.78%	-14.53%	-9.83%	0.26%	-17.96%	-1.18%
KANE SHERIFF	2002	66,982	929	13.87	1.19	12.68	0	14	8	58	184	625	37	3
	2001	66,982	985	14.71	1.68	13.05	2	15	30	84	207	598	69	0
	% change	0.00%	-5.89%	-5.89%	-27.93%	-2.86%	-100.00%	-6.67%	-73.33%	-9.38%	-11.11%	4.52%	-46.38%	N/A
ALGONQUIN	2002	23,276	398	17.10	1.12	15.98	0	8	1	17	61	302	5	4
	2001	23,276	460	19.78	1.37	18.39	0	5	3	24	55	353	12	8
	% change	0.00%	-13.48%	-13.48%	-18.75%	-13.08%	N/A	60.00%	-66.67%	-28.17%	10.91%	-14.45%	-58.33%	-50.00%
AURORA	2002	142,990	6,159	43.07	5.64	37.44	25	85	158	558	1,017	3,979	317	40
	2001	142,990	6,064	42.41	5.57	35.83	8	71	256	605	1,064	3,672	356	32
	% change	0.00%	1.57%	1.57%	-14.26%	4.47%	212.50%	19.72%	-38.26%	-11.07%	-4.42%	8.38%	-10.96%	25.00%
BARRINGTON HILLS	2002	3,915	42	10.73	0.51	10.22	0	0	1	1	6	33	1	0
	2001	3,915	54	13.79	0.51	13.28	0	0	1	1	4	47	1	0
	% change	0.00%	-22.22%	-22.22%	0.00%	-23.08%	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	-29.79%	0.00%	N/A
BARTLETT	2002	36,708	568	15.42	0.84	14.58	1	2	5	23	57	467	8	3
	2001	36,708	615	16.75	1.14	15.61	0	3	7	32	59	493	18	3
	% change	0.00%	-7.97%	-7.97%	-26.19%	-6.63%	N/A	-33.33%	-28.57%	-28.13%	-3.39%	-5.27%	-55.56%	0.00%
BATAVIA	2002	23,868	640	26.82	1.05	25.77	0	3	3	19	75	525	10	5
	2001	23,868	706	29.58	1.26	28.32	0	6	5	19	86	567	16	7
	% change	0.00%	-9.35%	-9.35%	-16.67%	-9.02%	N/A	-60.00%	-40.00%	0.00%	-12.79%	-7.41%	-37.50%	-28.57%
CARPENTERSVILLE	2002	30,586	1,024	33.48	3.24	30.24	0	5	30	64	155	708	56	6
	2001	30,586	1,189	38.87	4.87	34.00	1	22	28	98	158	799	72	11
	% change	0.00%	-13.88%	-13.88%	-33.56%	-11.06%	-100.00%	-77.27%	7.14%	-34.69%	-1.90%	-11.39%	-22.22%	-45.45%
EAST DUNDEE	2002	2,955	354	119.80	3.05	116.75	0	1	1	7	19	319	7	0
	2001	2,955	316	106.94	3.05	103.89	0	1	3	5	30	268	7	2
	% change	0.00%	12.03%	12.03%	0.00%	12.38%	N/A	0.00%	-66.67%	40.00%	-38.67%	19.03%	0.00%	-100.00%
ELBURN	2002	2,758	32	11.61	0.36	11.25	0	1	0	0	7	24	0	0
	2001	2,758	27	9.80	1.09	8.71	0	0	0	0	3	19	0	0
	% change	0.00%	18.52%	18.52%	-66.67%	29.17%	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.00%	40.00%	26.32%	N/A	N/A
ELGIN	2002	94,487	2,582	27.33	2.82	24.70	2	43	83	120	447	1,874	183	30
	2001	94,487	2,878	30.46	3.35	27.10	7	41	93	176	508	1,822	208	23
	% change	0.00%	-10.28%	-10.28%	-21.77%	-8.86%	-71.43%	4.88%	-10.75%	-31.82%	-12.01%	-8.12%	-12.02%	-30.43%
GENEVA	2002	19,515	359	18.40	0.81	17.78	0	2	1	9	38	300	8	1
	2001	19,515	397	20.34	0.82	19.52	0	0	0	5	11	39	333	9
	% change	0.00%	-9.57%	-9.57%	-25.00%	-9.92%	N/A	N/A	100.00%	-80.00%	-18.18%	-2.56%	-9.91%	-11.11%
GILBERTS	2002	1,279	27	21.11	0.00	21.11	0	0	0	0	6	20	1	0
	2001	1,279	23	17.98	0.00	17.98	0	0	0	0	3	20	0	0
	% change	0.00%	17.39%	17.39%	N/A	17.39%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.00%	0.00%	N/A	N/A
HAMPSHIRE	2002	2,900	89	30.69	0.34	30.34	0	1	0	0	5	80	3	0
	2001	2,900	78	26.90	0.34	26.55	0	1	0	0	7	67	3	0
	% change	0.00%	14.10%	14.10%	0.00%	14.29%	N/A	0.00%	N/A	N/A	-28.57%	18.40%	0.00%	N/A
HUNTLEY	2002	5,730	153	26.70	0.35	26.35	0	0	1	1	20	118	7	0
	2001	5,730	144	25.13	0.70	24.43	0	2	0	2	7	126	6	1
	% change	0.00%	6.25%	6.25%	-50.00%	7.86%	N/A	-100.00%	N/A	-50.00%	271.43%	-6.35%	16.67%	-100.00%
MAPLE PARK	2002	785	12	15.69	2.81	13.07	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	1
	2001	785	5	6.54	0.00	6.54	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0
	% change	0.00%	140.00%	139.89%	N/A	100.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00%	133.33%	N/A	N/A
NORTH AURORA	2002	10,585	356	33.63	2.65	30.99	0	4	5	19	51	262	12	3
	2001	10,585	424	40.06	3.12	36.94	0	6	6	21	68	297	22	6
	% change	0.00%	-16.04%	-16.04%	-15.15%	-16.11%	N/A	-33.33%	-16.67%	-8.52%	-22.73%	-11.78%	-45.45%	-50.00%
SLEEPY HOLLOW	2002	3,553	36	10.13	0.28	9.85	0	1	0	0	6	21	0	0
	2001	3,553	28	7.88	0.28	7.60	0	1	0	0	6	21	0	0
	% change	0.00%	28.57%	28.50%	0.00%	29.63%	N/A	0.00%	N/A	N/A	-83.33%	52.38%	N/A	N/A
SOUTH ELGIN	2002	16,100	236	14.66	0.81	13.85	0	4	2	7	20	194	9	0
	2001	16,100	271	16.83	0.89	16.15	0	2	1	8	51	195	9	5
	% change	0.00%	-12.92%	-12.92%	18.18%	-14.23%	N/A	100.00%	100.00%	-12.50%	-60.78%	-0.51%	0.00%	-100.00%
ST. CHARLES	2002	27,896	1,079	38.68	2.37	38.31	0	2	7	57	96	900	14	3
	2001	27,896	1,137	40.76	2.51	38.25	0	9	11	50	157	884	19	7
	% change	0.00%	-5.10%	-5.10%	-5.71%	-5.06%	N/A	-77.78%	-38.36%	14.00%	-38.85%	1.81%	-26.32%	-57.14%
SUGAR GROVE	2002	3,909	69	17.65	0.26	17.40	0	0	1	0	4	58	5	1
	2001	3,909	82	20.98	0.33	17.65	0	1	3	9	19	50	0	0
	% change	0.00%	-15.85%	-15.85%	-92.31%	-1.45%	N/A	-100.00%	-66.67%	-100.00%	-78.95%	16.00%	N/A	N/A
WAUBONSEE COLLEGE	2002	0	26	0.00	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	1	1	22	2	0
	2001	0	39	0.00	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	1	2	38	0
	% change	N/A	-33.33%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00%	-50.00%	-38.89%	N/A	N/A
WAYNE	2002	2,137	17	7.96	1.40	6.55	0	0	0	3	6	7	1	0
	2001	2,137	21	9.83	0.00	9.83	0	0	0	0	2	17	2	0
	% change	0.00%	-18.05%	-18.05%	N/A	-33.33%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	200.00%	-58.82%	-50.00%	N/A
WEST DUNDEE	2002	5,428	377	69.45	1.11	68.35	0	1	3	2	17	349	4	1
	2001	5,428	465	85.67	1.86	84.01	0	1	2	6	23	421	11	1
	% change	0.00%	-18.02%	-18.02%	-33.33%	-18.84%	N/A	0.00%	50.00%	-66.67%	-26.09%	-17.10%	-63.64%	0.00%

* 2002 and 2001 populations are based on 2000 census, except for some sheriff's offices, which serve unincorporated areas and some incorporated areas. Note: Violent crime is made up of homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault and battery; property crime is made up of burglary, theft, car theft and arson.

Source: Illinois State Police

DAILY HERALD

Drop: One expert suggests budgets cut reporting

Continued from Page 1

acknowledged a computer glitch caused lower than normal crime statistics to be reported in 2001.

Police throughout the region welcomed the news, which followed a general increase in crime in 2001, the first year crime rose since 1996. Last year, many attributed the bump up to the bursting of the economic bubble of the late 1990s and the new war on terrorism.

At the local level, some police said they believe they know why crime dropped in their community.

St. Charles Police Chief Don Shaw, for example, points to a two-year fall in burglaries, from 41 in 2000 to 14 in 2002.

"What we focused on was our drug addicts, specifically heroin addicts," he said of a plan that included assigning two officers to target drug offenders and make use of Kane County's drug court. "I think it's made a big difference. Drug addicts are a big cause of property crime."

But no one claims to have a complete explanation for why 2002 saw across-the-board reductions in reported crime.

And neither beat cops nor analysts are ready to declare victory yet, even though many agree that the oft-cited relationship between unemployment and crime remains an unproven theory.

"I don't think we've seen the complete impact yet of the economic situation," said Gerard Ramke, director of research for the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. "These things kind of stagger and can only be seen over a number of years."

Tracking crime

Denise Nitterhouse, an associate professor at DePaul University who specializes in tracking community policing, said tighter budgets for police departments may lead not only to fewer crimes being reported, but also fewer crimes being pursued.

"I would guess that the decrease in crime statistics is by no means evidence of a decrease in crime, but rather a decrease in reporting and tracking crime," she said.

Few suburban police departments have had to shed uniformed officers, but local budget shortfalls have forced many to stretch longer lives out of pricey equipment, such as squad cars and laptop computers, police say.

Some say if the budget belts aren't loosened over the next few years, such measures could mean fewer police on the street and higher crime statistics.

a continued decrease in robbery, burglary and auto theft.

In the past, Shaw has attributed many of those crimes to drug users. Last year, Shaw

started a narcotics unit to combat drug use in St. Charles. He also credits the county's drug rehabilitation court program for the continued

decreases.

Shaw and Kane County Sheriff Ken Ramsey also credited community policing efforts for the decrease in crimes last

year.

Ramsey also noted that residents have been more aware of crimes in their area since Sept. 11, 2001.

June 21, 03 Daily Herald

County settles suit over raid

Kane County leaders have agreed to \$25,000 settlement in connection to a lawsuit filed by an Aurora man who accused a Kane County sheriff's deputy of kicking him in the face during a police raid in 2001.

Larry Potochney, the man whose home was the subject of the sheriff's office search in February 2001, claimed he was kicked in the face by the unnamed sheriff's deputy during the raid and filed a federal suit seeking \$1 million in damages for civil rights viola-

tions.

The county's executive committee Friday unanimously agreed to approve a \$25,000 settlement. Kane County Board Chairman Mike McCoy said the committee concluded that the settlement was more advantageous than a future trial.

The county's executive committee is authorized settlements of up to \$25,000 without approval of the full county board. Efforts to reach Potochney's attorney for comment were unsuccessful.

Aurora crime numbers mixed

DOWNWARD TREND CONTINUES ON LOCAL AND STATE LEVEL

By Mike Cetera
STAFF WRITER

AURORA — Donna swears the third man to beat her will be the last.

He's in prison.

She's trying to reclaim her life, which was shattered following a divorce and her introduction to prostitution and crack cocaine to dull the pain. The

beatings were all part of a routine among the new men in her world.

When her boyfriend was beating her, when he held her captive, when he pulled her from a vehicle to wait on her some more, Donna thought she was going to die.

"I remember every hit seeing stars and the brightest colors," said Donna, who asked that her last name not be

THE NUMBERS

A BREAKDOWN OF CRIME STATISTICS IN AREA COMMUNITIES

A7

used. "The dreams, I still get the dreams."

On paper, Donna is a number, one of thousands of victims represented in annual crime statistics reported to the Illinois State Police by law-enforcement agencies across the state.

Those figures, released today, show crime in Illinois declined by 1.5 percent in 2002 when compared to 2001,

continuing a downward trend that began more than a decade ago. That includes a drop in four of the eight categories of violent crime tracked by the report.

Most area communities saw modest drops in both violent crime and property crime.

♦ Turn to CRIME, A7



CRIME

From page A1

"(Crime) might be down, but, when it touches you personally, there's nothing like it," said Linda Martin, executive director of the Restorative Justice Institute of Illinois, an Aurora-based advocacy group. "I see a lot of hurting."

Martin talks about the family who couldn't afford to bury a murdered teenager and the man who fears his attacker will strike again.

The numbers don't show that.

What they do show is a staggering year of contrasts for a community such as Aurora.

The city's murder numbers have been well documented and come as little surprise considering the turmoil over gang turf and an unusually high number of domestic disputes turned deadly. As the year closed, the city approached a one-year record with 25 homicides.

Despite the 213 percent murder spike, however, violent crime in the city decreased as a whole when compared to the previous year, the State Police statistics show. Property crimes increased, driving the city's overall crime rate up slightly.

"One homicide is too many, let's face it," Aurora Police Chief William Lawler said. "But it's not really the true picture of Aurora, just looking at that one number."

Police attributed more than half of the murders in Aurora to gang activity. Officials are hopeful violent and drug-related crime will be reduced as a result of federal investigations into Aurora street gangs and the lucrative drug trade they employ.

The chief said he believes the crime data show a relatively stable city, considering that, during the last decade, crime rates have dropped while the population has grown by 50,000 or more.

Property crime in Aurora increased by more than 4 percent last year, led by thefts, which increased by more than 300 reports compared with 2001. Lawler said the increase may be a result of increased unemployment and a sour economy overall.

"Those are indicators of economic things; your motor vehicle thefts, your burglaries are all indicators of that," he said.

In 2002, violent crime — which includes murder, sexual assault, robbery and aggravated battery — fell more than 14 percent to its lowest level in at least seven years.

Much of the decline is credited to the drop in robberies, from 256 reported in 2001 to 158 last year. The drop comes a year after the city reached a five-year high in robberies.

Aurora Alderman Bob Shelton, who recently won an open at-large seat on a pro-police campaign that called for the hiring of more officers, said the city must

continue working to reduce crime.

"Obviously, if robbery was 38 percent down, if you got robbed, it's not good news to you," Shelton said.

Even if adding more officers to the force is a solution, however, it likely won't happen soon.

No additional sworn officers are included in the 2004 budget proposal now before Mayor David Stover, his spokesman said. Few, if any, employees will be added to the city payroll next year because of continued weak tax revenue projections.

"The top priority is violence," said Bill Catching, an assistant chief of staff to Stover. "To be honest, we cannot have a police officer on every corner. There is only so much you can do if a cold-blooded murderer wants to assassinate someone."

Meanwhile, other violent crimes, such as arson and sexual assault, also showed increases.

The number of sexual assaults reported has nearly doubled since 2000, when the department investigated 43 incidents. In 2002, that number climbed to 85.

Lawler said one explanation for the increased reporting is that more victims are comfortable coming forward to police.

The crime still remains under-reported, according to Mutual Ground, an Aurora domestic-violence shelter.

"Traditionally, women report (sexual assault) in much lower numbers than what has occurred," said Janet Faulhaber, the agency's sexual assault clinical program director. "I think

that continues today."

Contact Mike Cetera at (630) 844-5853 or mcetera@scn1.com.

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THE NUMBERS A BREAKDOWN OF CRIME STATISTICS IN AREA COMMUNITIES

	MURDER	CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT	ROBBERY	AGG. ASSAULT	BURGLARY	THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	ARSON
Illinois								
2002	949	6,037	25,305	47,785	81,123	308,960	45,262	2,983
2001	982	5,707	24,965	49,450	79,158	314,073	49,163	2,977
Kane County sheriff								
2002	0	14	8	58	184	625	37	3
2001	2	15	30	64	207	598	69	0
Kendall County sheriff								
2002	0	6	5	22	103	359	12	5
2001	0	7	5	25	114	296	23	12
Aurora								
2002	25	85	158	538	1,017	3,979	317	40
2001	8	71	256	605	1,064	3,672	356	32
Montgomery								
2002	1	0	2	20	56	308	12	5
2001	1	2	6	19	48	302	16	4
North Aurora								
2002	0	4	5	19	51	262	12	3
2001	0	6	6	21	66	297	22	6
Oswego								
2002	1	3	1	19	25	273	8	5
2001	0	5	1	25	71	185	7	2
Yorkville								
2002	0	1	0	5	31	150	2	0
2001	0	1	0	5	26	125	9	0
Plano								
2002	0	3	2	20	47	168	4	1
2001	0	4	3	14	33	171	5	0
Batavia								
2002	0	3	3	19	75	525	10	5
2001	0	6	5	19	86	567	16	7
Geneva								
2002	0	2	1	9	38	300	9	0
2001	0	0	5	11	39	333	9	0
St. Charles								
2002	0	2	7	57	96	900	14	3
2001	0	9	11	50	157	884	19	7
Sandwich								
2002	0	1	1	9	15	106	2	0
2001	0	3	4	9	32	132	18	0
Somonauk								
2002	0	0	0	4	8	33	0	0
2001	0	0	0	1	2	42	2	0
Sugar Grove								
2002	0	0	1	0	4	58	5	1
2001	0	1	3	9	19	50	0	0

continue working to reduce that continues today"