

# OUR TOWNS

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## ZONING APPEAL SET FOR CLINIC

By Andre Salles  
STAFF WRITER

AURORA — The city has set a date to hear anti-abortion activists' appeal of Planned Parenthood's zoning approvals.

The hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 28 in the council chambers at Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place.

It was requested by Peter Breen, attorney with the Thomas More Society

Pro-Life Law Center, on Oct. 2, who then amended that appeal three weeks later. By law, the city has 60 days from the filing date to set an appeal hearing.

The appeal claims that Planned Parenthood's new 22,000-square-foot facility on East New York Street, approved in November of 2006, did not receive proper approvals and variances from the city. It calls into question several aspects of the development, including

the yard setback and the number and width of parking spaces.

Breen also contends that Planned Parenthood needed to obtain a special-use permit because it is a not-for-profit operating a health clinic. City officials have denied this, saying that the facility was built in a planned development district, which follows its own zoning laws.

According to a letter dated Oct. 31 from the zoning board's attorney, Peter

Wilson, the appeal hearing will include representatives from the city, the Thomas More Society and Gemini Office Development. Planned Parenthood received all its permits for the new facility under the Gemini name, and officials there have since said that Gemini is a wholly owned subsidiary of Planned Parenthood.

The Nov. 28 meeting will be the first time that Planned Parenthood's clinic has been on a city agenda since the ap-

proval process concluded last year. Hundreds of people have shown up to the last five City Council meetings to speak on the issue, despite it not appearing on the council's agenda.

City spokesman Carrie Anne Ergo has said that officials would consider moving the meeting if residents wished to speak on an agenda item, but have not done so for this issue since it has not appeared on the agenda for discussion.

### GROWING NEW GOALS



MARIANNE MATHER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Georgetown School second-graders, (from left) David McElroy, Cain Trocki, Jacob Hernandez and Bryan Clark, hold out their hands to teacher Michelle Walsh for a flower bulb Friday. Students planted bulbs on school grounds in Aurora as part of a goal-setting exercise.

**"We're hoping more people can join us in an effort to make people aware of the homeless problem in DuPage County."**

Joyce Hothan, executive director of Bridge Communities

## Children sleeping out to awaken community to plight of homeless

By Hank Beckman

SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

If it's November and there are DuPage children sleeping in tents and cars all over the county, rest easy.

They aren't running away from home, throwing some sort of wild party or organizing a militia.

It's simply Sleep Out Saturday, at sites throughout the county tonight into Sunday.

Bridge Communities' annual benefit to bring awareness to the county's homeless problem began four years ago and has grown from a few campers to a tradition in the community.

This year, youths from Marmion Academy and Our Lady of Mercy Church in Aurora will participate in the fundraiser.

"We're hoping more people can join us in an effort to make people aware of the homeless

### Helping out the homeless

■ **What:** Sleep Out Saturday.

■ **Why:** To raise awareness about homelessness in DuPage County and raise money to support homeless families in Bridge Communities' transitional housing program.

■ **Where:** Rally is open to the public at Bridge Communities, 505 Crescent Blvd. in Glen Ellyn; Sleep Out locations are throughout DuPage County

■ **When:** Rally begins at 7 p.m. today; Sleep Out runs through the next morning.

■ **For information:** Visit [www.sleepoutsaturday.org](http://www.sleepoutsaturday.org) or call (630) 545-0610.

problem in DuPage County," said Joyce Hothan, executive director of Bridge Communities.

"The problem is quite hidden in DuPage County."

Hothan estimates that aside from people who are already homeless, about 125,000 DuPage residents are a paycheck away from the street.

Sleep Out Saturday strives

not only to make people aware of the problem, but also to give participants a chance to taste the realities of life without shelter in less-than-ideal weather.

"They sleep in tents in front yards, (in) church courtyards and cars," Hothan said.

Participants generate pledges from family and community members so Bridge can help families find shelter.

Hothan estimates that it costs about \$25 to shelter one person for one night.

Last year, 60 groups totaling 1,000 campers raised about \$75,000; this year's goal is to raise \$100,000 in pledges.

Sleep Out Saturday kicks off with the rally at the Bridge Communities offices, 505 Crescent Blvd., Glen Ellyn, with talks by formerly homeless people. Entertainment will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the public is invited.

Campers will then disperse to locations throughout the county to brave the elements.

While many of the volunteers will be spending the night in their own yards, local churches and other institutions will be pitching in, with more than 75 DuPage groups participating.

For information, to make a donation or to sponsor a camper, call (630) 545-0610 or visit [www.sleepoutsaturday.org](http://www.sleepoutsaturday.org).

### GLOBAL WARMING

## Climate hot topic today in DuPage

By Kathy Cichon

STAFF WRITER

Area environmental groups and government officials will come together today in a call for action on global climate change.

Re-Energize DuPage: A National Climate Day of Action, will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. in Room 2800G of the student resource center at College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn.

"What's important is the variety of options that will be available," said Lonnie Morris, Illinois Sierra Club Cool Cities chair.

While events will take place throughout the county, DuPage-area environmental groups will host a free event featuring the screening of "Power Shift: Energy + Sustainability," a 30-minute documentary narrated by Cameron Diaz. The film explores the ways energy touches people's daily lives, along with the possibilities of clean, renewable energy.

After the film, a panel will discuss topics, including energy efficiencies, individual actions people can take in everyday life to lessen the impact of global warming, as well as actions on the federal and state levels.

The event is a joint effort of The River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club, Green Peace, Step It Up 2, Cool Cities, Campus Greens and Phi Beta Kappa. The groups have invited local mayors, state and federal representatives to share the actions they have proposed to address the problems of global warming and climate change.

Attendees also will learn how to get their community to sign on as a "Cool City." To be one, a municipality must sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. According to the

### Candidate views on environment

■ **What:** Candidates in the 14th Congressional District race to speak at environmental rally.

■ **When:** Rally from 2 to 4 p.m. today, sponsored by Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva's Green Sanctuary Committee. Candidates to speak at 2:30 p.m.

■ **Where:** Outside the old Kane County Courthouse, 100 S. Third St., Geneva.

### Climate Day in DuPage

■ **What:** Re-Energize DuPage: A National Climate Day of Action

■ **When:** 3 to 5 p.m. today

■ **Where:** Room 2800G of the Student Resource Center at College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn

■ **Cost:** Free

Cool Cities Web site, those cities signing the document pledge to reduce global warming pollution in their cities by 7 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2012.

The city of Aurora, along with Plainfield, Carol Stream, Elgin, Westmont and Elmhurst have already signed on as Cool Cities. Naperville is considering the matter. Other towns in the process of considering becoming Cool Cities are Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Downers Grove and Villa Park, Morris said.

## Aurora firm is lowest bidder for arena fixes

■ **Further study:** It appears bids for Elfstrom construction are high again

By Steve Lord

STAFF WRITER

GENEVA — Aurora firm R.C. Wegman Construction is the low bidder for the renovations at the Kane County Forest Preserve District's Elfstrom Stadium.

But it appears the bid of about \$12.1 million still is higher than what Kane officials expected to pay for the renovations at the home of the Class A Oakland Athletics Midwest League affiliate.

Bids were opened earlier this week and presented Friday to the district's Executive Committee. While the project was adver-

tised, and bid specifications were sent to 15 different companies, only two bids came back.

According to the bid abstract, Wegman's \$12.1 million is less than the almost \$12.5 million bid by Skender Construction of Palos Hills.

The project includes adding a second level for suites and more general seating, and food service, as well as new administrative offices and ticket booths. Officials have been looking at a project of about \$4.7 million in construction, with a budget overall of \$5.4 million.

Members of the Executive Committee said they must study the bids and will consider them again in 60 days.

Bids earlier this year for the project were rejected because they were too high. The project originally was planned to begin in the fall of 2006, but was delayed because of scheduling conflicts.

## Airport drill will simulate plane crash

By Matt Hanley

STAFF WRITER

SUGAR GROVER — If you see a fire at the Aurora Municipal Airport today, do not panic.

If you see dozens of emergency crews responding to a plane crash, don't worry.

It will only be a test.

The Sugar Grove Fire Department will conduct a drill designed to simulate an airplane crash at the airport, beginning at 9 a.m. today. Multiple local fire and po-

lice departments will respond to the fake crash.

The drill will begin with a "aircraft in distress" call and then elevate to "aircraft down with fire" faux emergency. However, emergency crews will have to extinguish a real, but controlled, fire.

The drill is designed to test the communications and fire-suppression capabilities of different departments. After the drill is completed at about noon, the departments will have a post-drill analysis.

The drill is closed to the public.

## Rosary to perform 'Little Women'

Rosary High School's Fine Arts Department presents *Little Women* this weekend in the school's McEnroe Auditorium, 901 N. Edgelawn Drive, Aurora.

Remaining performances are at 7:30 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for seniors and children 14 and younger. The play is based on Louisa May Alcott's novel and her own family experiences, and follows the adventures of Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March as they grow up while the U.S. is embroiled in the Civil War.