

Political Update – March 2008
By Nina Albano Vidmer

Congratulations to the Italian-American incumbents who were victorious in the February primary election: Congressman Donald Manzullo, State Sen. Louis Viverito, State Rep. Franco Coladipietro, State Rep. John D'Amico, State Rep. Frank Mautino, State Rep. Robert Molaro, State Rep. Rosemary Mulligan, State Rep. Dennis Reboletti, State Rep. Robert Rita, State Rep. Angelo "Skip" Saviano, and McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi. Salute to Robert Larsen, candidate for Du Page county commissioner 6th District, the only non-incumbent to win the primary. Unfortunately, Italian American candidates were unsuccessful in the judicial races.

State representatives are now accepting applications for students wishing to be considered for a 2008-2009 General Assembly Scholarship. Funding covers tuition for the fall, spring, and summer terms at any four-year Illinois public university. Applications are by calling your local district representative's office. Applications will also be made available at the district high schools and area junior colleges. There is an April deadline for all applications, however please contact your legislator for details on your district's specific deadline.

Congressman Don Manzullo was successful in convincing his colleagues in the House and Senate to back off a planned tax change that would have surged taxes for many small business exporters in the United States. The Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2007 (HR 4195/S 2374) initially included a provision that would have more than doubled the tax liability on small business exporters that sell their goods overseas through an "Interest Charge-Domestic International Sales Corporation (IC-DISC)." Exporters currently pay a 15 percent tax on dividends through an IC-DISC, but the legislation initially proposed in the House and Senate would have raised that rate to 35 percent, more than doubling the tax rate for these small manufacturers. Because IC-DISCs are allowed a maximum of \$10 million in profit to benefit from this lower tax rate, the overwhelming majority of users of IC-DISCs are small business exporters, primarily small manufacturers.

Forest Park Mayor Anthony Calderone announces an Easter Eggstravaganza on from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on March 15 from at the Howard Mohr Community Center. Lunch will be served; other activities include photos with the Easter Bunny, carnival games, raffles and much more. Cost is \$8 for children and \$3 for adults. Registration is required and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Seniors AARP 55 Alive Driver Safety Program will also be held at the center from 9am until 1pm on March 6 and 7. This is the nation's first and largest classroom refresher course for drivers ages 50 and above. AARP graduates can earn insurance discounts! Call the village at 771-7737 for more information

City of Elmhurst Mayor Thomas Marcucci says announces a new trail in Elmhurst, urging residents to tune up their bike walking shoes ready. The Salt Creek Greenway Trail will be ready and waiting for residents once it is completed summer.

This project has been 13 years in the making for the Elmhurst Park District and seven local agencies. The 30.6 mile-long regional trail that will extend from the Busse Woods Forest Preserve in NW Cook County, through NE DuPage County to the Chicago Portage National Historic Site at 47th and Harlem. The trail will provide access to forest preserves, local parks, Brookfield Zoo, historic sites and Oakbrook Center, among other sites. Public meetings were convened during the planning stages of the trail to provide community input and the Park Board has reviewed and approved all phases throughout the process.

Village of Hillside Mayor Joseph Tamborino is pleased to announce that the odor-plagued Hillside Landfill will permanently close in the spring of 2008. The closure process will begin immediately, and air quality improvements are anticipated in and around the site in the months leading up to the final closure. Allied Wasted recently assumed control over the Hillside Landfill as managing partner and is working with the Village of Hillside to close the facility, as well as improve the appearance of the site.

In the coming weeks and months, residents can actually expect to see an increase in activity as efforts begin to fill and cap the landfill.

This column is written by Nina Albano Vidmer, executive director of the Italian American Political Coalition. To submit information, please fax to 708-401-0360 by the first of each month for consideration in the following month's issue.