

# Cole's Clipboard

STATE REPRESENTATIVE SANDY COLE



## *...a tidbit from Springfield*

You may have heard the buzz about the Capital Funding Bill stalemate being played out in Springfield. A new Capital Bill (or **Jobs Bill**, as I prefer to call it) is estimated to create over 100,000 new jobs in Illinois. This particular aspect of the proposed Capital Bill, one that is often downplayed by the media, is extremely important due to the fact that Illinois is outpacing the national average on unemployment rates.

According to a report by the **Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability**, Illinois' unemployment rate surged again in June to 6.8%, the highest rate for the State since September 2003—and a full 1.3% higher than the national average which stood at 5.5%. The report went on to say that further increases are expected in the months ahead as weak economic activity is likely to be insufficient to employ the expected growth in the labor force. Thus, the gap between the State and national unemployment rates is likely to remain large.

## *...interesting and helpful websites*

Check out these new websites for some very interesting and helpful information:

- <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/wildlife/>
- [http://illinoisworknet.com/vos\\_portal/](http://illinoisworknet.com/vos_portal/)

## *Community News*

I am pleased to announce that \$465,000.00 in state grants have been approved and distributed in the 62nd District Community to help with projects that address public safety, education, youth, and community service. I am happy to have secured funding for the following community initiatives:

- \$85,000.00 - The Village of Hainesville bike path on Hainesville Road
- \$85,000.00 - Village of Round Lake Beach for sewer pump replacement at public works lift station.
- \$80,000.00 - Grayslake Consolidated School Dist. #46 for science lab materials and interactive smart boards.
- \$75,000.00 - The Oasis youth center in Grayslake for roof replacement and asbestos abatement costs.
- \$50,000.00 - Wildwood Park District for seawall repair and handicapped modifications for fishing pier.
- \$40,000.00 - Mano A Mano Family Resource Center for health education, child care and computer training.
- \$20,000.00 - Gurnee Police Department for purchase of ATV for patrolling Des Plaines River and flood rescue, and retrofitting current police radio equipment with additional tactical channel for unit-to-unit communications.
- \$12,000.00 - Village of Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center for programming equipment for summer youth camps.
- \$10,000.00 - Wildwood Presbyterian Church for PADS homeless shelter program.

Another \$85,000.00 grant for Grandwood Park District has been approved and vouchered with the Comptroller's Office. The check should be in the mail by mid-September, and will help the park district with handicapped accessibility improvements to its community center on Hutchins Road.

## *Back to School*

Motorists please be aware! Students are heading back to school this week, and that means more bus, bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Please use caution and follow proper *Illinois Rules of the Road* procedures:

- **School Buses:** You must stop before meeting or passing a school bus loading or unloading passengers. Flashing amber and red lights and a stop signal arm extended from school bus means you must come to a complete stop, and remain stopped until the stop signal arm and the flashing lights are turned off or the bus driver signals you to pass. **On two-lane roadways, vehicles going in both directions must stop.** On four-lane roadways, **vehicles on same side as the school bus must stop** - you do not need to stop if traveling in the opposite direction of the bus, but you should proceed with caution. Driving privileges will be suspended for three months if you are convicted of illegally passing a stopped school bus. Two such convictions within five years will result in a one year suspension of your license. In addition to the suspensions, violators will be fined **\$150.00** for first conviction and **\$500.00** for each subsequent conviction.
- **Pedestrians:** Drivers should always be prepared to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. Drivers **MUST YIELD** for pedestrians within crosswalks.
- **Bicyclists:** Drivers must yield the right-of way to a bicyclist just as they would to another vehicle. **Bicyclists are required to travel in the same direction as vehicles.** When passing a bicyclist do so slowly and leave at least three feet of passing space. Motorists should not park or drive in marked bike lanes. When a motorist is turning left and there is a bicyclist entering intersection from opposite direction, the driver should wait for bicyclist to pass before making turn. If a motorist is sharing the left turn lane with a bicyclist, stay behind the bicyclist until he has completed his turn. If a motorist is turning right and a bicyclist is approaching on the right, let the bicyclist go through intersection first before making the right turn.

For more information, a *Bicycle Rules of the Road* or *Illinois Rules of the Road* booklet is available at your local Driver Services facility or at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)

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