



Toni
PRECKWINKLE
Cook County Board President

The Week in Review
May 3, 2015

Stay Connected
All Week Long



President Preckwinkle Praises Efforts of Cook County Employees For Volunteering Time on National Rebuilding Day



"**National Rebuilding Day** is an activity that includes the volunteer work of several Bureaus within our County government. This year, the Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Asset Management and Bureau of Administration, along with several labor unions, contributed their time and talent to make the renovation of two homes, and the day, a major success.

The non-profit **Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago** annually partners with the County — along with other agencies, charities, religious institutions and private sector companies — to improve the homes of elderly, disabled or low-income residents who are selected following a vetting process. The renovations take the selected homes and, through the work of volunteers and skilled tradesmen, make them safe, warm and dry, and improve accessibility for their residents.

[View press release](#)

[View our photos of volunteers in action](#)

As part of the day, I had an opportunity to speak with Charlotte English. Our team renovated her bathroom, making it ADA accessible, as well as painting, putting in a new air conditioner and installing sod on her lawn. Joined by her daughter and grand daughter, she shared with me she is "grateful to God," for the work done on her home. It will allow her to continue to live safely in her home with better ventilation."

Toni Preckwinkle

Toni Preckwinkle and Cook County Board Pass Resolution to Expand and Protect Access to Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care



The Cook County Board, led by President Toni Preckwinkle, passed a resolution to expand and protect access to comprehensive reproductive health care.

The resolution calls upon federal and state elected officials to maintain the protections established by *Roe v. Wade* for access to reproductive health care and to undo the many dangerous restrictions that have been placed on those protections. It also calls for increased federal and state support for reproductive health care and to reinstate abortion coverage for women enrolled in ALLinsurance programs, whether they be public or private providers.

[Click here to read the full resolution](#)

President Preckwinkle Announces \$1 Million in Savings From County's New Employee Life Insurance Contract



Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle announced that a new life insurance contract, approved by the County Board at its meeting today, is expected to yield more than \$1 million in savings annually.

Under terms of the contract negotiated by the County's Procurement and Risk Management Offices, following a competitive bidding process, Minnesota Life will provide life insurance services for County employees for three years with two one-year options for renewal, creating annualized savings of \$1.14 million. With the previous vendor, Cook County was spending roughly \$3.59 million annually. The yearly cost of the new agreement is expected to be \$2.45 million.

"Whether we are negotiating a life insurance contract or reducing the use of printers, we will do whatever we can to provide more efficient services at a lower cost," Preckwinkle said. "Cook County is facing a challenging budget year and we must continue doing more with less. This is an important example of how we are working to ensure a County government that is operating as cost-effectively as possible."

The contract culminates a process that began with a Request for Proposals for group term life benefits that was released in September 2014. The County received and evaluated eight proposals in response to the RFP in accordance with the Cook County procurement code.

[Click here or on the image for the full story](#)

Toni Preckwinkle with Former Students from Visitation



Cook County Garneres State Rebates from its Energy Efficiency Projects



Board approves grant agreements following work done on

Stroger Hospital campus

Cook County will realize \$956,686 in rebates related to energy efficiency projects on the Stroger Hospital campus following action by the Cook County Board today.

County Commissioners approved grant agreements related to the Illinois Energy Now program, which is managed by the state's Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DECO). The program provides millions of dollars in rebates to public facilities that make large-scale equipment improvements to their electric and natural gas systems.

"Each year, Cook County spends more than \$25 million on energy for County-owned buildings," said County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. "Illinois Energy Now provides incentives for projects that increase the energy efficiency of local government facilities located in the service territories of ComEd and Peoples Gas. The County is now realizing the benefit of this program."

[Click here or on the image for the full story](#)

Cook County's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Presented to the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)



John Yonan (Superintendent of Transportation and Highways) and Maria Choca-Urban (Director of Strategic Planning and Policy), presented the major points of [Connecting Cook County: 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan](#) at the April 22 meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC). As part of their presentation, they explained their efforts to connect their plan to economic development. In the past, transportation investments were not aligned with regional priorities or economic plans. Poor land use and transportation coordination in the past has led to major suburban job centers with low transit service.

Today, with the Preckwinkle Administration, there is a new strategic, action-oriented direction. The Vision Statement for the **2040 Long Range Transportation Plan** has four Cs: Commerce, Collaboration, Communities and Capital. The goal for economic opportunity recommends investing in transportation improvements that support economic vitality for the County and the region.

[Click here or on the image for the full story](#)

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