



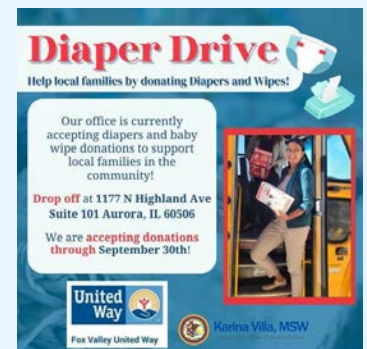
Newsletter

Community Aid, Legal Resources and more!

I hope that everyone enjoys the last few days of warm weather this month! As the summer winds down, I was excited to connect with community members at various events across the district. Below are important resources I would like to share with you all! Please take advantage of these upcoming events and consider supporting families in the Kane County Area by supporting our Diaper Drive!

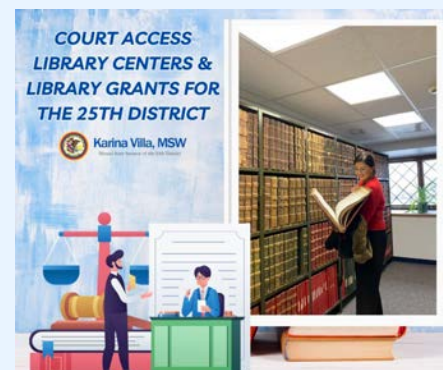
Diaper Drive

This month, our office is partnering with the Fox Valley United Way for a county wide Diaper Drive! Help us support local families in the Kane County area by donating diapers sizes 1-7, adult diapers, pull-ups and wipes at our Aurora District Office located at 1177 N. Highland Ave., Suite 101. We are accepting donations from now until Sept. 30. For additional drop off locations, visit Fox Valley United Way's [website](#). Be sure to share with family and friends!



Court Access Pilot Project & Local Library Grants

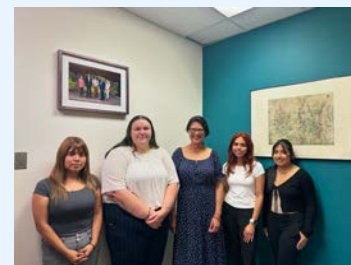
The Aurora Public Library- Santori Branch is now offering Aurora residents assistance with virtual court proceedings, including assistance with location and e-filing court forms and zoom court hearings. Visitors are advised to contact the library before the day of appearance to ensure a private space for their hearing is available. To learn more about the implementation of the Court Access Pilot Project, contact the Aurora Public Library- Santori Branch at 630-264-4117. Please look out for updates as this program continues to develop. Thank you to our incredible librarians that continue to be pillars in our communities!



In other news, libraries across the 25th District in Aurora, North Aurora, Bartlett and West Chicago will be receiving a combined total of \$391,690 in funds for operational and capital improvements!

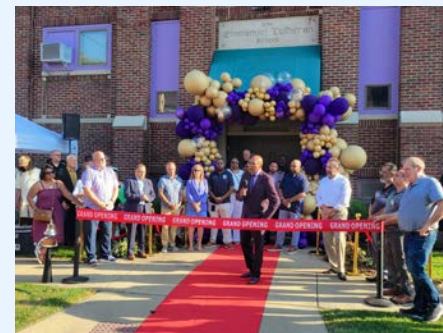
Welcome New Interns!

Please help me welcome our new college interns for the 2024-2025 School Year! Mabelle, Jorja, Gloria and Xochitl are current undergraduate students at Aurora University. I am so excited to have these brilliant students join our team and bring their skill set to supporting the constituents of the 25th District.



Northern Lights Youth Center

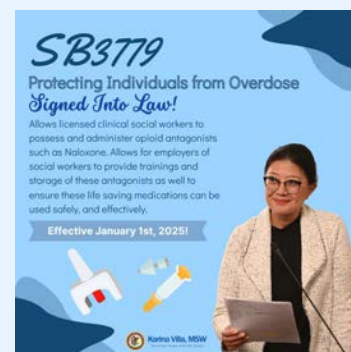
Congratulations to the new Northern Lights Youth Center! The renovated facility will be the home of many programs that will be offered to youth on the East Side of Aurora. The center will feature early childhood initiatives, STEAM training programs, construction trades programs, arts and athletics and a workout room. Thank you to our community partners for providing services to our youth and bringing these programs to life. Groups that will provide programs and services at the center include the Fox Valley Park District, the Quad County Urban League, SPARK Early Learning and more!



Legislative Updates

SB 3779 Protecting Individuals from Overdose

The opioid epidemic has been affecting communities across the state for years. It is critical that we ensure that we are using every possible resource to combat this epidemic. I am pleased to announce that under my new law, licensed social workers and licensed clinical social workers are allowed to possess and administer opioid antagonists. Social workers often encounter individuals at risk of an overdose and this law will allow capable professionals to help combat the opioid epidemic. This law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2025!



HB 3521 Ensures Hospital Abuse Reporting

My initiative expanding patient abuse reporting requirements is officially law! This law requires additional health care facilities, including doctors' offices and clinics affiliated with hospitals, to report suspected patient abuse to the Illinois department of Public Health. Previously, only hospitals were required to report suspected patient abuse. IDPH will also now be required to investigate reports of patient abuse in these additional health care facilities. This law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2025!



State and Local Resources

Green Infrastructure Grant Program

Exciting news! The Illinois EPA has announced a \$5 million grant opportunity to fund green infrastructure projects that will enhance water quality across our state. These projects will help reduce stormwater runoff and protect our rivers, streams and lakes. Learn more about the grant program [here](#). Applications are now open – apply by Nov. 20!



Lawyers in the Library

The Aurora Public Library- Santori Branch is partnering with the Kane County Law Library and Self Help Legal Center to provide pro-bono walk-in service for help with legal questions. A lawyer will be available to answer questions during a free, 15-minute consultation the second Thursday of every month from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Santori Branch located at 101 S. River St. in room 125/126. This month, the event will be held on Thursday, Sept. 12. For more information, visit the library's [website](#). For any questions, call 630-264-4117.

OSFM Small Equipment Grant Program

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has opened their applications for their Small Equipment Grant Program. The program provides grants up to \$26,000 to eligible fire departments and ambulance services for purchasing small firefighting and ambulance equipment. Applications should be submitted electronically or postmarked by Oct. 1. Review the eligibility requirements [here](#). View the application [here](#).

State Flag Redesign Contest

Illinois is exploring getting a new state flag! The Illinois Flag Commission is accepting public submissions for a new state flag from now until Oct. 18. You can now submit your design ideas for an opportunity to contribute to Illinois' history. Submit your design ideas online [here](#)!



Our office runs four advisory committees: Environmental and Agriculture, Mental Health, Seniors, and Education. These committees are a limited public forum led by volunteer chairs and seek to create compassionate conversation among the voices of the 25th in order to provide effective representation. To join these committees you can email the following for more information and meeting information:

- Environment / 1st Wednesday at 7pm / environment.25th@gmail.com
- Mental Health / 3rd Tuesday at 6pm / mentalhealth.25th@gmail.com
 - Seniors / 2nd Thursday at 10am / seniors.25th@gmail.com
 - Education / 2nd Thursday at 7pm / education.25th@gmail.com

My staff and I look forward to hearing from you. I encourage you to reach out to us at 630-326-9319 (English), 630-326-9419 (Spanish) or (331)465-9690 constituentservices@senatorvilla.com.

Stay in Touch! Follow us on Social Media: [Facebook: @StateSenatorKVilla](#), [Instagram: @SenatorKarinaVilla](#).

Be well!

Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District