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DILLARD RECEIVES SERVICE AWARD

Regional Transportation Authority of Northeastern Illinois Chairman Kirk Dillard of Hinsdale has been chosen to receive a 2017 Local Distinguished Service Award by the American Public Transportation Association, an international association of 1,500 public and private sector organizations.

The APTA "best of the best" awards recognize excellence in the public transportation industry in North America on the individual and organizational level.

"I am pleased to offer my congratulations to Chairman Dillard," said RTA Executive Director Leanne Redden. "From the moment he was handed the gavel he has worked tirelessly in our region, in Springfield and in Washington D.C. to advocate for the needs of regional transit riders. In both his decades of experience in the state legislature and his work with the leadership of CTA, Metra and Pace, his focus is on collaboration over division and communication over discord. Our transit region is better for having his leadership."

Dillard is a lifelong transit rider and regularly rides the RTA regional system to his offices in downtown Chicago, where he is a partner at Locke Lord LLP, one of Chicago's oldest and largest law firms.

Before becoming RTA chairman in 2014, Dillard served as the Republican senator for the 24th District of the Illinois Senate for almost 20 years. Prior to serving as state senator, Dillard served with distinction as chief of staff to former Governor Jim Edgar and as legislative director to former Governor James Thompson.

Dillard and the other award recipients will receive their awards at the APTA annual meeting/EXPO on Oct. 10 in Atlanta.

PHYSICIANS JOIN MEDICAL GROUP

DuPage Medical Group has welcomed six new doctors, including one with offices in Hinsdale.

Dr. Nikhil Martis is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology. He earned his medical degree from University of

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Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria and completed his residency and fellowship at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Martis sees patients at three locations, including 40 S. Clay Street in Hinsdale. He is affiliated with Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, Edward Hospital and Elmhurst Memorial Hospital.

RESIDENTS CAPTURE WINNING SHOTS

The Hinsdale Parks and Recreation Department has announced the winners of its summer photo contest.

Monica Sodikoff earned first place, Jim Hutchison received second place and Jimmy Woulfe garnered third place.

Photos are posted online at facebook.com/thehinsdalean.

STUDENTS EARN DEGREES, AWARDS

- Paul Mock of Hinsdale was named a 2017 Bronze Tablet honoree by the University of Illinois. The highest academic award the university offers, the Bronze Tablet is given to students who have a minimum 3.5 grade point average and rank in the top 3 percent in their college graduating class.

Mock earned a bachelor's in music in December 2016.

- Nicholas Koldras of Hinsdale received a bachelor's in business administration in May from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

- Marua Larkin and Robert Alter, both of Hinsdale, received the Dean's Award from Colgate University for the spring 2017 semester.

AGENT LAUNCHES OWN GROUP

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has announced the launch of the Dawn McKenna Group. The team currently headquartered out of Hinsdale has now expanded its real estate expertise to Chicago and Naples, Fla.

With nearly \$1 billion in closed sales, McKenna has been working in real estate in Hinsdale for more than 15 years. She's earned numerous awards for her outstanding sales performances, holds

a spot in the Coldwell Banker President's Elite and has been named the No. 1 agent in Illinois and No. 44 agent in the country.

Earlier this year, McKenna made an executive decision to expand into markets she believed would benefit her clients the most.

"Hinsdale will always be my heart and soul, but I wanted to expand my business so that I can continue to meet the needs of my clients and provide them with the best possible service," said McKenna. "Many of my clients are at a point in their lives where they're ready for change, and often that means that they're looking to either downsize, move to the city or venture to warmer climates."

The new team of real estate experts is comprised of 13 licensed agents, nine of whom are actively working with buyers and sellers across Hinsdale, La Grange, Western Springs, Chicago and Naples. Four are providing marketing support and handling administrative responsibilities.

"We couldn't be more thrilled for Dawn," said Fran Broude, president and COO of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "She has proven herself as an industry leader time and time again, and we can't wait to see what she will accomplish with her newfound national presence."

KROLL HELPS WIN HISTORIC VERDICT

Jeffrey Kroll of Hinsdale was on the team of attorneys that secured a \$148 million verdict from the city of Chicago for 24-year-old Tierney Darden in a personal injury case.

Darden was paralyzed when the pedestrian shelter she was standing next to outside of O'Hare International Airport collapsed onto her in 2015. The verdict represents a new Cook County personal injury record jury verdict.

The \$148 million verdict was obtained after a 10-day trial by Kroll and attorneys Patrick Salvi, Tara Devine, Patrick Salvi II and Eirene Salvi of the Illinois personal injury law firm Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard.

The prior highest Cook County personal jury verdict was \$127.7 million in 1991.