

THE VISION

AVOCA REFERENDUM TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULED

The first Avoca community town hall meeting concerning the upcoming tax rate referendum is scheduled as follows:

What: Town Hall Meeting

When: Tuesday, January 27

Where: Marie Murphy School Community Room, 2921 Illinois Rd., Wilmette

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Who: All interested members of the Avoca community

We urge you to attend this important meeting. It is critical that all community members understand the issues and have the opportunity to have their questions answered before the referendum vote on April 7. At the meeting, Superintendent Dr. Joseph Porto, Business Manager Beth Dever, and members of the Avoca Board of Education will conduct a detailed presentation outlining the need for the referendum, the specific referendum request and its impact on your property taxes, the cost-saving measures that have been put into place the past five years, what is at stake should the referendum fail, and some facts versus myths about the referendum request. Following the presentation, there will be an open question and answer/public comment session for the community members.

The first steps in making an educated decision for the April 7 election are to learn the facts about the district's financial

situation, have your questions answered, and share your input. The Avoca community town hall meeting is designed to accomplish these steps. Please make plans to attend on Tuesday, January 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the Marie Murphy School Community Room.

MARIE MURPHY SCHOOL CHORAL CONCERT – AVOCA COMMUNITY INVITED FOR JANUARY 15 PERFORMANCE

Under the direction of Choral Music Instructor Jill von Trebra, the Marie Murphy School Chorus has thrived and performed at a high level of excellence for years. One of the highlights of every school year is the annual Marie Murphy School Choral Concert, where boys and girls amaze the audience with their wide array of ensemble and solo talents. This year, as part of the district's community outreach goal, the Marie Murphy School Choral Concert is *open to the entire Avoca community*.



(Students performing during last year's annual Marie Murphy School Choral Concert – Photo courtesy of Pioneer Press Newspapers)

Please make plans to join us for this very special event, and experience the Avoca fine arts program in action. It is guaranteed to be a phenomenal performance. Again, the entire Avoca community is welcome to attend.

What: Marie Murphy School Choral Concert

When: Thursday, January 15

Where: Marie Murphy School Gym,
2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Who: All interested members of the Avoca Community

REGISTRATION UNDERWAY FOR AVOCA COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Priority registration for the Avoca Community Preschool will run through January 15, 2009. Avoca community families receive priority placement through a mail-in lottery. For information about the registration process or to have forms sent to you, contact Kat Cetrone in the Avoca Pupil Services Office, 847-251-3138. You can also make your request via e-mail at cetronek@avoca37.org.



(Avoca Community Preschool students are busy working at the listening table.)

The Avoca Community Preschool serves children ages 3-5 with and without special needs. The a.m. and p.m. classes are

taught by Kathleen Brenner (Lead Teacher), Amanda Hale (Speech and Language Pathologist) along with Anne O'Brien (Early Childhood Paraprofessional). With an enrollment of 15 students per class, Avoca Community Preschool offers a 5:1 student/teacher ratio. Morning classes for 3- and 4-year-olds are held Monday through Thursday from 8:50 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Afternoon classes for 4- and 5-year-olds are held Monday through Friday from 12:25 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

The Avoca Community Preschool is also still accepting registration for the 2008-2009 school year in the a.m. 3- and 4-year-old class.

AVOCA IN THE PAST

As mentioned earlier, the Avoca community is invited to our upcoming Marie Murphy School Choral Concert on January 15. As the photo below indicates, Avoca has a long history of excellence in the field of choral music. The photo depicts the Avoca School Choir during a performance in the early 1950s.



(The Avoca School Choir performing a concert in 1954.)