

## GĂVOJDIA

**Local Council Office:** Găvojdia no. 295, telephone/fax 0256/335921;

**Coordinates:**

45°37'01" N lat.;  
22°01'17" E long.;

**Historical landmarks:**

-1363 - the locality was first recorded in documents, being mentioned in a letter of the Hungarian King Ladislas The Great under the name of **Kwesd**;

-4 February 1536 - a trial between the noble **Andrei de Bizere** and the people of Lugoj took place for the ownership of the village of Găvojdia and its surroundings;

-1548 - the village of Jena (Chzena) was owned by **Nicolae Anoca** from Caransebeș and his wife, **Ecaterina**, born **Thorsak** (according to Ion Lotreanu);

-1586 - Voivode Sigismund Báthory gave the estate of Găvojdia to **Grigorie Somlyay**;

-1591 the estate became the property of the fiscal administration;

-1657 - the border between Găvojdia and Lugoj had not yet been decided;

-30 March 1928 - **Aurel Anton** was born in Sălbăgel, European correspondence chess champion (1976);

-1936 - Găvojdia had a primary school, a men's choir, a monument dedicated to heroes, a school library, a post office, a train station;

-5th November 1946 - **Emil Avram** is born in Găvojdia, Prof. Univ. Dr. at the Military Technic Academy in Bucharest, Vice-dean of the Faculty for Integrated Weapons Systems;

-1958 - the Center for Neuropsychiatric Recovery and Rehabilitation is set up in Găvojdia, rebuilt from the ruins of the former Bucovinschi mansion.

-1970 - the Ukrainian population began settling in Sălbăgel;

-2002 - the commune had 2,776 inhabitants;

-2004 - a unique piece is registered under No. 27.790 at Banat Museum: a Greco-Illy-



rian helmet of over 2000 years old, accidentally discovered in Găvojdia;

-2009 - the water pipe network was built in Jena and the community centre from Lugojel was renovated;

-2010 - the City Hall from Găvojdia was renovated;

**Member villages:** Găvojdia, Jena (1285, the first record, then a second one, Chzena, in 1548), Lugojel (1631, Olugas), Sălbăgel (1411, Zylvas, apparently refounded in 1717).

**Total population on 1 January 2010:**

2,961 persons, of which:

- male = 1,485 persons

- female = 1,476 persons

**Number of households on 1 January 2010:** 910

**Educational institutions:** Elementary Schools (I-VIII): Găvojdia; Primary Schools (I-IV): Sălbăgel; Kindergartens with normal hours: Găvojdia, Jena, Sălbăgel, Lugojel;

**Health facilities:** Medical practices: Găvojdia (three); Drugstores: Găvojdia; Sanitary-veterinary practices: Găvojdia;

**Cultural institutions:** Community centres: Găvojdia, Jena, Lugojel and Sălbăgel; Library: Găvojdia (founded in 1958);

**Churches:** Romanian Orthodox Churches: Găvojdia (1730), Lugojel, Jena (1820) and Sălbăgel; Pentecostal Churches: Sălbăgel and Jena; Baptist Church: Lugojel (1991);

**Annual Church Festivals:** Găvojdia (Ascension of Jesus), Sălbăgel (29 June - Saints Apostles Peter and Paul), Jena (8 September - the Nativity of Virgin Mary) and Lugojel (25 December - the Nativity of Jesus).

## THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF GĂVOJDIA

<b>Stoica Dănuț Toma</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	Breban Oana -Maria, LC member	DLP
<b>Zgriba Ioan</b>	<b>Vice Mayor</b>	Constantin Cristian, LC member	SDP
Andrei Cornel, LC member	DLP	Dumitrașcu Doru-Petru, LC member	DLP
Avram Petru, LC member	IND.	Iacob Dumitru-Nicolae, LC member	SDP
Bancu Dănuț, LC member	NLP	Popa Petru-Trandafir, LC member	DLP
Blidariu Emil-Nicolae, LC member	DLP	Țîru Petrică-Coriolan, LC member	DLP

## GĂVOJDIA

## MAX AUSCHNIT'S MANOR

One of the great industrialists from the inter-war period (the XX<sup>th</sup> century) who owned properties in Banat was **Max Auschnit** (or Aușnit), the son of a Jewish merchant from Galați, Osias Auschnit. Max graduated the Academy of Trading and Export Studies from Vienna. He was the president of the General Association for Industry from Banat, delegated administrator of the Iron Factories and Estates from Reșița (U.D.R. - the largest Romanian joint-stock company before the communist regime, with the largest share capital from Romania - 1 billion lei, the largest turnover, the largest number of employees - 16,669 in 1938, respectively 22,892 in 1948). Together with his brother, Edgar Auschnit owned Titan-Nădrag-Călan company, with over 4,900 employees in 1938. Towards the end of World War II, warned by an American general that Romania would fall under Russian influence, Max Auschnit remained abroad, finally retiring to the United States, where he died. All his properties from Romania were confiscated by the communist government in 1948.



After 1989, Max's son, Steven Auschnit (see image, left), requested the retrocession of the wealth owned by his father in Banat. He requested 11,000 hectares of forest in the area of Nădrag in Timiș county, as well as lands from the commune, and the retrocession of a manor which belonged to his father in the commune of Găvojdia (see image, above). Steven visited Găvojdia and the manor, and, according to the things discussed with the mayor of the commune, he would not want to use the manor for personal purposes, but to give it to the commune for administration. Moreover, Steven

Auschnit gave the lands from Nădrag, where 35 houses have been built after the nationalisation, to the people. The descendent of the former great industrialist gave the tenants the land that belonged to his family and on which 15 houses were built in Oțelul Roșu.

SENA, THE GODFATHER  
OF JENA

The village of Jena is considered to be one of the oldest settlements of Banat, given the archeological evidences. Thus, a "**maniculus**" (object on which the Roman soldiers used to swear and which is exhibited in the museum from Budapest) was discovered following some digging in the locality in 1876. In 1919, three silver coins were discovered in Jena, one of them containing the inscription "**Roma 106**" - probably the coin was used in the area during the second war between

Trajan and Decebal (105-106).

A series of coins was issued during that period, such as the ones representing Emperor Trajan galloping over a Dacian fallen on the ground or the same emperor bringing a fallen Dacian in front of a togaed character. The coins discovered in 1919 are considered extremely valuable due to their rarity and were taken to the "Coriolan Brediceanu" Museum from Lugoj. Regarding the name of the locality, Jena, it may come from the son of a Knyaz, owner of the place, Nicolae, who gave the little estate of Jena to his son, named... **Sena**.

## GĂVOJDIA

## RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

The health facility called The Neuropsychiatric Recovery and Rehabilitation Centre houses almost 320 adults with psychiatric problems. Most of the people from Găvojdia work at this centre. The patients benefit from unlimited accommodation, basic services for daily activities, ergotherapy or occupational therapy, physiotherapy etc. The centre is organised as a functional component of the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child's Protection Timiș, being one of the most important social assistance units of the county.

*The church from the yard of the Recovery and Rehabilitation Centre*



**Photographic document:**  
*Găvojdia - 1915. The house of the notary public Ioan Ferenczy*

HONOURED  
BY THE PEOPLE OF  
TIMIȘOARA

**Aurel Anton** was born in the village of Sălbăgel, the commune of Găvojdia, on 30 March 1928. He graduated the Faculty of Electrotechnics at the "Politehnica" University from Timișoara in 1954. His great passion was chess and obtained, as a high school pupil and as a student, the best results of all participants in the simultaneous matches held by the former champion of the country, **Ștefan Erdély**, between 1948 and 1950. Aurel Anton was declared school champion in 1950 (in Reșița, obtaining the 1<sup>st</sup> category).

He made his debut in solving chess problems in 1958, he took part in the "Spartachiada Tineretului" competition in 1958, ranking second in the former Banat region. In 1959, he took part in the first correspondence chess competition, a contest with compulsory openings. He won first prize. Between 1960 and 1963, he took part in the first edition of the national correspondence chess championship and became the champion of Romania in this discipline. He ranked

third in the European Championship Final, in 1970. In 1976, he became the European correspondence chess champion.

He received the title of Master of Sport in 1976 and of International Master in 1980. In the '80s, he classified among the first four best chess players of the world. He was selected in the national chess team. Over the years, he held 20 friendly chess matches without defeat (15 victories and 5 ties). In 2006, the Mayor's Office from Timișoara awarded engineer Aurel Anton the title of "Citizen of Honour" of the city.



On the 7th of January 2011, chess player Aurel Anton has been awarded the medal "Sports Merit 1st Class", under the Decree no. 1248/2010 of Traian Băsescu, President of Romania. The medal has been handed out by **Mircea Băcală**, the **Prefect of Timiș County**, in the presence of Dr. Eng. Adam Crăciunescu, Vice President of Timiș County Council, and of journalist Francisc Marton.