



Hometown TIMES

"Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress"

Recycling Extravaganza

September 26, 2009

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Belmont Road Train Station, Lot H

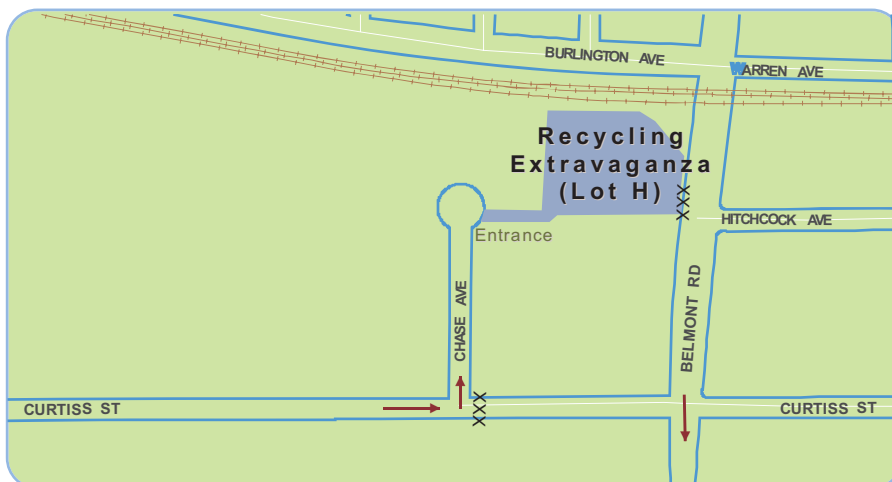
Sponsored by the Downers Grove Park District and Village of Downers Grove



The Recycling Extravaganza is open to residents of DuPage County, not including businesses and not-for-profit organizations. The event is in advance of Amnesty Day (See Page 4) and gives residents an opportunity to donate items that may otherwise end up in a landfill.

Items that will be collected at the event include electronics, dressers, cribs, lead acid batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs, ink jet cartridges, cell phones, American flags, eyeglasses, hearing aids, gently used wheelchairs, walkers and crutches. All items collected will be properly recycled or reused. For a complete list of acceptable items, visit www.downers.us.

Vehicles must enter the Recycling Extravaganza site from Chase Avenue, via eastbound Curtiss Street. Access from Belmont Road and westbound Curtiss Street will be restricted. (See map.) Volunteers will direct traffic in the lot and assist customers dropping off their donations.



**Issue 3
2009**

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www.downers.us

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor
Ron Sandack

Given the state of the economy and the unprecedented challenges we all must endure during these challenging times, this information is dedicated to providing you with a status report on the steps taken by your Village Council and Village staff to methodically and prudently plan for the continued delivery of necessary Village services.

Focus on Expense Reductions Yields Savings

The Village Council and staff take the concept of financial stewardship very seriously, and I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know about the hard work being done throughout the Village organization to reduce expenses in light of declining revenues and rising costs. Initially, it is important to note that since 2007, the Village has reduced expenses in the General Fund, the Village's primary operating fund, by \$2.9 million. (See Table 1 below.)

General Fund Expenses FY 07 to FY 09

	Total Expenses	Expense Reduction
FY 07 actual	\$42.7 million	
FY 08 actual	\$42.2 million	(\$.5 million)
FY 09 estimate	\$39.8 million	(\$2.4 million)

Table 1

Furthermore, the Village is expected to spend \$2.4 million less in both personnel and non-personnel expenses in FY09 than in FY08. (See Table 2 below.)

FY 09 General Fund Expense Reductions

Personnel Expenses	\$1,060,000
Vehicle Fleet Expenses	\$ 210,000
Contractual Services Expenses	\$ 360,000
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 770,000
Total Expense Reduction	\$2,400,000

Table 2

Similar to many private sector companies, the Village implemented a hiring freeze in April 2008 and since that time 18 positions remain unfilled. A voluntary separation program was implemented and resulted in eight retirements last month. That amounts to a total of 26 fewer positions in FY09. In fact, the Village had more employees working in 1996 than presently; approximately 6 more. Additionally, early in the year, a voluntary furlough day program was implemented whereby staff members could commit to any number of unpaid days off. Pay increases were also eliminated for many employees. Because the Village is a service organization, personnel is the largest expenditure in our operating budget. Accordingly, and as noted above, staff and Council have committed to doing more with less and will continue in that spirit going forward.

Staff and Council have also looked at equipment and other assets to try to achieve savings. For example, 11 vehicles were eliminated from the Village fleet, which in conjunction with operational efficiencies, has resulted in a savings of \$210,000. This savings is attributable to the "right-sizing" of the fleet and innovative approaches to fleet maintenance that have lowered costs, which include the use of alternative fuels and an anti-idling policy to reduce fuel consumption.

Solutions for addressing current and future revenue shortfalls brought by the recession have been at the forefront of recent long range financial planning discussions. Since May, there have been six sessions devoted to the development of a Long Range Financial Plan that will be used as a guide for financial decision making, budget preparations and Strategic Plan updates for the next three to five years.

(Continued on page 3.)

Bike Helmets Deliver Sweet Rewards



As an incentive to young cyclists, Downers Grove Police officers will be issuing sweet reward coupons to anyone caught wearing a helmet while riding their bike. The coupons are being generously offered by local businesses that understand the importance of wearing helmets and their impact on safety. Statistics show that wearing a bike helmet reduces the chance of a head injury by 85%.

Thank you to McDonald's at 225 Ogden Ave., Dairy Queen at 6240 Main Street, and the Dunkin Donuts locations at 1931 W. Ogden Ave., 522 Ogden Ave., and 6310 Woodward Ave. for partnering with the Police department to keep kids safe

PD Offers Course in Defensive Driving for Teens

Certified instructors from the Downers Grove Police Department will present the National Safety Council's **Alive at 25** defensive driving course for teens on October 24, 2009 at the Park District Lincoln Center. The four-hour program raises awareness of driving behaviors that increase the chance of being involved in an accident.

According to the National Safety Council, every year, young adult drivers are involved in more than six million collisions, resulting in 14,000 fatalities.

Parents interested in enrolling their teenager in this program should contact the Downers Grove Park District at (630) 963-1300 for details.

If you have questions about the content of the program, please contact Downers Grove Police Department Public Education Manager Marion Heintz at (630) 434-5606.

Stop For Flashing Red Lights at the Tracks

The Downers Grove Police Department reminds motorists they must stop for flashing red lights at all railroad crossings. Once the gates have begun to go up after the passing of a train, all motorists must remain STOPPED until the lights have stopped flashing.

Driving across the railroad tracks while the lights are flashing can result in a traffic citation being issued. The fine for the first offense of disobeying the red flashing lights at a railroad crossing is \$250.00.



Always play it safe and remember to Look, Listen, and Live!

Partners in School Bus Safety

The Downers Grove Police Department and the First Student Bus Company will be working this school year to ensure that motorists in our community know the laws pertaining to school bus safety. Bus drivers will report stop-arm violations to the police for appropriate enforcement. Police officers will aggressively enforce all traffic offenses including failure to stop for school buses and speeding. Motorists should be aware of the following laws that are in place for the safety of the children walking to and from school each day.

- On any two-lane roadway and within school parking lots, all traffic must stop when the school bus has its "STOP" arm extended. On a four-lane roadway, only vehicles traveling the same direction as the bus are required to stop.
- The speed limit in areas posted as "School Zones" is 20 mph on school days from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., when children are present in the area.
- Motorists are required to obey the instructions of adult school crossing guards, so use caution and be prepared to stop.
- Always BUCKLE-UP everyone, on every trip, every time.

Free Child Safety Seat Check



In conjunction with Passport to Safety Day (See page 6.), the Downers Grove Police Department will host a child safety seat check on September 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Puffer School, 2200 Hadow Ave.

Certified child safety seat technicians will inspect for proper installation and fit. In DuPage County, 95% of the safety seats inspected by certified technicians are not installed correctly or being used properly. Please bring the owner's manual for the vehicle.

Visit www.seatcheck.net for additional information on car seats and child safety seat events held in our area.

PUBLIC SAFETY



15th Annual Silent Parade

The Downers Grove Fire Department will conclude Fire Prevention Week by hosting the Silent Parade on Friday, October 9, 2009. The parade pays tribute to all those who have lost their lives to fire and features fire department vehicles from many surrounding villages. All vehicles will display lights only; no sirens will be sounded.

The parade will begin in Hinsdale at 7:00 p.m. and pass through Downers Grove at Main and Maple at approximately 7:15 p.m. People may assemble along Maple Avenue to view the parade and pay tribute by holding a flashlight as the cortege passes.

The night will conclude with a memorial service and tribute to firefighters at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisle, just south of Route 53 and Maple Avenue.

For further information about the parade, contact Fire Department Public Education Officer Marsha Giesler at (630) 434-5986.

Passport to Safety Day

Saturday, September 19, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Downers Grove Park District
Recreation Center
4501 Belmont Rd.



The 7th Annual Passport to Safety Day combines the resources of several public safety agencies in a one-stop event to teach about fire safety, personal safety, emergency preparedness, and injury prevention—all in a fun atmosphere for the entire family.

The first 250 children to attend will receive a Passport to Safety. Firefighters, police officers and other safety officials will sign and stamp passports as children visit each activity station.

Activities and demonstrations include:

- Officer Patti of DG Police Department.
- Freddie, the DG Fire Department's newest little engine.
- DGFDF firefighters will demonstrate their rappelling skills.
- Practice making 9-1-1 calls.
- Kids Pix ID program.
- Spin the "Wheel of Safety."
- The Downers Grove Police Department will conduct child safety seat inspections at nearby Puffer School, 2200 Haddow Avenue. (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)

Fire department vehicles will be on display. Bring your camera for a photo of the kids behind the wheel.

For more information about Passport to Safety Day, call the Downers Grove Fire Department at 434-5986 or 434-5582.

Night at the Firehouse

Wednesday, October 7, 2009
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Station 5, 6701 Main St.



Join us for an exciting, fun, and educational evening with the firefighters at this open house to celebrate National Fire Prevention Week. The public is invited to tour the station and get a glimpse of life behind the scenes of Station 5.

Firefighters will demonstrate automobile extrication, rappelling, and the thermal imaging cameras used to locate people in a fire, as well as detect fire behind walls. A protective gear "fashion show" will feature the various types of apparel worn in emergency situations. Plus, Freddie, the junior fire engine, will be on hand for a visit. Don't miss the side-by-side room burn to demonstrate the effectiveness of smoke alarms and residential sprinklers.

For more information, call the Fire Department at (630) 434-5986 or (630) 434-5582.

(Mayor's Message continued...)

All of these cost savings steps aside, the Village is still faced with closing a projected \$4.5 million gap in the 2010 General Fund, as well as the continued erosion of sales tax and other revenue in subsequent years. A three-year plan featuring a balanced mix of expense reductions and revenue enhancements is being considered. The strategic concepts being discussed include:

- Implementing operating efficiencies to provide existing services at or near current levels, but at reduced costs.
- Enhancements to the Village's revenue base.
- Reduce/eliminate Village Services.
- Reduce/eliminate Village funding programs.
- Reduce/eliminate Village events.
- Increase/enhance property tax revenue.
- Increase/enhance other revenue sources including increasing existing revenue sources and introducing new revenue sources.

In sum, the Council and staff are looking at this challenge from every angle and nothing is off the table or taboo. I think you'll agree that if applied in a coordinated and equitable manner, these strategies offer a well balanced approach to address the current and future financial needs of the Village, while still assuring that essential core Village services are delivered in an efficient manner.

The Village Council and staff continue to monitor expenses and look for innovative ways to reduce costs, including looking at novel service consolidation opportunities with other governing partners. I encourage everyone to visit the Village website at www.downers.us to find out more about the Village's significant expense reduction activities and the very productive Long Range Financial Planning Process undertaken thus far. Your participation at the 2010 Budget Workshop on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at Fire Station 2 is also warmly welcomed.

Best regards.

Taste of Downers Grove

Thursday, September 17, 2009

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

I-355 and Butterfield, near Carlucci's.

Taste, Eat, Repeat!
**Taste of
Downers Grove**

The Downers Grove Hospitality Alliance presents the 2nd Annual Taste of Downers Grove. The event will feature a variety of sample-sized dishes from several Downers Grove dining establishments, plus live music and more. Stop by after work and enjoy some time out with your friends.

For more information and a list of participating vendors, visit www.visitdownersgrove.com or call (630) 729-0380.



Happy Halloween



Beware of little ghosts and goblins knocking at your door. The Downers Grove Police Department offers the following tips for a happy, not haunted, holiday.

Trick-or-Treating Hours

Trick-or-Treating in the Village will be on Saturday, October 31, 2009. While there are no mandated hours, the Police Department recommends activity begin no earlier than Noon and cease when daylight hours end.

Safety

- Kids should trick-or-treat with parents or in groups—never alone.
- Wear light colored or reflective clothing. Masks should not obstruct vision.
- Carry a flashlight after dark.
- Stay on sidewalks and never walk in the street.
- Cross streets carefully and always at corners—no jaywalking.
- Limit trick-or-treating to your immediate neighborhood.
- Trick-or-treat only at homes where outside lights are on.
- Only accept treats that are wrapped and securely sealed.
- Parents, check your child's treats before eating.
- Vandalism is a crime. Halloween is not an excuse to damage or destroy someone else's property.

Curfew

Curfew prohibits anyone under 17 years of age to be on the street after 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and midnight on Friday and Saturday.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

Amnesty Day

Amnesty Day will be during the week of September 28 – October 2, 2009 for residents of **incorporated** Downers Grove on your regularly scheduled pick up day. The program **excludes** multi-family buildings and commercial buildings.

The following rules apply:

- **The first three (3) bags or cans must each be tagged with a refuse sticker.** (If a resident rents a cart from ARC Disposal, they do not need the three stickers.) Remaining items will be removed free of charge. (*See exceptions.*)
- Bulk items such as couches, chairs, lamps, bicycles, etc. are acceptable.
- With the exception of bulk items, **all materials must be in a container and adhere to size/weight restrictions currently in place i.e., 33-gallon containers not exceeding 50 pounds in weight.**
- Construction material is limited to two cubic yards (equivalent to about eight, 33-gallon-sized cans).

EXCEPTIONS

- Items that will not be accepted are tires, used motor oil, white goods (appliances), any liquids, paints or household hazardous waste.
- **Yard waste** is not included in Amnesty Day and must be stickered.

If you have any questions about Amnesty Day, call the Village at (630) 434-5500 or ARC Disposal at (847) 981-0091.

Village Discontinues Leaf Subsidy

The Village will discontinue the subsidized Leaf Collection Program this fall. The move helps to address a revenue shortfall within the Village's 2009 budget due to the slowing economy and subsequent reductions in several major revenue sources.

The optional program was first introduced to residents last fall as a result of a new three-year contract with ARC Disposal that took effect April 1, 2008. Leaves were collected for a six-week period between October and December without the use of a sticker at an annual Village subsidy of \$140,000.

As in years prior to the Leaf Collection Program, leaves are considered yard waste and are subject to the following guidelines listed on the Village website, **www.downers.us**.

Yard waste must be placed in one of the following:

- 33-gallon biodegradable paper bag
- 33-gallon unlined can
- ARC yard waste cart.

Bags or cans may not weigh more than **50 pounds**. Carts or cans used for yard waste must be clearly marked as such. Contact Village Hall for free **YARD WASTE ONLY** decals.

- Brush and tree branches may not exceed 4 feet in length and 5 inches in diameter and must be bundled together with jute twine or uncoated string. Bundles may not exceed 2 feet in diameter, 4 feet in length, and 50 pounds in weight.
- A garbage/yard waste sticker must be attached to each bag, can or bundle.

Leaf volume can easily be reduced by mowing over them prior to bagging. The ratio of bags to leaves is reduced by seven to one, thereby saving residents money on sticker costs. Leaves also make an excellent addition to any compost.

Please remember that it is against Village ordinance to burn leaves or to rake them into the street.

Residents with questions about yard waste collection may call the Community Response Center at (630) 434-CALL (2255) or send an email to **crc@downers.us**.

Shutterbugs Aim Focus on Downers Grove



First Place
Kate Skegg

Photo buffs were asked to submit original photos capturing the spirit of the Downers Grove community throughout the year and at special events, such as Heritage Festival and the July 4 Parade. Submitted photos will be kept on file and may be used in upcoming publications, promotions or advertising featuring the Village of Downers Grove.

The Village of Downers Grove and Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation announced the winners of their recent photo contest at the Village Council meeting on July 21, 2009.

Kate Skegg of Downers Grove took the first prize of \$200 for her photo outside the Main Street Train Station. **Josh Merrill** and **Maren Huber** rounded out the top three. Honorable Mentions were awarded to **Leo Boggs**, **Barb Tamburello** and **Janice McCrimmon**.



Second Place
Josh Merrill



Third Place
Maren Huber

BARKAPALOOZA WALKATHON & PET EXPO
September 27, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
55th St. and Grand Ave.,
Downers Grove
West Suburban Humane Society
Admission: \$10
(630) 960-9600
www.wshs-dg.org

HARVEST SALE DAYS
October 1-3, 2009
Downtown Downers Grove
(630) 725-0991
www.downtowndg.org

HALLOWEEN WINDOW PAINTING
October 24, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Downtown Downers Grove
(630) 725-0001
www.downtowndg.org

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE
October 25, 2009
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Downtown Downers Grove
(630) 725-0001
www.downtowndg.org

THE NUTCRACKER
November 14-15 / 21-22, 2009
Tivoli Theatre
5021 Highland Ave.
1:30 p.m.
Midwest Ballet Theatre
Admission: \$11-\$15
(630) 971-9751
www.midwestballet.org

REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

FALL BACK

Don't forget to turn your clock back one hour before turning in on Saturday, October 31. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on November 1.

CHANGE THE CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY!

The Downers Grove Fire Department recommends you change the battery in all smoke detectors in your home when you change the time. A working smoke detector more than doubles your chances of surviving a home fire.

New Businesses

CANDY BEAR LANE
5221 Main Street
630-515-1077

**FARMERS INSURANCE,
THE WILLIAMS AGENCY**
5120 Forest Ave.
Suite 1A
630-541-7383
Insurance Agency

FITZ AND TALLON
1001 Maple Ave.
630-910-5533
Attorneys at Law

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RUELLE SALON
5224 Main Street
630-324-6332
Salon

**STABLE INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT**
5201 WASHINGTON,
SUITE 4
630-964-0303
Financial Services

SOS GRAFIX
5151 Mochel Drive
Suite 202
630.737.0136

IS YOUR BUSINESS THE NEW KID IN TOWN? If so, Hometown Times wants to hear from you. For more details, contact Printing and Publications at (630) 434-5556. New businesses are published as a service, not as an endorsement by the Village.



www.downers.us

801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mayor Ron Sandack
Commissioners

**Marilyn Schnell, William Waldack,
Sean Patrick Durkin, Geoff Neustadt,
Bruce E. Beckman, Robert Barnett**

Council Workshops 2nd & 4th Tues.-7:00 pm
Council Meetings 1st & 3rd Tues.-7:00 pm
Fire, Medical or Police Emergency 9-1-1
Village Hall 1.630.434.5500
Communications Department 1.630.434.5550
Community Response Center 1.630.434-CALL (2255)
TDD 1.630.434.5511

Village Hall Hours

Tues. 8:00 am to 7:00 pm

Mon. and Wed. through Fri. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

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