



# Hometown TIMES

*"Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress"*

## Recycling Extravaganza



**Issue 3  
2011**

The Village of Downers Grove and the Downers Grove Park District will host a Recycling Extravaganza on **Saturday, September 24, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Public Works Facility, 5101 Walnut Avenue. This event is open to residents of DuPage County and does not include businesses or not-for-profit organizations.

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Vehicles must enter the Recycling Extravaganza site from Curtiss Street, via northbound Walnut Avenue. Access from westbound Curtiss Street and southbound Walnut Avenue will be restricted. Volunteers will direct traffic in the lot and assist customers dropping off their donations.

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### Reminders

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the Recycling Extravaganza, especially for the following reasons:

- **As of January 1, 2012: TVs, computers (and laptops), monitors, printers, computer peripherals, VCRs/DVD players, gaming systems, MP3 players and other electronic items will be banned from Illinois landfills.**
- **There is no Amnesty Day in 2011.** The current contract with Republic Services that went into effect on April 1, 2011, includes one Amnesty Day, tentatively scheduled between April 1, 2013 and March 30, 2014.

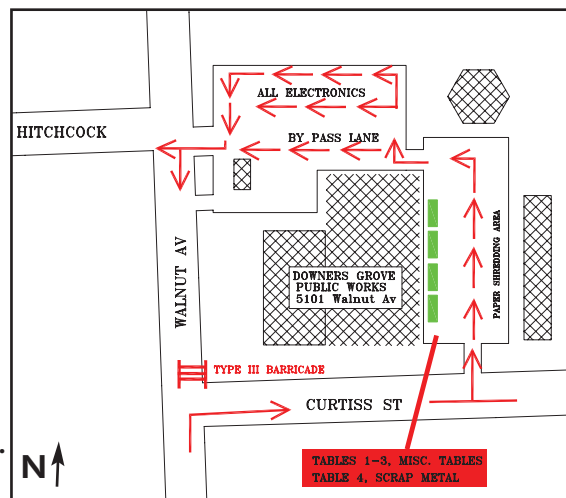
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### Items Accepted

- Lead acid batteries: automotive size battery cores – car, boat, truck, motorcycle, computer, sump pump
- Electronics: Large and small electronics, household batteries, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, cameras, computers, laptops, copiers, cords, discs, electric typewriters, fax/adding machines, hard drives, key boards, mice, monitors, PDAs, printers, scanners, small kitchen appliances, radios, speakers, stereos, telephones, zip drives, hair dryers, and more.
- Propane tanks
- Scrap metal
- Bicycles, in any condition
- Wheel chairs
- Ink cartridges

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[www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us)

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Recently, I had the opportunity to tour Village facilities with Congresswoman Judy Biggert to review several innovations in environmental sustainability projects. Together with Village staff, we saw the solar and wind powered street lights in the Prentiss Creek Neighborhood, the energy efficient lighting in the Downtown Parking Deck, the newly installed solar heating panels in the Fleet Maintenance Building, and a system used to convert vegetable oil to biodiesel fuel.



Since the Recycling Extravaganza, now in its 4th year, is our front page story, I'd like to touch on some of these projects that by design have a positive impact on the environment, as well as the Village's bottom line. Environmental sustainability is

important to the Village of Downers Grove and being a *Steward of Financial and Environmental Sustainability* is a

high priority on the list of goals for 2011-2018.



*Congresswoman Judy Biggert discusses alternative fuels with Larry Humphries, Fleet Services Manager.*

A number of the sustainability measures that have been put into practice with an eye towards environmental responsibility and cost reductions involve fleet operations. While many cities are starting to invest in alternative fuels, few can match Downers Grove in having more than 77% of the fleet utilizing alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs).

AFVs save money in the form of lower fuel and maintenance costs. In addition, use of multiple fuels has reduced our reliance on foreign oil and on any single type of fuel. Of the 206 vehicles in the fleet 151 run on alternative fuel including compressed natural gas, E-85, B-20 bio diesel and hybrid electric/fuel power. The implementation of our "green fleet" has decreased fuel consumption by 33,000 gallons since 2007, which is equivalent to a savings of \$85,000.



*Used Cooking Oil*

This year, the Village began a pilot program to accept used motor oil and transmission fluid which will be used to heat the fleet services garage during the winter months. Used cooking oil is also being accepted to be filtered and used in the Village's diesel engines. Taking the term biodiesel to new levels, Downers Grove is one of the few municipalities in Illinois to begin converting waste into useable resources. To date, over 300 gallons of used motor oil and 60 gallons of cooking grease have been collected and disposed of in a way that is friendly to the environment. More information regarding where and when to drop off liquids for recycling is available by calling Village Hall at 630.434.5500 or on the website at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us).

Activities related to the diversion of material from the waste stream are a prominent feature of the Village's sustainability efforts. As I mentioned, the Village will be conducting the Recycling Extravaganza again this year to further minimize our community's impact on area landfills. It is important to note that a new State law will prohibit the disposal of electronics in landfills as of January 1, 2012.

To lessen the impact of changes in waste disposal options, the Village is establishing a permanent monthly electronics recycling drop-off location for launch later this year. Details are being finalized and will be coming soon. Until then, participating in this year's recycling event is still the best way to go. Among the items collected in 2010 were 20,000 pounds of paper, 600 pairs of eye glasses, 109,000 pounds of electronics, 159 American flags and 128 fire extinguishers.

The Village continues to seek partnerships and grant opportunities to help offset the costs of sustainability projects for 2011 and beyond. In fact, since 2009 the Village has been awarded over \$400,000 in Energy Efficiency Grants. These and other achievements in environmental sustainability are due in part to the efforts of Village staff and the Environmental Concerns Commission, as well as partnerships with organizations such as SCARCE, The Conservation Foundation, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy. Complete details on Village environmental sustainability activities are provided in the *Sustainability Best Practices Annual Report* at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us).

*Mart T. Tully*

## Village Considering Stormwater Utility



Washington Park Detention Area

The Village has investigated the formation of a stormwater utility since 2003, at which time an exploratory committee was formed. Recently, the Village hired Municipal and Financial Services Group (M&FSG), a firm with expertise in the financial needs of municipalities, to complete a stormwater utility study. The study will review all aspects of a stormwater utility and include specific recommendations for the Village to consider.

As with water and sewer systems, the stormwater system consists of a significant amount of infrastructure. Stormwater is the run-off that originates from precipitation (i.e. rainstorms and melting snow) and other activities such as car washing and sidewalk cleaning. Water that does not soak into the ground due to impervious surfaces becomes run-off and either flows directly into surface waterways or is channeled into storm sewers, which eventually discharge into local water bodies.

Similar to the Village's existing water utility, managing stormwater as a utility is a way to fund the cost of municipal stormwater management services. Residents and businesses would be charged a utility fee for the stormwater services provided, based on the amount of impervious surface on their property. Revenues collected would be used solely for stormwater management expenses, including system maintenance and improvements.

Several communities in Illinois have implemented a stormwater utility including Aurora, Highland Park, and Rolling Meadows, with additional municipalities currently considering the model. There are a number of benefits to a stormwater utility:

- Provides a dependable revenue stream that allows for proactive management of the system.
- Provides improved equity among residents and businesses as the fee is based on stormwater contribution, rather than property value.
- Provides for fiscal accountability with fees driven by needs of the system.

### Meeting Schedule

The Village's consultant, M&FSG, will be providing findings and recommendations at Village Council meetings on October 4 and October 18, 2011. Information from these and previous meetings will be posted on the Village website, [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us).

Use the search term **stormwater utility**.



## 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 Monday, October 31, 2011. While there are no mandated hours, the Police Department recommends trick-or-treating during daylight hours.

### 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.

## Living with Coyotes

Coyotes are a common wild animal in northern Illinois. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources estimates there are more than 30,000 coyotes in Illinois. They are extremely adaptable and may reside in different habitats; they do occasionally enter residential neighborhoods.

### What do coyotes look like?

Coyotes, which are part of the dog family, have pointed ears, yellow eyes, a slender muzzle and a drooping bushy tail with a black tip. They are usually a grayish brown with reddish-colored fur behind the ears and around the face. A study by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County reports that coyotes in DuPage County average about 25 pounds, though their heavy coats may make them look larger.



### What to do if you encounter a coyote

- If you encounter a coyote, shout, or clap; do not turn your back or run. Acting aggressively helps re-instill a fear of humans in coyotes.
- Although unlikely, should you encounter aggressive behavior in a coyote, throw clumps of dirt or sticks on the ground near the coyote.
- Anyone can call 9-1-1 if they observe any wild animal behaving in a threatening manner. Police officers will respond.

### Typical coyote behavior

- Coyotes live in prairies, brushy areas and wooded edges, but not in heavily wooded areas. They often live or travel along waterways.
- While many coyotes live in packs, they usually travel and hunt alone. If you see a coyote, it will usually be alone.
- Coyotes are nocturnal animals, but they may be visible during the day, especially in the summer.
- Coyotes typically mate in February or early spring. During mating season, coyotes – especially males – may be more visible. It is especially important to keep pets on a leash during this time.

### What do coyotes eat?

A coyote's diet mainly consists of small rodents, deer, rabbits and fruit. However, they will take advantage of the most available prey. They can be attracted to garbage and pet food. Coyotes can also be attracted to birdfeeders because the birdfeeders attract rodents and squirrels.

### How to Deter Coyotes

Coyotes can become a nuisance when they have easy access to food in residential areas, such as pet food or garbage. To discourage their presence:

- DO NOT feed or provide water for coyotes or other wildlife.
- Feed pets indoors or promptly remove dishes when pets complete their meal outside. Store bags of pet food indoors.
- Clear brush and dense weeds from around property. This deprives rodents of shelter and reduces protective cover for coyotes.
- Use trash barrels equipped with tight clamping devices on the lids, which will prevent spills should they be tipped over by large animals.

### How to Protect Pets

- Keep small pets (cats, rabbits, small dogs) indoors. Don't allow them to run free at any time.
- Dogs should be brought inside after dark and never allowed to run loose. This is especially important during mating season, which is February through April.

# Remember, Prepare and Plan with your Family

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

## A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare.

**Did You Know?**

- Only 57% of people report that they have readiness items set aside in their homes for use in disaster
- Just 34% of people have readiness supplies in their car
- Less than half of households have an Emergency Plan and yet...
- 42% of individuals report that they would need help during a disaster

Preparedness is everyone's responsibility.  
**Are you Ready?**

To learn more about how you, your family, your business and your community can prepare for emergencies and get involved, please visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) or call 1-800-BE-READY, TTY 1-800-462-7585

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**Village of DOWNERS GROVE**  
COMMUNITY CENTER

**NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

September 2011 | [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)

This September, our nation will mark the ten year anniversary of 9/11, remembering those lost, honoring our first responders, and renewing our commitment to prepare and plan for emergencies. September is also National Preparedness Month, founded after 9/11 to increase preparedness in the United States.

If you've seen the news recently, you know that emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere, in communities just like Downers Grove. In times of crisis, it is important to be self-sufficient as police, fire, and rescue may not always be able to reach you quickly, such as if trees or power lines are down or if they're overwhelmed by demand from the emergency.

"Preparedness is a shared responsibility and it takes a whole community," said Mary Scalzetti, Village of Downers Grove Emergency Management Coordinator. "All households are strongly advised to prepare for an event that includes the loss of electricity, water service, access to a supermarket and local services for a few days."

**Follow these three simple steps to begin your preparations.**

## Get a Kit

Keep enough emergency supplies on hand for your family for at least three days—water (one gallon, per person, per day), non-perishable food, first aid supplies, prescriptions, flashlight, and a battery powered radio. If you own a pet, remember to include their food and supplies in your kit.

## Make a Plan

Be sure everyone in the family understands where to go and what to do in case of an emergency. Establish responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.

- **Designate two locations to meet** in case it is impossible to return home or if you have to evacuate; one near your home and one outside of the neighborhood. Make sure your family knows the address and phone number of both locations.
- **Designate an out-of-area contact person.** This person should be far enough away that it is unlikely he or she would be affected by the same emergency. Family members should call this person to report their locations if they cannot reach each other. Provide your contact person with important names and numbers so he or she can assist in keeping others posted on your situation. Create a communications card for each member of your household to keep with them at all times.

## Be Informed

- Discuss with your family the types of disasters that can happen where you live.
- Visit **Ready.gov** or **ready.illinois.gov** to find preparedness information.
- It's also a good time to update information the Village has on file for the Community Wide Notification System. The system is used to communicate important messages in the public interest of both of emergency and non-emergency natures.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to register additional devices (up to three phone numbers and two email addresses) by which to be contacted. To add or change information, visit [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us) and click on "Community Wide Notification" or call the Community Response Center at (630) 434-2255.

For more emergency preparedness information and planning tools, visit **[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)**



## 17th Annual Silent Parade

The Downers Grove Fire Department will conclude Fire Prevention Week by hosting the Silent Parade on Friday, October 14, 2011. 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 or Gina Barr at (630) 434-5990.

## Firefighters Perfect Skills at Residential Training



What were you doing on those hot, humid days of summer? The Downers Grove Fire Department was suiting up and honing their firefighting skills at a vacant house at 2nd Street and Cumnor Road. The house, which was later demolished, served as an ideal setting to practice various fire and life-saving scenarios.

Residents may have observed multiple fire department vehicles staged along the street, firefighters dragging charged hose lines, and dark smoke billowing from the structure. From all outward appearances, a serious fire was consuming the residence, but the Fire Department was actually conducting live fire training drills.

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## Night at the Firehouse

Wednesday, October 12, 2011  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Station 5, 6701 Main Street

In celebration and recognition of National Fire Prevention Week, the Downers Grove Fire Department will open its doors to the public to experience a "Night at the Firehouse!"



Take a station tour, see demonstrations of automobile extrication and rescue techniques, and get acquainted with the various uniforms and protective apparel worn by firefighters in a variety of emergency situations during the "Firefighter Fashion Show." This year, firefighters will demonstrate the use of thermal imaging cameras in locating fires and victims behind walls.

"Freddie" the robot fire truck will be on hand to visit with families, the fire safety trailer will be operating to help children practice escaping from fires, and children can practice making 9-1-1 calls with Downers Grove emergency dispatchers.

Learn what you need to do to keep your family prepared and safe in the event of natural disasters. Parents can visit with the firefighters and learn how to keep their families safe from fire and other unintentional injuries common to children.

Join us for an exciting, fun, and educational evening. Plenty of firefighters will be on hand to teach how to keep your home safe!

### ***(Recycling Extravaganza continued from cover)***

- Cell phones and accessories
- Buttons (from clothing)
- Rulers
- American Flags
- Keys
- PAPER SHREDDING: Will accept personal documents for shredding. Limit of 2 boxes of paper per vehicle.

### **Items NOT Accepted**

- Refrigerators and large household appliances
- Air conditioners
- Smoke alarms
- Light bulbs (fluorescent or incandescent)
- Thermostats
- Paint of any kind
- Household hazardous waste such as cleaning agents, chemicals

## **Don't Drive in a School Daze**

School is again in session. The Downers Grove Police Department wants to remind our motorists to use caution when driving near schools, bus stops, and anywhere children may be walking near the road. Officers will be closely monitoring the schools and school walking routes in our community.



- Motorists may not use a cell phone when driving in a posted school zone.
- 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 penalty for the first offense of passing a stopped school bus is a \$150.00 fine and a 90-day suspension of driving privileges.
- 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. The minimum fine for this traffic offense is \$150.00.
- When driving near schools, be alert for school adult crossing guards and student patrols that may be assisting children crossing the street. 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.

### ***(Firefighters Perfect Skills at Residential Training Continued from page 6)***

After obtaining all necessary permits and days of labor intensive preparation by the firefighters, the vacant home was ready to serve as a hands-on, realistic training site for the firefighters.

Each shift was able to gain practical experience in self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) operations which included crawling through mazes set up inside the building to gain familiarity and confidence with SCBA equipment in difficult situations. The training also included:

- Hose operations to practice advancing hose lines through structures around obstacles;
- Ventilation operations by cutting holes in the roof;
- Ladder operations to place ladders to windows and roofs;
- Climbing ladders and entering windows.

Firefighters were required to perform rescue operations by carrying simulated victims, including injured firefighters, down ladders after removing them from windows. This exercise included finding "victims" inside of a building while wearing blacked-out masks and then removing the "victims" through doorways. And, of course, the firefighters honed their skills by fighting actual "live fires" inside the building.

# REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

## LEAF REMINDERS

Leaves are considered yard waste and are subject to the following guidelines:

Yard waste must be placed in one of the following:

- 33-gallon biodegradable paper bag
- 33-gallon unlined can
- Republic 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. Please mark any yard waste containers on the outside as **YARD WASTE**, or contact the Village for a decal.

- 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.

## New Businesses

**JESSIE KAUFMAN FOOD AND PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY**  
5748 WALNUT AVENUE  
331-481-9424  
INFO@JESSIEKAUFMAN.COM  
WWW.JESSIEKAUFMAN.COM

**LET'S LEARN**  
1310 W 75TH STREET  
630.968.9999  
WWW.LETSLEARN.COM

**TKDA**  
ENGINEERING ARCHITECTURE PLANNING  
5151 MOCHEL DRIVE #205  
630-499-4110  
WWW.TKDA.COM

**A WOMAN'S PLACE, INC.**  
2222 MAPLE AVENUE  
630-548-9346  
AWOMANSPLACENAPERVILLE.COM

**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.

## FALL BACK

Don't forget to turn the clock back one hour before turning in on Saturday, November 5. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on November 6, 2011.

## CHANGE THE CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY!

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



[www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us)

801 Burlington Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mayor Martin T. Tully  
Commissioners

Marilyn Schnell, William Waldack,  
Sean Patrick Durkin, Geoff Neustadt,  
Robert T. Barnett, Becky Rheintgen

Council Meetings 1st, 2nd & 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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