

Be Green Year-Round

Hometown TIMES

"Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress"

Recycle Christmas Lights

Don't throw away your tangled, frayed or burned-out Christmas lights this year!

In support of the Strategic Plan goal to be "green" mindful and sustainable, the Village will offer recycling of Christmas tree lights and extension cords. A receptacle will be available at the Public Works Facility, 5101 Walnut Avenue through February 18, 2011. Items may be dropped off during business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Acceptable items are:

- Mini-lights (also known as Italian lights)
- C7 lights
- C9 lights
- Rope lights
- LED lights
- Extension cords



Issue 4 2010

**Council
Adopts FY11
Budget
Page 4**

**Snow
Removal
Plan
Page 6**

**Water Rate
Increase
Page 7**

Christmas Tree Recycling

The Downers Grove Park District is hosting a Christmas Tree Recycling program for residents. Drop-off locations include Whitlock Park on Sunday, January 2, and McCollum Park on Saturday, January 8, 2011. Both drop-off locations will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., depending on the weather. Trees will be chipped on site and residents may take their tree mulch with them, in their own container. For more information, contact the Park District Forester at 630-963-1304.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor
Ron Sandack

I am taking this opportunity to share with you the many accomplishments and professional accolades received by the Village this year. I do this to shine a deserved light on our Village staff that continues to work so hard these days, ever mindful of the difficult economic times we face, yet cognizant of the need to do more with less. Despite these challenging economic conditions, the unwavering commitment to financial stewardship, innovative thinking and good customer service continues to resonate throughout the Village organization, which inures to the collective benefit of our community.

For starters, the implementation of our Long Range Financial Plan (LRFP) which helped close a \$4.5 million structural budget gap in 2010, received the 2010 *Outstanding Community Project Award* from the Illinois Association of Municipal Management Assistants. Now in its second year, our LRFP strategies were used to deliver a balanced 2011 General Fund Budget with no service level changes. This is an outstanding example of good financial stewardship in action.

The Village was also recognized with a *Technical Innovation Award* by the American Public Works Association for our Prentiss Creek Hybrid Street Light Project. This solar and wind powered street lighting system in the Prentiss Creek subdivision, near Woodward Avenue and Oxnard Street, is the first of its kind in the United States. The impetus for installing this system was a request by the Prentiss Creek Homeowners Association for street lights. The environmentally-friendly solution achieved is a great example of staff responding to the needs of our residents with a highly innovative and cost-effective solution. The \$282,500 project was partially funded through a Community Development Block Grant covering 45% of the total cost.

As 2010 comes to a close, I'd like to thank my Council colleagues and the Village staff for their terrific efforts and good works and for positioning Downers Grove as a recognized leader in municipal government. I feel especially good that we have made fiscally responsible decisions which will keep our Village financially sustainable for the foreseeable future. And as you may know, some of the recognition we have collectively achieved has offered other opportunities. In fact, late last month I was appointed to serve as the state senator for the 21st district, serving a portion of our Village and other municipalities. This appointment demonstrates that our Village's influence and leadership has been noticed by others and offers me the unique opportunity to serve my community in a whole new way. Rest assured I will continue to serve out my term until the next mayor and council are elected in April 2011.

Here's hoping you have a safe, relaxing and memorable holiday season. And here's to a healthy and prosperous year for our entire community. Godspeed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Sandack". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Please enjoy reading the awards and accolades list below:

Illinois Association of Municipal Management Assistants (IAMMA) Outstanding Project Award – IAMMA recently awarded the Village their 2010 Outstanding Community Project Award for the Long Range Financial Plan.

Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award – The Village received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

State of Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge – The Downers Grove Police Department was selected as the top agency in the State of Illinois for Pedestrian and Bike Safety in the 2009 Illinois Traffic Challenge, which recognizes law enforcement agencies for their efforts in addressing traffic safety issues.

International Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Award - The Downers Grove Police Department was awarded the 2009/2010 National Law Enforcement Challenge Top Municipal Agency with 76 to 100 sworn officers for their overall approach to traffic safety.

American Public Works Association (APWA) Technical Innovation Award – The Chicago Chapter of the APWA recognized the Prentiss Creek solar and wind powered streetlights with their Technical Innovation Award.

APWA End Loader Competition – Public Works employee Randy Somersett won the APWA end loader competition during National Public Works Week.

Alliance for Innovation Recognition of Employee Engagement Efforts – In April, Village Manager Dave Fieldman and Deputy Manager Mike Baker participated in a webinar hosted by the Alliance for Innovation to discuss the Village's efforts to enhance employee outreach, leading to creative and innovative idea generation.

Northern Illinois University Intern Supervisor of the Year – NIU recently named Deputy Manager Mike Baker as the Intern Supervisor of the Year. Mike was asked to lead a discussion regarding effective selection and engagement of management interns.

International Recognition – Public Works officials from Australia visited Downers Grove during their United States visit to attend the International Public Works Conference in Boston. They expressed an interest in seeing our "non-powered" (hybrid) streetlights, which gained much recognition. Staff showed them some of the highlights of our operation as well.

Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association "Best Planning Tool" Award – The Community Mapping Tool used to identify locations and issues online during the Total Community Development (TCD3) process earned top honors for "Best Planning Tool" from the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Illinois Metropolitan Enforcement Group Director's Award – Police Officer James McGreal has been selected to receive an Illinois MEG Director's Award in recognition of his outstanding investigative skills.

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Award – The Washington Park Storm Water Improvement project constructed by the Village of Downers Grove was selected as the recipient of the 2010 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Illinois Section Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award.

National Recognition in Fire Education

Fire Department Community Education Officer Marsha Giesler authored a text book, *Fire and Life Safety Educator*, to train other fire service personnel and civilians in the discipline of community fire safety and injury prevention education. The book is the first of its kind in the field.



Illinois Crime Prevention Officer of the Year 2010

This honor was awarded to Crime Prevention Specialist Mary Wennerstrom.

Professional Leadership

Deputy Fire Chief Rich Mikel recently earned the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designation from the Commission on Professional Credentialing.



International Reach

Firefighter Mike Collins and Training and Safety Chief Patrick Hardin volunteered for ten days in Brazil to train firefighters in search and rescue techniques in collapsed structures.



Village Council Adopts FY11 Budget

On November 9, 2010 the Village Council adopted the 2011 Municipal Budget (FY11 Budget), including the Community Investment Program. This is the second annual budget prepared per the recommendations of the 2011-2013 Long Range Financial Plan, designed to strategically address financial challenges in a fiscally responsible manner.

In 2010, significant changes to the Village's budget and operations were made to address a substantial structural gap with expenses out-pacing revenues. Changes included reductions and eliminations of Village services and programs, voluntary and involuntary staffing reductions and revenue enhancements. In fact, since 2008 the Village has eliminated the equivalent of 45 full-time staff positions. As a result of these appropriate actions being taken, the Village is well-positioned for a successful FY11 and good financial health in the coming years.

The FY11 budget reflects the continued challenging economic conditions affecting nearly all municipalities throughout the country and achieves three primary goals:

1. A balanced General Fund (the Village's main operating fund) with revenues equal to expenses and no changes to service levels.
2. Continued investment in needed infrastructure improvements using funds from dedicated revenue sources.
3. Implementation of the recommendations of the Water Rate Study report (see page 7).

General Fund Expenses

There are three key expense reductions reflected in the budget and summarized below. If these expense reduction initiatives were not undertaken, the total expenses in the General Fund would be \$2.4 million higher.

Consolidated Dispatch with Westmont

Expenses for 2011 will be reduced significantly by partnering with Westmont to jointly operate emergency dispatch services from our Village Operation Center (VOC) This project improves operating efficiencies for both Downers Grove and Westmont, maintains service levels and reduces annual Village expenses. The FY11 budget assumes that joint dispatch operations will commence in mid-2011 and shows a net expense reduction of **\$225,000**.

Staff Reductions Via Attrition

Personnel expenses have been cut by reducing the amount of staff. In 2010, staff continued with the process of filling only essential vacancies. In total, 11.75 positions are currently vacant and have been eliminated in the FY11 budget. The elimination of these positions results in an expense reduction of approximately **\$880,000** in the General Fund.

Health Care Provider Network

Personnel expenses will also be reduced by changing health care provider networks. The change in networks will reduce annual expenses in the General Fund by approximately **\$1,300,000**.

General Fund Revenues

Total General Fund revenues are budgeted to be \$40.07 million, approximately \$600,000 more than the FY10 budget. Since 2007, many General Fund revenue sources have been declining or have remained flat including revenue from sales tax, utility taxes and state income tax. Fines and hotel tax are the same or less than the amount budgeted in FY10 and the base upon which Home Rule sales tax is collected is also budgeted to decline. These trends are expected to continue, resulting in an estimated loss of just over \$4.0 million in revenue.

While the total municipal budget relies on a number of sources of revenue, the property tax levy, which accounts for 26.8% of the General Fund budget, is a crucial source of revenue for the provision of police, fire and emergency services. To adequately maintain these and other services, the property tax levy adopted by the Village Council on December 14, 2010 was increased by \$898,391 compared to last year's levy. The increase to the levy for operations accounts for \$500,000. Mandatory contributions, per State law, to Police and Fire Pension Funds account for \$398,391.

The Village portion of the property tax is expected to increase by \$29.40 per year for a typical home valued at \$300,000. It is important to note that the Village portion of the tax bill is generally about 10% of your total bill.

Infrastructure Investment

The FY11 budget calls for the continued investment in Village infrastructure including key components such as streets, sidewalks, and stormwater facilities. The major dedicated revenue sources for this investment include Home Rule sales tax, property tax, motor fuel tax, and telecommunications tax.

Streets – The budget includes \$5.0 million for improvements to the Village's streets, most of which will be used for street maintenance activities.

Stormwater – The budget includes \$11.2 million for the improvements to and maintenance of the Village's stormwater infrastructure system. This is part of a multi-year effort to improve the public stormwater system known as the Watershed Infrastructure Improvement Plan.

Sidewalks – The budget includes \$280,000 for the construction of new sidewalks and \$174,000 for the maintenance of existing sidewalks.

Implementation of Water Rate Study Recommendations

In 2010 the Village completed a water rate study to review current and future water rates to ensure adequate funding for current operations, maintenance, and future capital maintenance and improvements.

Due to a decline in water sales, the age of the current water system and the projected need for significant future capital projects, the report recommends an increase in water rates in 2011. The increase in the water rates along with the implementation of the other recommendations in the report will allow the Village to continue to operate and maintain the water system in a sustainable manner. (See Water Rate story on page 7)

The complete FY11 budget and Long Range Financial Plan are available on the Village website at www.downers.us. Hard copies are also available at the Downers Grove Public Library.

Holiday Recycling

*Ribbons and bows cannot be recycled because they aren't paper products.

Brown paper, the kind used for packages tied up with string, is on the nice list. The blue satin sashes? Not so much.

What can be recycled when it comes to holiday materials? Republic Services has compiled their own nice/naughty list for the season.

NICE (recyclable)

- Gift boxes
- Tissue paper
- Shoe boxes (consider reusing)
- Holiday cards/envelopes
- Gift bags (if paper)
- Wrapping paper (also consider reusing)

NAUGHTY (not recyclable)

- Bubble wrap (consider reusing)
- Foam peanuts
- * Ribbon and bows
- Sticky gift labels
- Gift bags if coated, laminated or dyed

*Ribbons and bows cannot be recycled because they aren't paper products.

There are creative and practical ways to reuse items that are not recyclable. For example, use sustainable packing materials when packing and sending gifts. Instead of purchasing new foam peanuts, use shredded newspaper or even popcorn. Foam peanuts are made from polystyrene and are usually not recyclable. If you receive foam peanuts in packages, consider reusing them for later shipping.

For those holiday greeting cards you receive this season, recycle paperboard and paper envelopes. If you just can't bear to toss them in the bin, use them to make a festive gift tag.

More clever ideas for recycling and reusing holiday materials can be found at: www.associatedcontent.com and socyberty.com

Floodplain and Flood Insurance Information

Do you have a question on whether your property is in a floodplain area? Do you need flood insurance rate map information? The answers are available by calling the Village of Downers Grove Community Development Department.

Residents, builders, lenders, realtors and insurance agents are welcome to contact the Department regarding special flood hazard area locations, poor drainage areas, or any general information on the National Flood Insurance Program. Mortgage lenders are responsible for making the official determination for flood insurance requirements.

For more information, please contact the Community Development Department at 630-434-5515 or via email at stormwater@downers.us.

Community-Wide Notification System

The Community-Wide Notification System allows the Village to send personalized voice messages across the community via a single telephone call. Primary residential and business telephone numbers have automatically been included in the system.

Additional devices (up to three phone numbers and two e-mail addresses) for receiving these messages can be registered via the One Step Notification link at www.downers.us.

If you do not have Internet access you may correct/add information by calling the Community Response Center at (630) 434-CALL (2255).

Residents with call blocking services can make sure to receive the Village's time-sensitive calls by adding (630) 434-5500 to their approved number list.

Snow Removal Plan

When it comes to snow, the Village's goal is to maintain safe travel routes during and following snowstorms, as well as to restore mobility for the traveling public within a reasonable time frame following cessation of storm conditions.



Snow and ice control operations begin when hazardous road surfaces are expected. Depending on conditions, an application of liquid anti-icer or road salt is applied to the pavement. Plowing begins after snow accumulates to one inch or more.

To ensure streets with the highest average daily traffic volume are cleared first, streets are prioritized, based on measured traffic volumes.

- **Priority 1: Primary roadways with the highest traffic volume, roadways adjacent to schools, and roadways leading to Good Samaritan Hospital.** These streets have daily traffic volumes of 2,000 to 10,000 cars, with some as high as 20,000 cars. Priority 1 streets are targeted for completion 12 hours after the **storm's completion**.
- **Priority 2: All other secondary roadways with average daily traffic of 200 to 1,999 cars.** Priority 2 streets are targeted for completion 12 hours after the **storm's completion**.
- **Priority 3: Cul-de-sacs and dead-ends with average daily traffic of less than 200 cars.** Priority 3 areas are targeted for completion 18 hours after the **storm's completion**.

Safe Travel around Snowplows

1. **Don't crowd the plow.** Snowplows plow far and wide, sometimes very wide. The front plow extends several feet in front of the truck and may cross the centerline and shoulders during plowing operations.
2. **Don't tailgate or stop too close behind snowplows.** Snowplows are usually spreading deicing materials from the back of the truck and may need to stop or take evasive action to avoid stranded vehicles. If you find yourself behind a snowplow, stay behind it or use caution when passing. The road behind a snowplow will be safer to drive on.
3. On multiple lane roads, watch for snowplows operating in either lane.
4. Don't travel beside a plow for long periods. When plowing through a snow drift or packed snow, the impact can move the truck sideways.
5. Snowplows can throw up a cloud of snow that can reduce your visibility to zero in less time than you can react. Drive smart. Never drive into a snow cloud - it could conceal a snowplow.
6. Snowplows travel much slower than the posted speeds while removing snow and ice from the roads. When you spot a plow, allow plenty of time to slow down.
7. A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them but they may not see you.
8. Plows turn and exit the road frequently. Give them plenty of room.

Council Approves Restructure of Water Rates

At their meeting on November 9, 2010, the Village Council unanimously approved a measure to restructure water fees and the manner in which water bills are calculated. Downers Grove water customers will see these changes reflected in bills received after January 1, 2011.

Charges applied to water accounts will be expressed as a combination of the number of units consumed per billing cycle and a new fixed charge that is based on the size of the property's water meter.

Consistent with current rates, water customers within the Village limits will be charged \$3.30 per unit of water, which is equal to 750 gallons. Unincorporated customers will be charged \$3.80 per unit.

Accounts will be assessed a bi-monthly fixed charge based on meter size, as follows:

Meter Size	Fixed Charge Applied to Account
** 5/8"	\$8.25
1"	\$12.40
1.5"	\$41.25
2"	\$66.00
3"	\$123.70
4"	\$206.15
6"	\$412.30
10"	\$989.50

Questions concerning the new water rates, please contact 630.434.5500.

**** MOST single family homes have a 5/8" meter.**

In April 2010, the Village hired Municipal and Financial Services Group (M&FSG), a firm with expertise in the financial needs of water utilities. They completed a water rate study to evaluate current water rates and make recommendations to ensure that adequate funding is available for the current and future operation of the Village's water system.

Providing clean, safe and reliable drinking water is a fundamental Village service and the continued financial viability of the water system is a top priority. In order to pay for the water received and properly maintain the system, water fund revenues need to increase by 14% in each of the next three years.

The study identified the annual revenue requirements of the water system and compared those requirements with the annual revenues projected to be collected with current water rates. If the Village maintains water pricing at the current level, there will be a \$2.75 million deficit by 2011 which will increase to almost \$5 million by 2015. Put simply, the expenses needed to properly maintain the water system exceed the water revenues currently collected by the Village.

There are three main reasons causing the need for change:

- **People are using less water.** Water consumption has declined by about 1% annually over the past five years and is projected to continue along this trend in the future.
- **The cost of water is increasing.** The price of water that the Village buys from the DuPage Water Commission has significantly increased and is expected to continue at a rate of 10% per year.
- **The water system infrastructure is aging.** Large portions of the system have reached their useful life. This includes water main pipes that deliver water to homes and businesses, as well as water towers. A significant investment is needed to avoid disruptions in water service due to failed equipment.

REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

Yard Waste

Republic Services will collect yard waste through the last Friday of December, which is December 31, 2010. Yard Waste collection will resume on April 1, 2011.

Coat Drive

Through January 7, 2011, the Village will be collecting gently used coats and winter accessories for all ages. Drop boxes will be located in the lobbies of Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue, and the Police Station, 825 Burlington Avenue.

All items collected will be donated to local organizations to benefit those in need in the community.

Make a Date on the Village Calendar

The Village is accepting event information from DuPage County non-profit organizations to be posted on the Events Calendar of the Village website.

Events may be posted on DGTV cable Channel 6 (Comcast) or advertised on the marquees located outside the Fire Stations on the north and south ends of Main Street.

Questions and event information may be forwarded to events@downers.us.

Garbage Holidays

Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Saturday this year. Since Saturday is not a collection day, the garbage schedule during these weeks will not be affected by the holiday.

Christmas Tree Collection

Free collection of live Christmas trees will be offered by Republic Services from January 3-14, 2011. Trees must be free of tinsel, ornaments and hooks and should not be placed in bags.

Winter Garbage Reminders

Residents and building owners are reminded to clear snow away from refuse and recycling containers to avoid a missed collection. If the container is not accessible or visible, it may not be emptied. Call Republic Services at (630) 964-3232 to report a missed collection.

Holiday Closings

Most Village Offices will be closed on the following dates this holiday season: December 24 and 27, and December 31, 2010.

New Businesses

Fair Game

Owner Josh Stein
5150C Main Street
630-963-0604
fairgamestore@gmail.com

GiGi's Shabby Chic

New and nearly new resale boutique
2223 Odgen Avenue
630-964-4661

PAWSitively Balanced

926 Warren Avenue
www.PawsitivelybalancedK9.com
630-399-5725

Pediaprogess, Inc

www.pediaprogess.com
4923 Main St. 2nd floor
630-929-0122

Power Yoga on Main

poweryogaonmain.com
5223 Main Street
630-430-4054

Radiant Skin Care

5704 Webster Street
773-329-5467
radiantskincare.myrandf.com

Scarletti's Italian Kitchen

994 Warren Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-240-1148

The Sundance Gallery

5226 Main Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515
www.hozhonigallery.com
630-541-6354

Thai Cafe

4950 Main Street
630-515-1471 or 630-515-1472

COMING SOON:

Timberline Train Shop Ltd.

5228 Main Street
630-324-6136
www.timberlinetrainshop.com
sales@timberlinetrainshop.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.



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 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

Published by the Village of Downers Grove

ECRWSS

**Resident/Business Occupant
Downers Grove IL 60515-16**

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DOWNERS GROVE IL
PERMIT NO 321**