

Honor Bill MODERN HOMES



Hometown TIMES

“Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress”

Downers Grove’s Architectural History

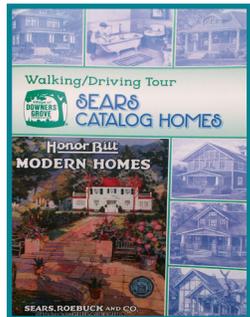
Between 1908 and 1940, the Sears Roebuck specialty catalog offered more than 450 different models of “kit” homes, a ready-to-assemble DIY bundle that offered customers the pride of home ownership at affordable prices.

The average kit home had 30,000 parts, not including nails, screws, etc. It included everything except the lot foundation and the labor to assemble it. Each pre-cut piece was perfectly shaped, no sawing was required, and all parts were number-keyed to a blueprint. The models offered reflected the American taste of period, complete with modern conveniences such as indoor plumbing and electricity. They were shipped mostly by rail car to buyers across the country.

While the number of Sears homes in Downers Grove is significant, it is difficult to put a collective number on them, as establishing a home’s identity can be tricky. Many have been remodeled or the original floor plans may have been customized or reversed. Also, some Sears models are similar to those offered by other mail-order companies of the time.

With federal funds from the Department of the Interior administered by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office, the Village has produced two brochures focused on architectural elements present in Downers Grove homes that may be the basis for historic landmark status.

The *Walking/Driving Tour of Sears Catalog Homes* identifies homes in the Village that to the best of anyone’s knowledge, have been determined to be authentic Sears Catalog Homes. The brochure/tour features 21 different models, along with identifying architectural details and fun facts.



The *Architectural Styles* guide serves as a primer for property owners potentially interested in landmarking their property, as well as a resource for people who love architecture and history. It includes photos and descriptions of architectural styles found in our region, including the Chicago Bungalow, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival.

Both of these brochures are available upon request at Village Hall.

If you are interested in landmarking your home, please contact the Community Development Department at 630.434.5515.



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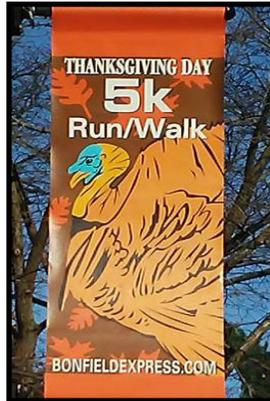
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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Hello, Downers Grove!

As I often say, there is no better way to kick-off Thanksgiving Day than with a crisp jog through the streets of the Village with about 6,200 of my closest friends for the 14th Annual Bonfield Express 5K! It has become the quintessential launch to the season of giving for so many and exemplifies Downers Grove's penchant for togetherness and gratitude.



Then again, there's nothing like the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony to officially kick-off the holiday season in our community. A record crowd turned out to enjoy the unseasonably delightful evening for this year's event. Many thanks to Dan, Maggie, Sarah and Alison Fettig for donating this year's very handsome tree, and to the 76 different local organizations that made the 1,070 ornaments to decorate it! The DGN Band: Past, Present, and Future, got the record crowd going with their rousing holiday classics, and the Downers Grove Choral Society and The Avery Coonley School A cappella group treated us to exceptional renditions of several classic Christmas carols. I appreciate everyone who came out to celebrate and enjoy all that our downtown has to offer.



If you attended this year's event you may have heard me mention that the following day, Saturday, November 25 is Small Business Saturday. This is actually part of a national campaign to spur business for small merchants. Falling between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Small Business Saturday is a way to recognize and remember that small businesses are the heartbeat of our community. Although this day of recognition has come and gone, it's important to support the local businesses that create jobs and boost our economy year round.

I hope that you and your family are enjoying the happiest of holidays. Please have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

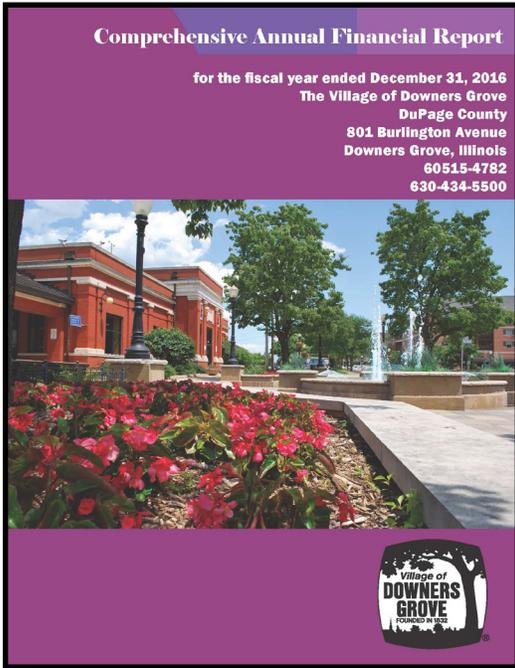
Best regards,

Mart T. Tully

Mayor Martin T. Tully



Village Receives Award for Financial Reporting Excellence



The Village has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

“The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management,” according to a GFOA news release.

This award is issued following a review by an impartial panel of judges and recognizes the Village’s “spirit of full disclosure” in the telling of its financial story. The professional manner in which the CAFR is organized and presented were cited as motivating factors which encourage potential users to read the document.

The CAFR provides a detailed, audited account of all financial activity for the funds and departments in the Village organization. It is published within six months from the close of each fiscal year.



Village Wins National Award for Stormwater YOUtility

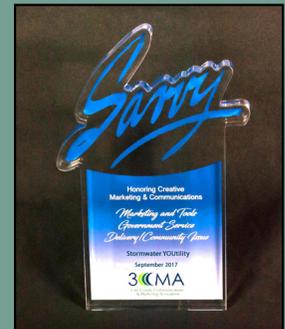
The Village of Downers Grove has won a national Savvy Award for the Stormwater YOUtility community engagement campaign. At their 2017 Annual Conference, the City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA) announced the award which recognizes outstanding local government achievements in communications, public-sector marketing and citizen-government relationships.

Judges comments about Stormwater YOUtility included:

- “It can be difficult to make people care about utilities, even when their wallets will be impacted, but this campaign, especially the calculator, cleverly embraced the difficulty and successfully made people care.”
- “Wow, great job making a difficult topic relatable and interesting!”
- “Good idea to do video answers to questions.”

The campaign utilized multiple communications platforms including short videos, social media, the Village website, DGTV, and print advertisements to raise awareness about the 2016 Stormwater Utility Referendum. There was even a fully interactive map that provided comparisons between stormwater utility fees and property taxes for each property within the Village.

Congratulations to all who worked on this successful community engagement project.



Winter Driving Tips

Winter conditions call for different driving tactics. **Ice and snow, take it slow:** Slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering, and slower braking.

- Slow down for wet, snowy, or icy conditions; when visibility is poor; or when conditions are changing or unpredictable.
- **Increase the car length between vehicles in front of you and give yourself plenty of room to stop.** Stopping on snow and ice requires extra time and distance. Even if you drive an SUV with four-wheel drive, you may not be able to stop any faster, or maintain control any better, once you lose traction. Four-wheel drive may get you going faster, but it won't help you stop any sooner. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal. Brake early, brake correctly, and never slam on the brakes.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges, or shady spots. These are all candidates for developing black ice, a thin coating of clear ice that can form on the pavement surface and may be difficult to see.
- When driving in adverse road conditions, look farther ahead in traffic than you normally do. Actions by other vehicles will alert you to problems more quickly, and give you that split-second of extra time to react safely.
- Merge slowly into traffic, since sudden movements can cause your vehicle to slide.
- Avoid excessive actions while steering, braking or accelerating to lessen the chances of losing control of the vehicle.
- Don't take chances when pulling out in front of approaching vehicles. Remember, they may not be able to slow down and you may not be able to accelerate as quickly as on dry pavement.
- Remember to accelerate gradually.
- Avoid using cruise control in winter driving conditions. You need to be in control of when your vehicle accelerates based on road conditions - don't let the cruise control make a bad decision for you.



Safe Travel Around Snowplows



- **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.
- **Don't tailgate or stop too close behind snowplows.** Snowplows are usually spreading de-icing 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.
- On multiple lane roads, watch for snowplows operating in either lane.
- Don't travel beside a plow for long periods. When plowing through a snowdrift or packed snow, the impact can move the truck sideways.
- 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 snow plow.
- Snowplows travel much slower than the posted speed limits while removing snow and ice from the roads. When you spot a plow, allow plenty of time to slow down.
- A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them but they may not see you.
- Plows turn and exit the road frequently. Give them plenty of room.

More preparedness information can be found at www.ready.illinois.gov.

To Salt or Not to Salt?

Winter is upon us and that means cold weather, snow and ice. When treating ice, please keep in mind that salt eventually ends up in our waterways as a pollutant, adversely affecting plants, animals and fish. Here are some facts to consider:

- Sodium Chloride (table or rock salt) lowers the freezing point of water, forcing ice to melt. It is inexpensive and effective in temperatures to around 15 degrees Fahrenheit. It is also highly corrosive and will damage metals and concrete with repeated exposure.
- Calcium Chloride generates heat while melting ice, making it effective down to minus 25 degrees Fahrenheit. It works faster, but is more expensive than sodium chloride.
- Chemicals claiming to be environmentally, pet, and family friendly include Magnesium Chloride, Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA), Potassium Chloride, Potassium Acetate, and beet juice. Some of these act as a salt substitute while others amplify salt's effect, reducing the amount of salt needed to do the job. These products also tend to be the most expensive options.
- While sand does not melt ice, it can provide traction for vehicles and pedestrians.

Tips for Application

• Apply a thin layer of de-icer just before a storm. This keeps ice and snow from bonding to surfaces, allowing it to be scraped off, shoveled, or plowed more easily. This method is used on the streets in the Village and has helped to reduce the amount of salt used.

• Whatever de-icer you choose, use as little as possible.

For more information about, visit this link for a short video:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7d66uva>

Early Voting

The Village of Downers Grove will be an early voting site for the March 20, 2018, General Primary Election. Early voting will take place March 5 through March 17, 2018, in the Committee Room at Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue.

The hours for early voting will be:

- Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Early voting provides citizens the opportunity to vote before Election Day, at their convenience. Unlike absentee voting, one does not need a reason to vote early. If you are a registered voter in DuPage County, we invite you to participate in early voting!

Please contact the DuPage County Election Commission at (630) 407-5600 or April Holden, Village Clerk, at 434-5535 for further information about early voting.



Preserving Downers Grove History



The Mata Krueger home at 4502 Prince Street is a two-story Queen Anne style house with an English basement, completed around 1896 in the prime of the Victorian Era. The home was designated a local landmark due to its distinguishing architectural characteristics in an American Queen Anne style. Also landmarked is the original barn, converted into a garage.

The American Queen Anne style of homes have bay windows, stately front porches, elaborate moldings, and are asymmetrical. Another important feature is the varied wall plain and forms using towers and bays; flat and plain expanses alternate. In the Midwest, many were constructed of wood clapboard or wood shingles.

Queen Anne is a prevalent architectural style found in the E.H. Prince and Company Subdivision, which includes this home. The Prince Street home includes many distinguishing features including asymmetry and variation in roof lines. A tower is present at the front façade, and various colors are employed, varying the wall plain. Many original features still exist on the property including the original fret work (ornamental wood design) and spindlework on the front porch, the clapboard siding, the original hand pump for the well, and original wood double-hung windows controlled with rope, pulleys, and ironweights.

The garage on the property is the original barn. It has been maintained in its original condition with manually operated doors. The rear addition of the house blends with the existing style and includes a family room and a rear deck.

If you are interested in landmarking your home, please contact the Community Development Department at 630.434.5515.

Keep the Wreaths Red

Wreaths with red bulbs will be displayed at each of the Village's fire stations through January 1.

If a holiday related fire occurs during this time, one of the red lights in each station's wreath will be changed to white.

The Downers Grove Fire Department asks that residents do their part to practice fire safety during the holiday months with the following tips:

Around the Home

- Make sure you have a working smoke and carbon monoxide alarm on each level of the home, especially outside the sleeping areas.
- Electrical cords should not be run under rugs or past doorways.
- Use power strips in place of extension cords.
- Never leave candles unattended. If you are having a party, candles should only be lit in the attended rooms.

- Fireplaces should be cleaned annually, if used on a regular basis. Do not burn any foreign objects in fireplaces. A fireplace screen should always be in use.



Trees and Lights

- Do not allow trees to block any exit paths in the home.
- Live trees should be kept at least three feet from any heat source.
- Check the water level daily on live trees. All live trees and boughs should be disposed of immediately after the holiday, before they dry out.
- No more than three strings of lights should be connected together for use on trees.
- Make sure outdoor decorations and lights are approved for outdoor use.



The Downers Grove Police Department reminds residents of the following to avoid becoming an easy burglary target.

Lock your car – even in your driveway. Always lock your vehicle, even when it is parked in your driveway. An unlocked vehicle is an easy target for a thief, especially after dark. The quick entry and exit of a vehicle parked in the driveway with your valuables inside can easily go unnoticed, even if you are home.

Don't leave valuables in plain sight. Don't allow criminals to view valuables or packages inside your car when it is parked in your driveway or in public parking lots. Place valuables in the trunk or take them with you. Items stolen from cars have included cell phones, laptops, purses, and wallets. While thieves prefer the easy target of an unlocked vehicle, they will not hesitate to break a window to gain access to valuables inside. The Police Department urges you to lock your vehicle at all times and put valuables in the trunk.

Lock your home at night – even when you are at home. In several car theft cases, the offender gained entry to the home through an unlocked door and searched for the keys to the car parked in the driveway. Always lock your doors any time you leave your home and especially at night.

Don't Let a Grinch Spoil Your Holiday

Criminals look for easy opportunity when deciding to commit a crime. It's important not to give them the chance to spoil your holiday celebration. Be street smart when it comes to your personal safety and property.

Shopping Safety:

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; use a single credit card or checks whenever possible.
- If you carry a purse, keep it close to your body, zipped, and in front of you.
- Walk with confidence. A criminal will target someone who looks distracted, especially if they are on their cell phone.
- Try not to carry numerous large packages. This makes it harder to keep track of your purse or wallet.
- Park your car in a well-lit parking lot and walk to the car with your keys in hand.
- Items of value are tempting to a criminal; conceal purchases in the trunk of the car.



Beware of Con Games:

- Use caution when approached to donate to holiday charities. Research the charity before you give them your hard-earned money.
- Be suspicious of charities that take “cash only” donations.
- Use caution when giving your credit card number over the phone.

Safety at Home:

- Always lock your home anytime you leave, and keep the blinds closed so that no one can look in and see expensive electronics or gifts.
- Lock your vehicle, even when it is in your driveway, and remove all valuables.

The Downers Grove Police Department wishes you a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Do You Really Know What to Do in Case of Fire?

The Downers Grove Fire Department has responded to several calls during the past year where the actions of the family made a difference in their survival.

First, make sure all smoke alarms are working. Be sure they are installed on every level of your home and in each sleeping area.

Remember these key actions should you have a fire:

- **Get LOW under the smoke**
- Close as many doors as possible on the way out.
- Have emergency contact and insurance information accessible or in another location as a back-up.
- Never go back in the structure for anything. Firefighters will assist with looking for your belongings.
- Wait for the fire department in the front of the house. Their first concern will be that everyone made it out safely. Have a family meeting place.



Kids being taught to “Get down low” as part of the Downers Grove Fire Department’s school visits.

REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

Holiday Garbage Collection

Monday, December 25, 2017 and Monday, January 1, 2018 are holidays for Republic Services. Collection will be one day later than normal during both of those weeks.

Holiday Closings

Most Village offices will be closed on December 25 and 26, 2017, and on January 1, 2018.

Coat Drive

Through January 12, 2018, the Village will be collecting gently used coats and winter accessories for all ages. Drop boxes are located in the lobbies of Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue, the Police Station, 825 Burlington Avenue, and Public Works, 5101 Walnut Avenue.

Curbside Christmas Tree Collection

Free collection of live Christmas trees, only, will be offered by Republic Services from **January 2-12, 2018**. Trees must be free of tinsel, ornaments and hooks and should not be placed in bags.

Holiday Light Recycling

Recycle unwanted or broken holiday lights instead of throwing them away. Residents may drop off lights at Public Works, 5101 Walnut Avenue or Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue, during business hours through **February 9, 2018**.

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 on the Village website.

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

Pluggie's Pals Fire Hydrant Program for Kids!



If this winter is anything like predicted, our fire hydrants are going to be buried by snow!

Firefighters need immediate access to the hydrants to be able to get plenty of water on a fire quickly. It takes firefighters extra minutes to shovel the hydrants out of the snow and chip ice away from the ports. During this time the fire continues to grow at a very significant rate.

Your child can help the firefighters by taking care of the hydrant near your home. Scout troops can handle an entire block or the hydrant in front of their school.

Sign up for the Pluggie's Pals Program on the Village website, www.downers.us; search for "Pluggie's Pals."

Questions may be directed to the Downers Grove Fire Department's Administrative Secretary, Gina Barr at gbarr@downers.us.



www.downers.us
801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

COUNCIL MEETINGS 1st, 2nd & 3rd Tues.-7:00 p.m.

Mayor
Village Council Commissioners

Martin T. Tully
Robert T. Barnett
Greg José
William "Bill" White
William Waldack
Margaret "Marge" Earl
Nicole Walus
David Fieldman

Village Manager

mayorcouncil@downers.us

Village Hall 630.434.5500
Fire, Medical or Police Emergency 9-1-1
Community Response Center 630.434-CALL (2255)

Village Hall Hours
Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Published by the Village of Downers Grove

Wishing you a wonderful
holiday season and a
Happy New Year from the
Village Council.