

# Hometown TIMES

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

## **Facilities Sustainability Plan**

The Village Council has adopted the Facilities Sustainability Plan to address the maintenance and functional needs of the Police Station and Village Hall. The plan, which was adopted May 17, 2016, has a total budget of \$16 million. Most of those resources are directed to police station improvements, including an 11,500 to 13,200 square foot addition along with renovation of the existing space. Short-term maintenance improvements to Village Hall are also included.

The Village Hall and Police Station were specifically identified because they are categorized as *Below Average / Requiring Major Renovation* by a 2012 Facility Condition Assessment of major Village facilities. The age and condition of both facilities have resulted in operational deficiencies that can interfere with efficient service delivery and effective employee/customer interaction.



Adoption of the plan achieves a major benchmark of the top priority action item, *Create a Facilities Sustainability Plan*, established as part of the Long-Range Plan in August 2015. Since then, the Council has participated in several public discussions to identify improvements and how to pay for them.

The following existing financial resources will be used to support this project, establishing a total project budget of \$16 million:

- Equity: Asset Forfeiture Fund Balance - \$1.5 million in FY2016 plus future revenues
- Bond Issuance of approximately \$14.5 million - supported by an annual revenue stream that includes the following revenue sources, which total \$1.1 million/year:
  - Property Tax Levy for Library Improvements Bond Debt Service \$600,000/yr
  - Local Gasoline Tax for Fairview Avenue Improvements Bond Debt Service \$200,000/yr
  - Revenues Historically Used for Sidewalk Construction \$300,000/yr

The next step involves the development of design plans. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2017.

More details on the Facilities Sustainability Plan are available at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us).

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## ***Hello, Downers Grove!***

We interrupt what we hope is a delightful summer to bring you this important message about some new Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) notification requirements, and what you can expect to see coming to your mailbox soon.

The Village provides fresh clean water to about 17,000 residential and business locations throughout Downers Grove. Over 100,000 consumers enjoy water that is safe for drinking, cooking and bathing on a daily basis. In fact, the water supplied by the Village meets all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards, including those for lead.

The fresh water we enjoy here in Downers Grove originates from Lake Michigan where it's collected about two miles off the Chicago shoreline. It is treated at a plant located just north of Navy Pier. Once treated, the water flows to pumping stations that serve DuPage County.

The Village is one of 23 municipalities in the DuPage Water Commission (DWC), which purchases and distributes Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago. The Village has been a DWC member since 1986.



As you have no doubt heard, the negative impacts of lead in drinking water have been making news lately. Lead was used in homes built in the early 20th century and phased out during the 1960s. Lead pipes were banned by the EPA after 1986. Water leaving the treatment plant does not contain lead and simply having lead pipes does not mean you have lead in your water. However, your risk from lead does increase if your service line or the lead material in your household plumbing begins to corrode, causing lead to leach into the water before it gets to your faucet. To help reduce the potential for lead in drinking water in these older homes, the Village is implementing several public health enhancements identified by the IEPA.

Most notably, these enhancements involve revising testing procedures and reevaluating testing locations, as well as new proactive communication with water customers affected by water main replacements or service disruptions caused by water main breaks.

We have also posted additional information related to lead on our website, including how to determine if you have a lead water service.

You can expect to receive a letter from the Village when the following occurs:

- Watermain replacement project within one block of your location.
- Repair of a watermain break within one block of your location.
- Water meter replacement at your location.

### ***Village of Downers Grove Water System - By the Numbers***

- **7 elevated water storage tanks with a storage capacity of 8 million gallons**
- **6 rate control stations**
- **Over 233 miles of water distribution main**
- **2,800 fire hydrants**
- **2,800 main line valves**
- **Automated control system, referred to as SCADA**

This notice will include information about how to flush your household plumbing during this work to reduce the potential of lead contamination if you have a lead water service. The IEPA has also asked that water customers with lead water services be encouraged to replace their service with a copper service.

The Village is dedicated to providing water that is clean and safe for you to use. We will continue to provide accurate and timely information regarding the operation of the system and water quality. I encourage you to read the water-related articles in this edition of the Hometown Times. You will find even more information on our website at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us). If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact Village Hall at 630.434.5500. Staff members are happy to provide you with the assistance and information you need.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message and familiarize yourself with the important information it contains. Please have a safe, happy, and peaceful summer.

Best regards,



Mayor Martin T. Tully

## How To Check For Lead Service Lines

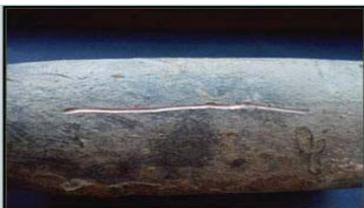
Most water service lines were installed at the time your home was constructed. The service line is the portion of pipe which extends from the water system into your home. Use this guide to help zero in on the type of material used in yours:

- **Homes built prior to 1930** most likely have a lead water service line (unless upgraded during a remodel).
- **Homes built between 1930 and 1960** may possibly have a lead service line.
- **Homes built after 1960** are likely to have a copper service line.

Next, go to the water meter in your home and locate the portion of pipe which comes through the foundation from the outside and connects to the meter. Lead service lines are generally dull gray in color and very soft.

A sure way to determine if the pipe coming into your home is made of lead is to carefully scratch it with a coin. If it is a lead pipe, the scratched area will turn bright silver.

Knives or other sharp instruments should **NOT** be used and take care not to puncture a hole in the pipe.



Just a simple easy swipe is all that's needed.

## Testing Your Water

The Village water system complies with all IEPA requirements for lead levels. Lead testing is done at 30 sites every three years. The threshold for lead is 15 parts per billion (ppb). As long as 10% or less of the samples do not exceed the 15 ppb level, the water supplied by the Village meets these standards.

Having lead service lines does not necessarily mean you'll have lead in your water. It does however, indicate that you may be at greater risk from lead if corrosion of the pipe occurs. Since you cannot see, taste or smell lead dissolved in water, testing is a good way of telling whether lead is present or not.

Testing can cost between \$20 and \$100 and there are some specific steps required to draw an accurate sample. Contact information for several of the labs near the area are provided below. The Village is ready to assist you at 630.434.5500 with any questions you may have.

- **Suburban Laboratories, Inc**  
1950 S. Batavia Ave Ste 150,  
Geneva, IL 60134  
708.544.3260
- **First Environmental Laboratories, Inc.**  
1600 Shore Road, Suite D  
Naperville, IL 60563  
630.778.1200
- **TEM, Incorporated**  
443 Duane St.  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-4528  
630.790.0880



## Celebrate Independence Day

Give three cheers for the red, white and blue at the Fourth of July Parade. The parade begins at 12:45 p.m. at Main and Grant Streets and heads south on Main, ending at Warren Avenue.

### Fireworks

Join your friends at the fireworks display, brought to you by the Village of Downers Grove, City of Darien and Village of Woodridge. The show starts at approximately 9:30 p.m. There are several parking lots in the area of 75<sup>th</sup> Street and Lemont Road to park and enjoy the show.



## Water Quality Report

The annual Water Quality Report (WQR) contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water during 2015. The WQR is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in accordance with the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. High quality, safe drinking water is an essential resource and, as indicated in the WQR, the quality of the water provided by the Village meets or exceeds all state and federal standards.

Visit [http://www.downers.us/public/docs/Forms\\_Publications/WQR\\_2016.pdf](http://www.downers.us/public/docs/Forms_Publications/WQR_2016.pdf) to view the annual Water Quality Report.

If you would like a paper copy mailed to your home, please call 630.434.5500. Copies are also available at Village Hall and the Public Works Facility by request.

## Why Do I Need a Stormwater Permit?

Did you know that even a relatively small change to one's property can alter the flow of stormwater and potentially affect others in the vicinity?

In addition, federal floodplain and wetland regulations have become increasingly more stringent in recent decades. Because of these reasons, the Village requires a stormwater permit for any project that:

- Disturbs more than 500 square feet of land;

- Involves a floodway or floodplain;
- Is within 100 feet of a wetland or has been identified as a localized poor drainage area (LPDA).

Other permitted work over a certain size, including all new buildings and larger additions, automatically receive a stormwater review.

Each stormwater permit is checked by an engineer to make sure the work is compliant with local, county, state, and federal requirements, and to mitigate potential flooding issues.

If work is done without a required permit, the homeowner may be required to remove or modify the alterations at their own

expense, and possibly be subject to additional fees and fines.



Remember, it's always best to check with the Community Development Department at 630.434.5515 before starting any type of construction project.

## Historic Preservation Ordinance Yields Results

The Village Council adopted a new Historic Preservation Ordinance last December. Since then, the following homes have applied for and been granted landmark status and three applications are pending.

### Landmarked

- Ehr House, 5320 Benton Ave.: *Landmarked March 22, 2016*
- Melchor Gjerde House, 1232 Gilbert Ave.: *Landmarked May 17, 2016*

### Landmarked on June 14, 2016

- Herring House, 701 Maple Avenue
- Main Street Train Station
- Foster House, 5226 Carpenter Street

### Easier Than Ever

Preserving your property as a historic landmark is easier than ever and there's no cost. Call the Village at 630.434.5515 or visit [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us) and let us help landmark your historic home today.

## Smart Meters Are Coming to Downers Grove



ComEd plans to install smart meters in all homes and businesses across northern Illinois by the end of 2018. Downers Grove is scheduled for installation beginning in August.

To help create awareness, ComEd has developed a comprehensive communications plan that provides specific implementation details to customers receiving meters. These communications provide customers with practical information on what's happening when, and encourages customers to take advantage of new tools and resources to help save on monthly electric bills.

- 90 days out: Informational insert received in customer bill.
- 60 days out: Informative piece mailed.
- 30 days out: Letter mailed with FAQs.
- 7 days out: Recorded message via phone.
- Installation day: Door hanger left at residence.

For questions about the Smart Meter program and installation, call **1.866.368.8325**.

## Preserving Downers Grove History

The second building to be designated a local landmark in Downers Grove is the home constructed by Mr. Gustav H. Bunge, the developer and original owner of the Tivoli Theater and Hotel. The three-story Victorian house, built circa 1883, was built on the current site of the Tivoli Theater.



Around 1927, the Bunge family relocated their home to 4943 Highland Avenue, its current location, to permit the construction of the Tivoli Theater. The Bunge family continued to reside in the home for approximately a decade before moving into the Tivoli building.

Mr. Bunge, born in Melzow, Germany in 1865, immigrated to Henry County, Illinois in 1872 following the Franco-Prussian War. He moved to Downers Grove in 1891 to serve as a station agent for the B&Q Railroad. Mr. Bunge began practicing law in 1899 in Downers Grove, established the Tivoli in 1928, served as a Village trustee, was a founding member of the Downers Grove Sanitary District, and served as both the attorney to the Village and the Sanitary District.

The Bunge house was landmarked due to Mr. Bunge's aforementioned contributions to the Village and also the Victorian architectural character of the house. The three-story house retains many of its architectural features signifying a Victorian home, most notably: a full-width front porch with dentils, two-story bays on both the south and east façades, a cantilevered wall extension on the north façade, and gable end detailing with shingles, curved recesses, and Palladian style windows.

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

## Summertime in the Downtown: Good Rules to Know

Summertime is a great time in Downers Grove, especially in the Downtown which comes alive with new shops, car shows, the outdoor market and other activities. Here are a few good things to know to ensure the area is a safe and welcome place for everyone.

- **Skateboarding, roller-skating, or in-line skating is prohibited.** This ordinance prohibits anyone from riding a skateboard, roller skates, in-line skates, electric scooter, motorized skateboard, or “any other similar device” in the downtown or in the parking deck. ***This includes the roadway, Fishel Park and in any private parking lots where the business owner/manager has signed an agreement authorizing enforcement by police.*** These private areas will be posted with signs indicating skateboarding, etc. is prohibited.
- **Bicycle Riding Prohibited on the Sidewalk Area and in the Parking Deck.** Bike riding is not permitted on any portion of the sidewalk or parking deck. Bikes may be walked on the sidewalk areas and bike riding is permitted on the roadway. The parking deck is not a safe place for kids to congregate. It is closely monitored by police patrols as well as an internal security system that includes cameras on each level that are viewed by police personnel 24 hours a day.
- **Fishel Park** – Fishel Park, located downtown, is closed each day from dusk to sunrise, including the pavilion area of the park. Skateboarding, roller skates, and in-line skating are strictly prohibited in Fishel Park at all times.



The Police Department would like to ask families to discuss these rules and to please obey the signs to keep our downtown a safe and welcome place for all.

## Leave the Fireworks to the Pros

Did you know that fireworks are **illegal** in Downers Grove and in Illinois? The Downers Grove Municipal Code mirrors that of the Illinois State Fireworks Code, which means that firecrackers, bottle rockets, cherry bombs, and the like are prohibited. Though one can easily purchase fireworks legally in adjacent states, it is illegal to bring them home across the border.

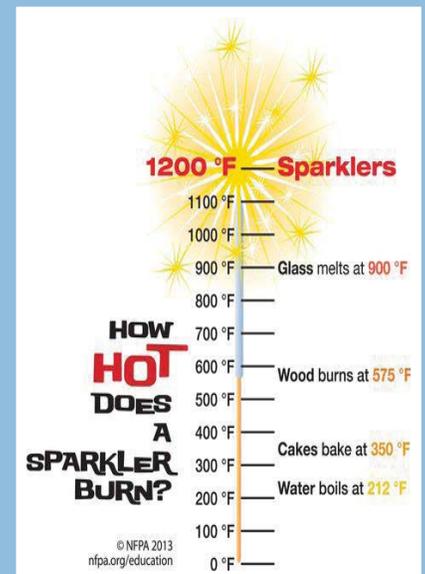
Any person convicted of an offense shall be subject to a fine of between \$75.00 and \$750.00.

Legal firework novelties such as sparklers, fountains, snakes, party poppers, and ground spinners, marketed as “safe,” still possess dangers. For the period July 2 to July 5, fireworks injuries make up about one quarter of emergency room visits.

The risk of fireworks injury is more than twice as high for children ages 10-14 as for the general population.

Children as young as two years old are commonly handed sparklers which reach temperatures of 1,200 to 1,800 degrees, hot enough to cause third-degree burns, yet adults underestimate the dangers.

For a July 4 that’s both exciting and safe, leave the fireworks to the experts and take the family to a professional outdoor display.



## Bringing Up Baby



*Officer Chris Fisher discusses car seats.*

What parent doesn't remember the nervous feeling of bringing your child home from the hospital for the first time and thinking, "Now what do I do?"

The Downers Grove Police and Fire Departments have joined forces to offer the Baby Basics program for new and expecting parents. The revised and updated interactive program was recently presented by Firefighter/Paramedic Greg Winkelmann and Officer Chris Fisher to several soon-to-be parents.

Participants learned about what to expect when they bring their new baby home. Topics included how to handle medical emergencies, CPR, choking, selecting a child safety seat, and correct installation of a safety seat.

The Baby Basics program will be offered again for any Downers Grove resident on August 24 and November 16, 2016, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Downers Grove Fire Station #2, 5420 Main Street, Downers Grove.

For more information, contact Chris Fisher at 630.434.5691 or Marsha Giesler at 630.434.5986.

## School Safety Programs Succeed

Throughout the school year, the Downers Grove Fire Department conducts comprehensive fire and injury prevention programs in the schools. Children from preschool through eighth grade are instructed in ways to keep themselves, their families and their friends safe.

### *Learn Not to Burn*

Children in third grade are visited by a fire department instructor and given monthly assignments to take home and share with their families.

With the cooperation of their teachers, students were asked to test smoke alarms with their families as a homework assignment. With more than 500 families participating, batteries were changed or new smoke alarm units were installed, resulting in 97% of the Learn Not to Burn third grade households having working smoke alarms!

Firefighters and paramedics visited all schools in May to demonstrate equipment and thank students for a job well done.

### *Basic First Aid*

Seventh and eighth grade students participated in the four day Basic Aid Training program which prepares them to respond to medical emergencies.



*Learning the basics of first aid.*

# REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

## Summer Holiday Garbage Collection

Monday, July 4 and Monday, September 5 are holidays for Republic Services. Please remember that collection on these weeks will be one day later due to the Monday holiday.

## Water Conservation

Each year from May 15 to September 15, outdoor water use is permitted based on an even/odd system. The last digit of an address determines the day. If an address ends in an even number, the resident can water on even numbered calendar days; if the address ends in an odd number, the resident can water on odd numbered days. Outdoor water usage is permitted between 4 a.m. and 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. on your watering day.

## Pull to the Right for Sirens and Lights

When drivers hear approaching sirens, they should pull to the right side of the street and stop until the emergency vehicles pass. Do not stop in front of an emergency vehicle. If you cannot get to the right immediately, continue moving forward until you can pull over.

## Siren Testing

A reminder that sirens are tested on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m.

## Book Your Block Party

What better way to celebrate summer with your friends and neighbors than with a Block Party? There are several websites that can help you plan your gathering with tips such as incorporating a theme, children's games and a potluck.

Downers Grove residents wishing to host a Block Party must fill out a permit request form at least three weeks in advance of the party date. Contact Public Works at 630.434.5460 or visit the Village website at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us) and use the search field for "Block Party".

## Summer Staples

- **Downtown Market**, Saturdays through October 15, Main Street Train Station, 7:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.
- **Summer Nights Car Show**, Fridays through September 2, Downtown Downers Grove, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday Night Concerts** through August 23, Fishel Park at 7:00 p.m. [www.dgparks.com](http://www.dgparks.com)



[www.downers.us](http://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  
David S. Olsen  
Greg Hosé  
Gina Vattimo  
William "Bill" White  
William Waldack  
David Fieldman

Village Manager

[mayorcouncil@downers.us](mailto: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

## SAVE THESE DATES!

- **Night at the Firehouse**  
Wednesday, October 12, 2016
- **22nd Annual Silent Parade**  
Friday, October 14, 2016



Demonstration of side-by-side fires during Night at the Firehouse.