

# Hometown TIMES

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

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2018**

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**Passport to Safety Day  
&  
Wheely Big Trucks**  
**April 7, 2018**  
 10:00 a.m. - Noon  
 Lincoln Center  
 935 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove

Passport to Safety & Wheely Big Trucks join forces for a day of fun-filled, family education & entertainment! Sponsored by the Downers Grove Park District, Fire and Police Departments, Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, Passport to Safety offers safety tips for all ages. Each child will receive a passport at the beginning of the event and use it to meet local safety experts. Be sure to head outside to touch, see and explore trucks and vehicles of all shapes and sizes! Visit [dgparks.org](http://dgparks.org) for more details!



Downers Grove  
Park District  
your chance to play



# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

## Hello, Downers Grove!



We are thrilled to have been named by Livability.com as one of the *2018 Top 100 Best Places To Live in America* and one of only a few Illinois towns to have made the list. Here's what the editors had to say about the #46 ranked Village of Downers Grove.

***"With a strategic location near the Interstate 88 and 355 corridors, Downers Grove is only 20 miles west of Chicago and known for its business friendly environment and strong economy that continues to expand in areas like manufacturing and technology. Downers Grove is actually categorized as a village, with high-rated livability advantages like Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital and award-winning public schools. Two dense forest preserves and several residential parks have resulted in the village earning a Tree City USA designation, and the scenic downtown area houses more than 70 shops and restaurants along with multiple entertainment venues and nightspots. Many Downers Grove residents get involved in a variety of social and civic causes."***

This impressive recognition is possible only due to the dedicated efforts of many individuals and organizations who are deeply committed to the success of our community and keeping it an exceptional place to live, learn, work, and play.

As Mayor, I consider it a great privilege to be able to participate directly with the individuals who epitomize the community spirit which makes Downers Grove so very livable. The diligence of the educators, parents and students in our community contribute greatly to the award winning success of our schools.

On February 25, I and other parents were invited to talk about our respective professions as guests at El Sierra Elementary School's Career Day! These events happen throughout District 58 and provide young students with real-world examples and valuable insights into the workaday world. The kids were terrific and had many excellent questions. Many thanks to the school for having us.



I'd like to congratulate the District 99 Education Foundation on another very successful Pizza Wars, held on March 1. It's the perfect combination fundraiser/business showcase, featuring a competitive event that exemplifies pride in workmanship. Nine local vendors competed for the hearts and palates of a terrific crowd with some delectable pizza pies. Proceeds from the event benefit the students of both North and South High Schools in Downers Grove.

But the quality of life in Downers Grove is also positively impacted through the active investment and efforts of our business community. Although "location, location, location" is synonymous with business success, it's most certainly bolstered by "confidence, confidence, confidence" in Downers Grove's vibrant economy. Thanks to the Village Council, the Economic Development Corporation, Downtown Management Corporation and Chamber 630, our town's reputation for strong financial management and business friendly acumen is no fluke.

Investment in the manufacturing, technology, and retail sectors is occurring throughout Downers Grove. For example, Rexnord Aeronautical Engineering is expanding its headquarters in Ellsworth Industrial Park. The corner of Ogden Avenue and Main Street is undergoing a revitalization with the addition of three new retail/commercial buildings. Downtown, the building at 5117 Main Street which was vacant for many years, is being remodeled into commercial retail and office space.

Once again, and without question, the Village has been recognized for being an exceptional community thanks to the efforts of many dedicated individuals and organizations. Congratulations and **Way to Go, Downers Grove!**

*Mart T. Tully*

## What's YOUR Plan for Severe Weather?

Spring's arrival marks a welcome change of seasons, but also rapidly changing meteorological conditions ideal for the threat of severe weather. Residents must prepare for and be alert to these conditions and know what to do when they occur.

### ***OUTDOOR EMERGENCY SIRENS***

The purpose of the sirens is to alert those who are outdoors of the threat of danger, either due to weather conditions or a national emergency. If you are indoors, you may not hear the siren.

### **SIRENS ARE JUST ONE TOOL TO WARN THE PUBLIC**

- Be alert to changing conditions when severe weather threatens.
- Monitor weather reports via NOAA weather radio, broadcast radio or television stations. *(NOAA radios can be purchased at retail stores or online.)*
- Keep an eye on the sky.
- Know when and where to seek shelter.
- Keep an emergency kit in your shelter area.

### ***WHEN WILL THE SIRENS SOUND?***

- Sirens are **TESTED** year-round on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
- Sirens will be **ACTIVATED** under one or more of the following conditions:
  1. There is a confirmed sighting of a tornado headed for our community.
  2. The National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning for our community or an adjacent community.
  3. There are confirmed reports in the community of life threatening storm damage and wind.

### **WHEN YOU HEAR A SIREN, PLEASE DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 TO GET INFORMATION**

Communication lines must remain free to respond to emergency reports and dispatch police, fire and emergency services where needed.

- The siren sound means **Take Shelter Now**. Do not ignore it.  
The emergency is NOT over when the sirens stop.  
There is NO "All Clear" siren. Monitor a weather radio, local TV station or visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) for the latest on the location of the storm.  
Multiple siren activation indicates an imminent impact.

### **Where to Find More Information about Emergency Preparedness**

National Weather Service  
[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

DuPage County Office of Homeland Security  
and Emergency Management  
[www.protectdupage.org](http://www.protectdupage.org)

Ready Illinois  
[www.ready.illinois.gov](http://www.ready.illinois.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
(FEMA)  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

### **The Difference Between a Watch and a Warning**

#### **WATCH**

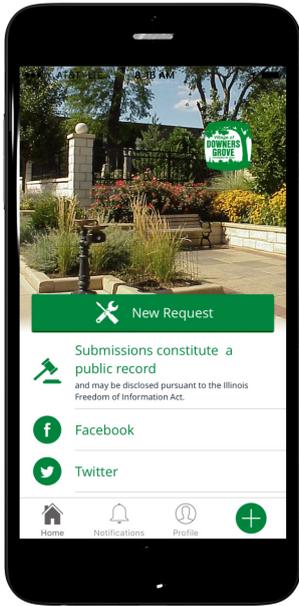
- Conditions favorable for severe weather development.
- Issued for up to 6 hours.
- Be aware of rapidly changing weather conditions!
- Review your severe weather safety plan.



#### **WARNING**

- Severe weather detected on radar or has been observed.
- Issued for up to an hour.
- Take cover!
- Activate your severe weather safety plan immediately!





## Pocket Solution for Potholes...and more

Communicate directly with the Village and report issues quickly with the Downers Grove Community Response Center (DG CRC) App. Submit requests for service, receive automatic updates, make online payments, and more with your iPhone or Android device.

The app is available in the App Store for iPhone or Google Play.

With DG CRC it's easy to submit a request using text or photos, and the mapping tool helps pinpoint the exact location. The app also links to the Village website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages. It truly puts Downers Grove at your fingertips.

**Download the DG CRC app today!**



## Free Paper Shredding Event

The Downers Grove Police Department Auxiliary Unit and Accurate Document Destruction will be hosting a free Paper-Shredding Event on **Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 8:00 a.m. until Noon** at Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue, in the lower level east employee parking area (fenced lot off of Curtiss Street – follow the signs). Auxiliary officers will be on hand to assist residents lifting boxes out of their cars.

This free service is made available to residents of Downers Grove in an effort to help guard against identity theft and fraud.

Each vehicle will be allowed **one** brown paper bag or box (banker's box size) filled with personal paperwork that will be shredded by a bonded and insured customer service representative of Accurate Document Destruction. A crosscut shredder will be utilized to render documents unidentifiable. Materials will then be taken to a recycling facility where it will be turned into tomorrow's paper products.

Identity theft is a serious crime. People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years and their hard-earned money cleaning up the mess the thieves have made and attempting to restore their credit record. One source the offenders use to get personal information from victims is garbage left at the curb.

Discarded documents can reveal bits of your personal information: bank and credit card account numbers; Social Security numbers; or your name, address, and phone numbers.

Please mark your calendar to take advantage of this free service and meet members of the Downers Grove Police Auxiliary Unit.



## Poison Prevention



The Downers Grove Fire Department responds to all types of medical emergencies. The third week of March is Poison Prevention Week. Poisoning is the leading cause of injury related death in the United States. In an effort to raise awareness about this serious topic, the Downers Grove Fire Department offers the following tips.

- Memorize the Poison Help line number and keep it handy: **1-800-222-1222. Save this number on your cell phone.**
- Store all medicines and household products up and away, and out of sight in a cabinet where a child cannot reach them.
- Only take prescription medications that are prescribed to you by a healthcare professional.
- **Never share or sell your prescription drugs.**
- **Keep all prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements in a safe place that can only be reached and accessed by those who should be taking them.** This is especially important with regards to prescription painkillers such as those containing methadone, hydrocodone, or oxycodone.
- Dispose of all unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs. Locations to properly dispose of these medications in our area include:

**Naperville Regional Household Hazardous Waste Facility**  
156 Fort Hill Drive, Naperville, Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
(except holidays).

**Lisle Police Department**, 5040 Lincoln Ave., Lisle.

**Village of Downers Grove Police Department**, 825 Burlington Ave.  
(By appointment only). Call 630-434-5641.

- Learn which plants and household products are poisonous, especially if ingested by young children and pets.

For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).



## Preserving Downers Grove History

The John and Frieda Venard home at 4540 Highland Avenue is a two-story American Foursquare style house with a basement, most likely constructed in 1914.



The home was designated a local landmark due to its distinguishing architectural characteristics covering multiple architectural styles. While the vernacular building form is that of an American Foursquare, the true architectural style incorporates Prairie and Craftsman features.

American Foursquare was a post-Victorian style, and gained widespread popularity as an architectural reaction against the ornateness and complexity found in Victorian buildings. Aptly named after its cubic shape and division of living space into quarters, sometimes called a “Classical Box” or “Prairie Box,” Foursquares were designed to maximize the total square footage on small lots. The typical features of a Foursquare include two-and-a-half stories with a hipped roof and large front porches with wide stairs.

The Venard home includes many of these features, including the cube-shaped massing and hipped roof with wide eaves. The full width front porch on the front facade with double and triple columns is typical of the Craftsman style. The horizontal band, typical of the Prairie style, separates the bevel siding below and the shingle siding on the second story. The home still displays the original wooden double hung windows with a triple-window bay off the dining room. A one-story rear addition was added in 1986 on the western side of the building with attention to match the original exterior.

If you are interested in landmarking your home or have information about the history of your home, please contact the Community Development Department at 630.434.5515.

## *Make No Small Plans*

The Village Council updated the Comprehensive Plan which serves as the roadmap for future developments and community investment.

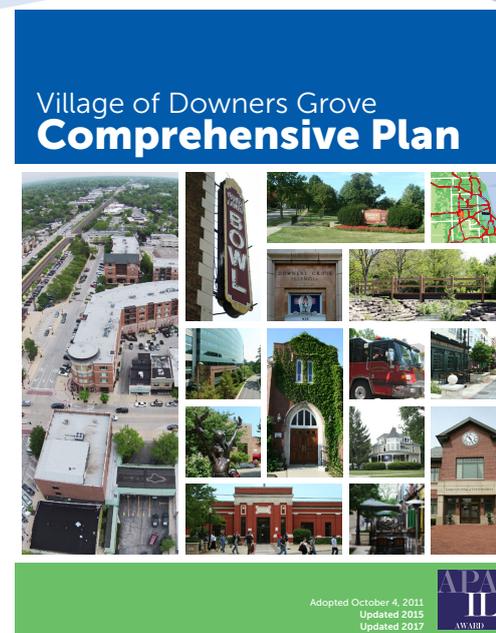
The review process occurred over a 16-month period with valuable assistance from the Comprehensive Planning Ad Hoc Committee.

The Comprehensive Plan identifies strategies for improving seven key focus areas of the Village including:

- Ellsworth Industrial Park
- Butterfield Road
- Ogden Avenue
- Downtown Downers Grove
- Fairview Avenue
- 63rd Street
- 75th Street

The Council took specific interest in the downtown area to ensure that it remains a vibrant and walkable focal point of the community. Possible sites for redevelopment were identified and the physical characteristics of potential future buildings were considered with emphasis on height and density.

Other elements of the Comprehensive Plan that were reviewed included the preservation and reinvestment in current housing stock. In addition, reinvestment opportunities in commercial corridors like Ogden Avenue and Butterfield Road were also discussed.



## How to Recognize a Scam

**RULE NUMBER ONE:** Anything that sounds too good to be true probably is a scam. Here are a few of the techniques that scammers commonly use to steal money from victims.

### IT'S A SCAM IF.....

- **Caller says you have won a prize, BUT.....you have to pay a handling or delivery fee.**  
It is illegal for legitimate sweepstakes or prize offers to require payment.
- **Caller says you have to take their offer immediately or you'll miss out on the opportunity.**  
A legitimate company would not pressure you to make a decision without time to consider the offer.
- **Caller claims that you can make huge profits on an investment with no risk.**  
All investments have some level of risk; a legitimate investment company would explain that to you.
- **Caller insists you send your payment by private courier, gift card or wire money.**  
Legitimate companies do not accept payments in this manner.
- **Caller demands cash.** Legitimate companies don't ask for cash, but con artists do.
- **Caller tells you that a police officer is on their way to arrest you for an outstanding bill.**  
Police officers are not bill collectors --EVER.
- **Caller asks for your social security number.**  
Legitimate companies do not ask for that information unless you are applying for credit.
- **Caller asks for your credit card number, bank account number, or other financial information when you are not making a purchase.**  
Legitimate companies will only ask for financial information to bill you for purchases you have agreed to make.

If you receive a call you feel uneasy about, please contact the **Downers Grove Police Department at 630-434-5600** before you provide any sensitive information or any cash. It will only take a few minutes and it's worth the time to ensure that you are not being scammed.

## Safety Tips for Outdoor Grilling

Mild weather awakens us from hibernation and beckons us outdoors to grill meals or sit around a fire. The Downers Grove Fire Department offers the following tips to keep in mind when enjoying these recreational activities.

### Chew on this:

- On average, 8,900 home fires each year are started by grills.
- Gas grills contribute to a higher number of fires than charcoal grills.
- 27% of home structure fires involving grills started on or in a courtyard, terrace, patio, exterior balcony or open porch.
- The three leading causes of grill fires are failure to keep the grill clean, positioning the grill too close to something that could catch fire, and leaving the grill unattended.
- A fire that occurs on a deck adjacent to your home can quickly spread, causing serious damage.
- In 2014, 16,600 patients went to emergency rooms due to injuries involving grills.

\* Source: NFPA, Fire Analysis & Research Division

### Grilling Safety Tips

- Place grills well away from the home, deck railing, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches!
- Remove any grease or fat buildup on the grill and be sure to keep the trays below clean as well.
- Never leave the grill unattended.
- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it. Next, turn on the tank, then turn the knobs, and finally push the ignition.
- If the grill does not light, turn it off, and wait 5 minutes for the gas to dissipate before lighting it.
- Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.



# REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

## Siren Testing

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

## Yard Waste Collection

Republic Services will resume yard waste collection on April 1, 2018. Yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, twigs, small branches, and other garden refuse.

## Dates to Remember

- **Earth Day:** April 22, 2018
- **Arbor Day:** April 27, 2018
- **DuPage River Sweep:** May 19, 2018



## Water Conservation Begins May 15

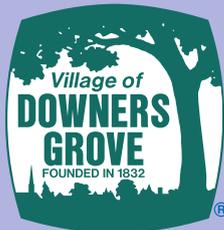
Each year from May 15 to September 15, residents are permitted to use outdoor water based on an even/odd system. The last digit of an address determines the day. If an address ends in an even number, the resident can water on even numbered calendar days; if the address ends in an odd number, the resident 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.

## Book Your Block Party

What better way to celebrate with your friends and neighbors than with a block party? Block Party permits are issued for events between the first weekend of April and the third weekend of October each year. The approval process begins when all forms have been completed (resident signature form, agreement form, and block party request form). Please allow a minimum of three (3) weeks for your request to be processed.

A deposit of \$30.00 is required for barricades and must be received on the day of pickup in the form of a check.

For more information, contact Public Works at 630.434.5460 or visit [downers.us](http://downers.us) and use the search term *block party*.



**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 Hosé  
William "Bill" White  
William Waldack  
Margaret "Marge" Earl  
Nicole Walus  
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

## INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2018

Applications are now being accepted for entries in the 2018 Independence Day Parade.

Be part of this long-standing Downers Grove tradition with your friends, family or neighbors by submitting a parade entry!

- Enter a neighborhood float depicting an American theme.
- Celebrate American history.
- Dress up as your favorite celebrity or character.

Be creative as you celebrate the Red, White and Blue!

